

## This is Halloween (teacher's notes)

### 1. Warm-up (Activity 1) 5 mins

**Aims:** to break the ice and foster a safe environment for learning.

**Procedure:** Show the picture and ask the students what they can see and what holiday it symbolizes. Ask if the students like Halloween or not. Brainstorm things your students associate with Halloween and know about it, write the options on the board.

### 2. Lead-in and vocabulary work (Activity 2) 5 mins

**Aims:** to generate interest in the topic and revise basic vocabulary.

**Procedure:** Ask students to look through the list and choose a word to describe. Students give definitions and others guess the word. You can ask them to work in pairs. Monitor closely, after they finish ask them to give a definition of the most difficult word. If students have difficulties, show them the pictures.

### 3. Video (Activity 3) 10 mins

**Aims:** to practise listening skills.

**Procedure:** Ask students to watch the video and answer the question. Play the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9NW5AFjHFY>

**Key:** In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived the old traditions of 'souling' and 'guising'; the result was trick-or-treating.

Ask student(s) to read the questions. Pre-teach the blocking vocabulary:

the Celts - an ancient European people who are related to the Irish, Scots, Welsh, and Bretons, or of their language or culture;

Hallow - something holy;

Medieval - related to the Middle Ages (= the period in European history from about AD 600 to AD 1500).

Student(s) should watch the video again and answer the questions. Play the video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9NW5AFjHFY>

If you work in a group, let students speculate in pairs before checking the answers.

**Key:**

1. the Celtic festival of Samhain

2. because the day marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death.

3. 'All-hallows' Eve', which finally became 'Halloween'

4. They believed that on 31 October, the ghosts of the dead would return to the earth.
5. their crops
6. to be mistaken for ghosts by the dead
7. souling - is a Medieval tradition when the needy and the poor would be given out pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for people's living relatives.
- guising - In the Medieval Halloween tradition of 'guising', young people would dress up in costumes and accept food, wine, and money in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes.
8. trick-or-treating
9. It's a big business

### Transcript

When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades, bobbing for apples, and other family-friendly activities. But bet you didn't know the true story behind the ancient origins of Halloween. It all goes back some 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. On the night before Samhain, people believed that the dead returned as ghosts. They would leave food and wine on their doorsteps to keep roaming spirits at bay and wear masks when they left the house, so they would be mistaken for fellow ghosts. The Christian church turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The night before became All Hallows' Eve, later shortened to Halloween. You heard of trick-or-treating on Halloween, but what about "souling" or "guising"? All three of these traditions originated in Medieval Britain. On All Souls' Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the needy would bake for pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for people's dead relatives. This was called "souling". In the Medieval Halloween tradition of guising, young people would dress up in costume and accept food, wine, money, and other offerings in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes. In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived these old traditions; the result was trick-or-treating. At first, it was much more about the tricks in the form of pranks and hijinks than the treats. It wasn't until the 1950s that the custom took on its current family-friendly, kid-centered form. Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S. consumers spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes annually, adding the candy, and it's estimated that Americans spend up to 6 billion on Halloween each year, making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> most commercial holiday after Christmas. So whether you are a fan of tricks, treats, or trivia, there's a bit of Halloween history we bet you didn't know.

#### 4. Productive Follow-up (Speaking) (Activity 4) 10 min

Aims: to to personalise the text and practice speaking for fluency.

Procedure: Let the students discuss the questions in pairs or small groups. Encourage them to ask follow-up questions to get more details. After they finish get a content feedback from them.

### 5. Discuss the questions (Activity 5) 10 mins

Aims: to develop speaking for fluency.

Procedure: If you work in a group, allow students some time to think before they answer. Then maintain a discussion between all members of the group. Ask if the participants agree with previous speakers. If a group is too big, let students discuss their answers in pairs.

If you work one-to-one, comment on your student's answers and express your opinion.

### 6. Song (Activity 6) 10 mins

Aims: to practise listening skills.

**Procedure:** Ask students to watch the video and remember Halloween monsters. Play the video:

<https://youtu.be/xpvdAJYvofI?t=47>

key:

a scarecrow, a ghost, a pumpkin (Jack-o-Lantern), a vampire, a black cat, a werewolf, a witch, a skeleton, a clown, a dead girl, a full moon, a bat, a mummy, a corpse.

Before listening for the second time, ask students to look through the lyrics. Students read the definitions and try to complete the gaps, label the pictures. Discuss the possible options open class.

Then students listen to the song again and do the tasks. Make pauses before a new type of task.

Key:

Lyrics:

Boys and girls of every age  
Wouldn't you like to see something strange?  
Come with us and you will see  
This, our town of Halloween  
This is Halloween, this is Halloween  
Pumpkins scream in the dead of night  
This is Halloween, everybody make a scene  
Trick or treat till the neighbors gonna die of fright  
It's our town, everybody scream  
In this town of Halloween  
I am the one hiding under your bed  
Teeth ground sharp and eyes glowing red  
I am the one hiding under yours stairs

Fingers like snakes and spiders in my hair  
This is Halloween, this is Halloween  
Halloween! Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!  
In this town we call home  
Everyone hail to the pumpkin song  
In this town, don't we love it now?  
Everybody's waiting for the next surprise  
Round that corner, man hiding in the trash can  
Something's waiting no to pounce, and how you'll...  
Scream! This is Halloween  
Red 'n' black, slimy green  
Aren't you scared?  
Well, that's just fine  
Say it once, say it twice  
Take a chance and roll the dice  
Ride with the moon in the dead of night  
Everybody scream, everybody scream  
In our town of Halloween!  
I am the clown with the tear-away face  
Here in a flash and gone without a trace  
I am the "who" when you call, "Who's there?"  
I am the wind blowing through your hair  
I am the shadow on the moon at night  
Filling your dreams to the brim with fright  
This is Halloween, this is Halloween  
Halloween! Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!  
Halloween! Halloween!  
Tender lumpings everywhere  
Life's no fun without a good scare  
That's our job, but we're not mean  
In our town of Halloween  
In this town  
Don't we love it now?  
Everybody's waiting for the next surprise  
Skeleton Jack might catch you in the back  
And scream like a banshee  
Make you jump out of your skin  
This is Halloween, everyone scream  
Wont' ya please make way for a very special guy  
Our man jack is King of the Pumpkin patch  
Everyone hail to the Pumpkin King  
This is Halloween, this is Halloween  
Halloween! Halloween! Halloween! Halloween!  
In this town we call home

Everyone hail to the pumpkin song  
La la-la la, Halloween! Halloween! [Repeat]

After that students can sing the song all together. Play the video:  
<https://youtu.be/d0Ktb2U2r3s?t=9>