

Halloween

around the World



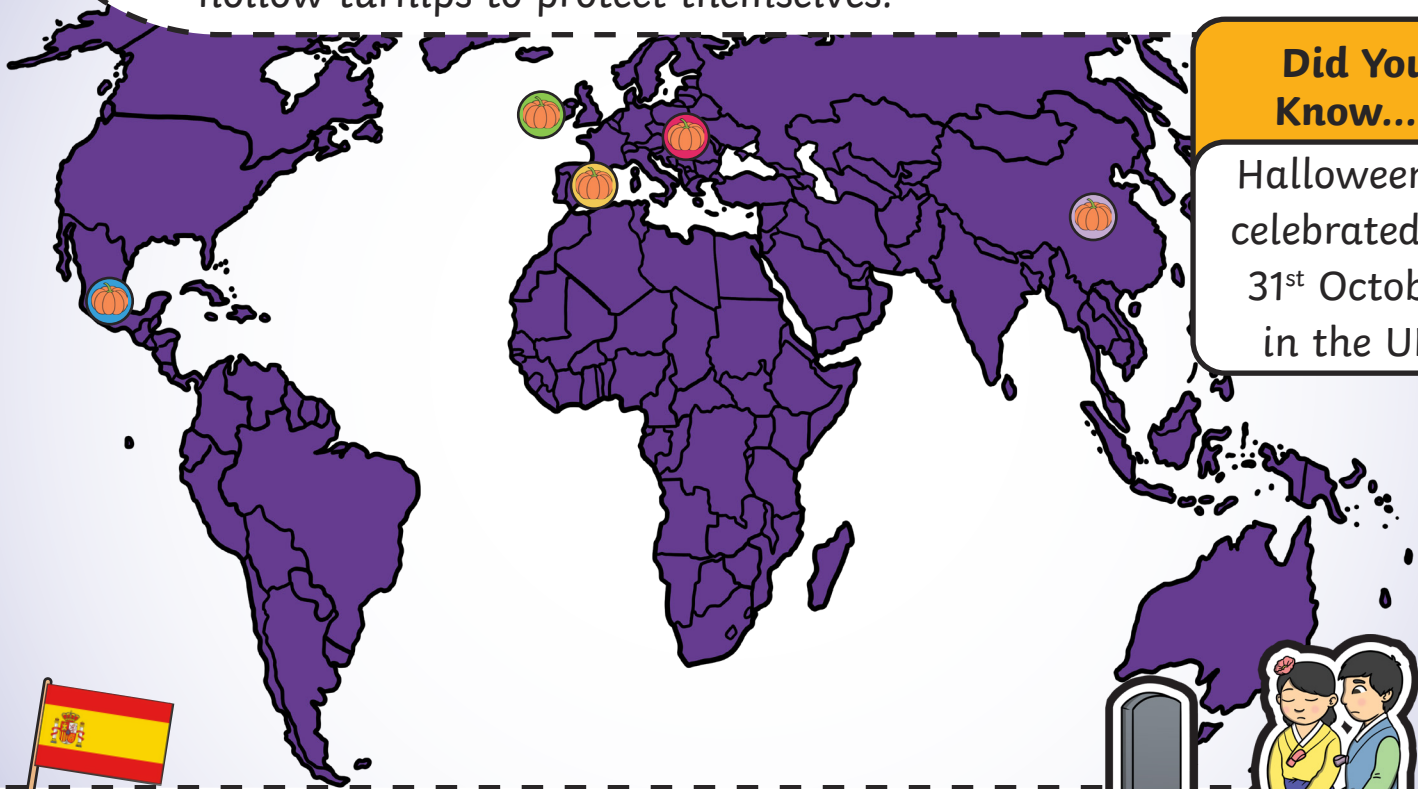
Halloween in Ireland

Halloween started in Ireland over 2000 years ago during the festival of Samhain. Samhain means 'summers end' and the land was prepared for winter over this time.

The Celts believed that demons escaped from the spirit world on Samhain. People were afraid and disguised themselves as monsters to keep from being noticed. They lit fires on hills and carried candles in hollow turnips to protect themselves.

Did You Know...?

Halloween is celebrated on 31st October in the UK.



Halloween in Spain



In Spain, there are three days of celebration beginning on 31st October. 1st November is All Saints' or All Hallows' Day and is a holiday when people gather at the gravesides of their ancestors to honour them by laying flowers, eating and drinking and socialising. The final day of celebration is called All Souls' Day.



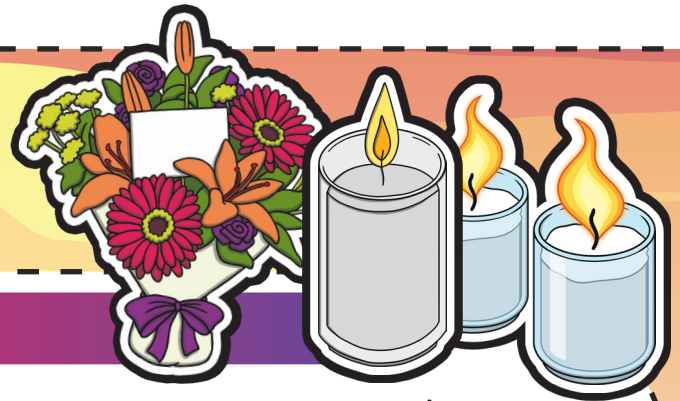
Halloween in China

Halloween isn't celebrated in China but there are several other festival days for the dead. The Hungry Ghost festival in the summer lasts for a month and is when people honour their ancestors. Some cities spend months creating huge, brightly decorated altars for offerings to the spirits during the celebrations.



Halloween in Romania

Romania is a popular place for Halloween tourists as it was the setting for a very famous vampire book. However, Halloween isn't traditionally celebrated there and it is on All Saints' Day that people honour those who have died. They leave flowers to welcome wandering spirits, provide water for thirsty souls and light candles to guide them back to the afterlife.



Halloween in Mexico

The Day of the Dead festival in Mexico begins on 1st November. It is often compared to Halloween but is very different and has its beginnings in an Aztec celebration for the queen of the underworld. Spirits moving between the worlds are seen as kind rather than dangerous and ancestors are welcomed and honoured. People dress up in bright, colourful skeleton costumes, have parties, eat their ancestors' favourite foods and offer gifts to them on altars.



Did You Know...?

Halloween is the shortened version of 'All Hallows' Eve'.

Questions

- Which of the following customs are part of the Day of the Dead celebrations? Tick **two**.
 - eating their ancestors favourite foods.
 - lighting candles.
 - providing water for thirsty souls.
 - celebrating ourselves.
- Number the facts from 1-4 to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.
 - There are three days of celebration for the dead.
 - The Hungry Ghost Festival in summer lasts for a month.
 - 1 Samhain means 'summers end'.
 - They leave flowers to welcome wandering spirits.
- Look at the section called **Halloween in Ireland**. Find and copy one word which means that people changed the way they looked and pretended to be something different.

- Fill in the missing word.

The Hungry Ghost festival in the summer lasts for a month and is when people _____ their ancestors.

- Which country is the setting for a famous vampire book?

- Why do you think that the Celts used fires and candles as protection?
