

# Halloween

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People carved Jack o lanterns a long time ago. Now we usually just paint faces on pumpkins.



## Halloween is something different than people think it is.

"Trick or Treat," you scream in delight. It is Halloween night and you are trick or treating with your friends. You are dressed up in a scary ghost costume. Your friend is dressed as a witch. You're dressed up without knowing why you are dressed up. You say trick or treat without knowing the meaning of Halloween and what happened on Halloween a long time ago. You don't even know why you are trick or treating in the first place!

Wouldn't you like to know why you are trick or treating? Wouldn't you like to know what happened on Halloween a long time ago? Don't you want to know why you and your friends are dressed up? Do you want to know the meaning of Halloween? Everyone should know the meaning of Halloween!

### The Meaning Of Halloween

People believed that on Halloween the air was thinnest between worlds. They thought it was a time when the dead and living came together. People thought magical things would happen when the dead visited the living. The dead spirits would be expecting food and shelter when they visited the living. If food and shelter were not provided the dead spirits would cast wicked spells on the

People celebrated Halloween a long time ago. They just celebrated it differently than we do today, but some things are still the same!

people. As a result, on Halloween the people would go to the edge of the river and put out plates of food so the dead wouldn't harm them. People were scared of the spirits so people would light bonfires so that the spirits would leave. Do you do those things and think those thoughts on Halloween now?

On Halloween people would also give out offerings like they do now. Now people give out candy, toys, chocolates etc. However, then people gave out soul cakes, which is like candy. People would go from house to house asking for soul cakes. Later, European and Irish immigrants brought more traditions and customs to America. The European and Irish immigrants would play dangerous tricks on each other for Halloween. It became a dangerous holiday. People would get treats such as soul cakes if they didn't play dangerous pranks on each other. As a result, people stopped playing dangerous pranks on each other for Halloween and started playing funny pranks on each other like we do now.

## So Many Names!

The name Halloween changed over time. Halloween has had many names, but today it is called Halloween. Samhain (sow-en) was one of the first names Halloween was called. Samhain was also called Summers End because people thought it was the end of summer. They thought it was the end of summer because they thought November 1<sup>st</sup> was the New Year. Later, the name

changed to All Saints Day because the people wanted to honor the saints who weren't honored already. After awhile the name became All Hallows Day or Hallowmas because Hallowmas means the mass of the saints. So, Halloween was meant to honor saints and scare away the dead spirits.

The name changed like this: First it was called All Hallows Eye then it was called Hallow Evening then it became Halloween. Did you know that Halloween had so many names? I didn't!

## Witches, Ghosts, and Goblins

People dressed up on Halloween a long time ago too. They dressed up for a different reason though. They dressed up in scary handmade costumes such as witch, ghost, and goblin costumes to scare away the dead spirits that they believed were roaming the earth at that time. They dressed up because they were scared that the dead spirits would cast wicked spells on them for different reasons. That's why we dress up in costumes. The only 2 differences are now we dress up in scary and not scary costumes. However, then they dressed up in mostly scary costumes. Now are costumes aren't always handmade. Sometimes they are store bought. However, then they had mostly handmade costumes.

In conclusion, the next time you go trick or treating you can know why you are trick or

treating. You will know why you are dressed up and you will know the meaning of Halloween! You can tell your friends and then they will know too. Maybe you will think about Halloween and trick or treating differently now. Maybe we still trick or treat today because people know the meaning of Halloween.