

Hallowe'en

Complete the questions at the bottom of the page. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

The name Hallowe'en comes from 1) _____, which means 'Holy Evening'. Although this is the original Christian name for the evening of October 31st, it goes back much further.

Two thousand years ago, in Europe, the 3) _____ celebrated the last day of the year on October 31st. They believed that their god, who was called Samhain, freed the spirits of the dead on this day so that they could 5) _____. The druids left offerings for their ancestors and other good spirits, and prayed for their safe return. To scare away the evil spirits, on the other hand, they lit huge fires and wore 7) _____.

As Christianity established itself, the Pagan ritual became a Christian tradition, but the Christians accepted only one God, and 9) _____ disappeared along with the origins of the festival. However, the tradition of burning large fires and of dressing in scary costumes carried on.

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, there was a huge increase in witch hunts after Christian priests said that witches were 'unfit to live'. Witches were accused of 11) _____, killing animals and making people ill. The image of evil witches and devils became associated with Hallowe'en and has continued until now.

These days, Hallowe'en is seen as a bit of light-hearted fun but, next time you see a pumpkin lantern or witch's costume, remember how different things used to be.

- 1) Where _____ ?
- 3) Who _____ ?
- 5) Why _____ ?
- 7) What _____ ?
- 9) Who _____ ?
- 11) What _____ ?

Hallowe'en

Complete the questions at the bottom of the page. Then ask your partner the questions and complete the text.

The name Hallowe'en comes from 'All Hallows Eve', which means 2) '_____'. Although this is the original Christian name for the evening of October 31st, it goes back much further.

Two thousand years ago, in Europe, the Celtic druids celebrated the last day of the year on October 31st. They believed that their god, who was called 4) _____, freed the spirits of the dead on this day so that they could revisit their homes. The druids left 6) _____ for their ancestors and other good spirits, and prayed for their safe return. To scare away the evil spirits, on the other hand, they lit huge fires and dressed in frightening costumes.

As Christianity established itself, the Pagan ritual became 8) _____, but the Christians accepted only one God, and Samhain disappeared along with the origins of the festival. However, the tradition of burning large fires and of dressing in scary costumes carried on.

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, there was a huge increase in witch hunts after 10) _____ said that witches were 'unfit to live'. Witches were accused of worshipping the devil, killing animals and making people ill. The image of evil witches and devils became associated with Hallowe'en and has continued until now.

These days, 12) _____ is seen as a bit of light-hearted fun but, next time you see a pumpkin lantern or witch's costume, remember how different things used to be.

2) What _____?

4) What _____?

6) What _____?

8) What _____?

10) Who _____?

12) What _____?