

Why Do We Celebrate Halloween?

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The tradition of Halloween originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (*pronounced "Sew-en"*), when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts. The Celts believed that on the eve of that day, Samhain then and October 31 now, the boundary between the living and dead worlds opened up and ghosts returned to earth. Soon, All Saints Day brought in some of the traditions of Samhain. The evening before was known as All Hallows Eve, and later Halloween. The word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve" and means "hallowed evening." Hallowed means "holy".



Hundreds of years ago, people dressed up as saints and went door-to-door, which is the origin of Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating. The pumpkin is a symbol of Halloween because it is often associated with rebirth, and pumpkins also symbolize harvests and crops. They fit the season in which Halloween falls every year. For those who go trick-or-treating, a brightly lit pumpkin on the stairs is the symbol that those who live there want a visit. Gifts-like candy!-are given to trick-or-treaters.

Traditionally, orange and black are the main colors used in Halloween house decorations during this mystical holiday season, with purple often used as an accent color. Also, orange and black are chosen as Halloween colors because of the fall-winter connection the day represents. Orange symbolizes the warmth of autumn and the last of the harvest season, while black represents the cold, dark, and long winter. Purple is one of the more surprising Halloween colors because it seems to have appeared out of nowhere. It does not represent the harvest season or winter. There are many symbols related to Halloween, such as jack-o-lanterns, bats, black cats,

ghosts, witches, goblins and skeletons. These are the many reasons why we celebrate Halloween!

Sources Cited:

- <https://www.countryliving.com/entertaining/a40250/heres-why-we-really-celebrate-halloween/>
- <https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>