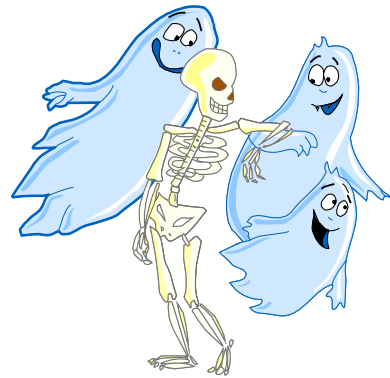




Halloween

The Celts

About 2500 years ago in Ireland there lived the Celts. When summer ended and they had brought the last of their food in for the winter, they had a holiday. This was also the beginning of their new year. They believed that the dead would come alive on that day and that their ghosts would come around and look for a new body to live in. So people used to dress up in ugly and horrifying clothes and walk around their houses making a lot of noise to frighten the spirits away. They would also leave food out for the spirits so that they wouldn't get angry and just leave the village peacefully.



The Catholics

A lot later the Catholic Church started calling November 1st All Hallows' Day, which means All Saints' Day, and the night before was called All Hallows Eve. That's how we got the word Halloween, which is still celebrated on the 31st of October every year.

Jack-o-lanterns

In Ireland people told a legend of a man named Jack, who was so wicked that he was not allowed into heaven when he died. Neither was he allowed into hell, because he had once tricked the Devil into a tree. His spirit was wandering around carrying a hollowed-out turnip with some light in so he could see where he was going. That is why the Irish made turnips look like scary faces and put a candle inside. These are called Jack-o-lanterns.



Pumpkins

In the 1840's a lot of Irish people moved to America, because there wasn't enough food for them in Ireland. When it was time for Halloween, there weren't any turnips to make Jack-o-lanterns of, so they started using the large orange pumpkins instead. Pumpkins have become a symbol of Halloween and orange the traditional Halloween colour - apart from black, of course.

“Trick or Treats”

The Celtic tradition of giving food to the spirits has turned into a common children's game at Halloween. Especially American children dress up as ghosts and witches and go around knocking on their neighbours' doors yelling “trick or treat” as soon as the door opens. If they don't get any treat, like candy or money, they will play a trick on the owners of the house. They might turn over some garbage cans; let the air out of bike tyres or “tp” the whole house. (“Tp” is short for “toilet paper”. This means that they roll out toilet paper all around the garden.)



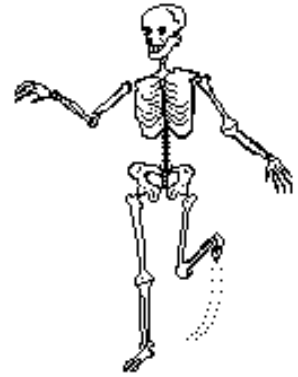
Scary stories

No Halloween party is complete without a scary story. They are told in the eerie light of a single candle and speaking in a low, creepy voice. The listeners are holding their breaths waiting for the spooky ending, although it's not uncommon that they are being tricked into a final scare or a shriek to make everybody jump and then laugh away the terror from their bodies.



Over the Graveyard

Over the graveyard and through the tombs,
To the haunted house we go.
The ghosts are a fright,
This spooky night
So come and join the show.



Over the graveyard and through the tombs,
Just hear the dreadful cries,
The banshees howl,
The black cats yowl,
Their shrieking fills the skies.



Over the graveyard and through the tombs
Where all the goblins meet,

Witches and ghouls,
They are no fools,
They all yell, "Trick or Treat."



Over the graveyard and through the tombs
The jack-o-lanterns gleam.
Bats fill the skies,
With glowing eyes,
Hooray! It's Halloween!



Halloween Quiz

1. What day is Halloween?

- a) 1st October
- b) 31st October
- c) 1st November

2. Where does Halloween come from?

- a) America
- b) Ireland and Scotland
- c) England

3. Where does the name 'Halloween' come from?

- a) Hello Ween ('Ween' is the name for a ghost)
- b) It's the name of an old Celtic leader
- c) All Hallow's Eve

4. What did people traditionally do for Halloween?

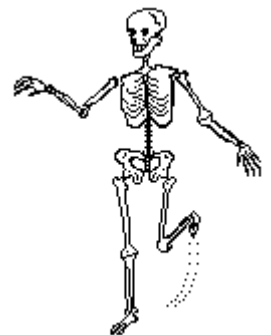
- a) sing and dance all night
- b) light fires
- c) dress up in costumes and make a noise

5. What did people think happened on Halloween?

- a) the souls of the dead came back to Earth
- b) wizards and witches came out to do magic
- c) it was the end of winter

6. Why did the people put a lantern outside their house?

- a) to frighten evil spirits
- b) to be friendly to the spirits
- c) to see while they had a party



7. What is a Halloween lantern made from today?

- a) a potato
- b) a turnip
- c) a pumpkin

8. What is a pumpkin?

- a) a fruit
- b) a vegetable
- c) a kind of melon

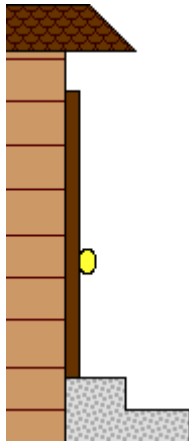


9. At Halloween we play a game called 'Trick or Treat'. What are 'tricks'?

- a) money
- b) spiders
- c) practical jokes

10. At Halloween we play a game called 'Trick or Treat'. What are 'treats'?

- a) money
- b) sweets
- c) cakes





Halloween Riddles



Match the questions with the correct answers

1	Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?	A. When you are a mouse
2	What do skeletons say before they begin dining?	B. Spelling
3	What do ghosts serve for dessert?	C. He didn't have the guts
4	When is it bad luck to meet a black cat?	D. Lazy bones
5	What was the witch's favorite subject in school?	E. They have no body to dance with
6	What do you call a skeleton who won't work?	F. Bone appétit!
7	Where do baby ghosts go during the day?	G. Scare spray
8	Why don't skeletons like parties?	H. I scream
9	What do witches put on their hair?	I. Anyone he could dig up!
10	Who won the skeleton beauty contest?	J. She looks at her witch watch
11	Why are there fences around cemeteries?	K. No body
12	How does a witch tell time?	L. Daycare centers
13	Who did the ghost invite to his party?	M. Because people are dying to get in

More riddles on the other side...

1. Why did the ghost run away?		A. "Hello, pleased to eat you!"
2. Who protects the shores where spirits live?		B. A blood hound.
3. Where do ghosts go on holiday?		C. A blood test.
4. What does a ghost school teacher say when a student has the correct answer?		D. You can't fool me, I can see right through you.
5. What did one ghost ask another?		E. At the ghost office.
6. What did the skeleton say when his brother told a lie?		F. Because he robbed the blood bank
7. Why do witches wear name tags?		G. Because someone said BOO!
8. When do witches cook their victims (= sv. offer)?		H. Do you believe in people?
9. What does Dracula say when he is introduced to someone?		I. Hope it was Halloween
10. What is the favorite test that vampires love to take?		J. It was love at first bite.
11. Why did Dracula go to jail?		K. On Fry Day
12. What is Dracula's favorite pet?		L. Scream!!!
13. What happened when the boy vampire and the girl vampire met?		M. So, they would know which witch is which!
14. Where do ghouls mail their letters?		N. To the ghost of the DEAD sea!
15. What would you do if a witch, an alien, Dracula and Frankenstein were at your door?		O. The Ghost Guard!
16. What would you do if a witch, an alien, Dracula and Frankenstein were at your door and it wasn't Halloween?		P. You're fright.

Key 1	Key 2
1 C	1 G
2 F	2 O
3 H	3 N
4 A	4 P
5 B	5 H
6 D	6 D
7 L	7 M
8 E	8 K
9 G	9 A
10 K	10 C
11 M	11 F
12 J	12 B
13 I	13 J
	14 E
	15 I
	16 L