

1. Halloween

This week's lesson is about the history of the holiday celebrated in many countries on October 31, which originated in ancient festivals marking the end of the harvest season and the start of winter: the symbolic transition between life and death.

Level

Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B1 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Ask your students to think of things associated with Halloween. Write them on the board as they are called out. After this, ask if any of your students know where or when Halloween started.
2. Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Give one copy of Worksheet A to each student in Group A, and one copy of Worksheet B to each student in Group B. Ask them to work in pairs with someone in their group to complete the questions at the bottom of the page. The aim of writing the questions is so that students can ask the other group for the missing information in their text.
3. When they have written the questions and you have checked that the questions are acceptable, ask students to work in pairs with someone from the other group.
4. Tell them to take turns asking and answering the questions, and to use the answers to complete their text. Remind them not to look at each other's worksheets until the end.
5. When they have finished, ask the pairs to compare texts and check they have both filled in their blanks correctly.
6. Hand out Worksheet C and ask students to work individually to find the ten Halloween words in the puzzle. Explain that the words may appear horizontally, vertically, or diagonally, but not backwards.
7. If you do not have a projector to show students the puzzle solution, copy the wordsearch onto the board while students are working so that you can circle the answers together. Alternatively, you could photocopy the solution on the next page and hand it out.
8. Check answers in open class.

Answers:

Exercise 1

Suggested questions:

1. Where does the name “Halloween” come from?
 2. What does “Hallows E’en” mean?
 3. Who celebrated the last day of the year on October 31?
 4. What was their god (of death) called?
 5. Why did he free the spirits of the dead?
 6. What did they leave for their ancestors?
 7. What did they wear?
 8. What did they attract?
 9. Who used to go door to door (with lanterns)?
 10. Who knocks on doors (in costumes)?
 11. What are they given?
 12. What may they do (like the evil spirits / if they don’t get candy)?
1. Hallows 2. Holy Evening 3. Celts 4. Samhain 5. visit their families
6. offerings 7. costumes 8. bats 9. People 10. children 11. candy 12. play a trick

Exercise 2

		W	I	T	C	H	
				R			B
V	A	M	P	I	R	E	A
				C			T
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	S
				O			
		Z		R	B		N
G	H	O	S	T		O	
		M		R	T		O
		B		E			
		I	L	A			
		E		T			
	K						
S			B	R	O	O	M

2. Related websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

<http://www.quia.com/hm/269666.html>

Play a game of “Halloween Hangman” online. Accessible to Intermediate level.

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween>

All about Halloween, from the *History.com* website. Includes interactive activities, articles, videos, and a picture gallery. Challenging for Intermediate level.