

Halloween

The name Halloween can be traced back to the 1500s and is a Scottish name for ' All Hallow's Eve ', which is the evening before All Hallows Day . Halloween is an old custom and is celebrated on October 31 every year. It has its origin in Ireland. It has roots in the Celtic festival of Samhain and the Christian holy day of All Saints. “Halloween began two thousand years ago in Ireland, England, and Northern France with the ancient religion of the Celts (Paganism). They were from the beginning celebrating the end of the summer. Samhain was celebrated as the harvest season had ended and winter began 31 October. The faith of the Celts was that invisible forces were in motion, and that the souls of the dead returned to earth during the one night of Halloween. During the famine in Ireland in the 1800s took the Irish with their celebrations to the United States.

Today it is mostly associated with Americans that decorate their houses with spider webs, pumpkins, witches, ghosts, lanterns and so forth. The kids, dressed out in costumes, are running up and down the streets wanting toys or candy while yelling “Trick-or-Treat”. The day is often associated with the colours orange and black, and is strongly associated with symbols such as the jack-o’-lantern. American Halloween activities include trick-or-treating, ghost tours, bonfires, costume parties, visiting haunted attractions, carving jack-o’-lanterns, reading scary stories, and watching horror movies. Halloween is celebrated all around the world. Not only in america.

The concept of Halloween came to Sweden back in the 1950s but it was considered a bad custom. Many people in those days were superstitious and believed it was a blasphemy. The Swedes started to celebrate Halloween in the 1990s, but it is not as popular as in the United States . It is mostly young people who celebrate Halloween and buy costumes to go to parties. Halloween became more popular during the 2000s. The Swedish Halloween celebrations can now be regarded as established , and annual sales each year approximately one billion kronor in Sweden .

Evil Characters connected to Halloween :

1. Ghost :

The spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habitats.

2. Ghoul :

An evil spirit or phantom, especially one supposed to rob graves and feed on dead bodies

3. Goblin :

A spirit that is mischievous or malicious and plays dirty tricks.

4. Witch :

A woman thought to have evil magic powers, popularly depicted as wearing a black cloak and pointed hat, and flying on a broomstick.

5. Warlock :

A man who practices the black arts also known as a male witch.

6. Vampire :

A reanimated dead body especially of a human that is believed to rise from the grave at night to suck the blood of sleeping people.

7. Werewolf :

A person believed to have been transformed into a wolf or to be capable of assuming the form of a wolf.

8. Zombie :

A dead body said to be revived by witch which feeds itself on human flesh and blood. The zombie character is more famous in American movie.

9. Wizard

Someone that performs magic. The wizard is similar to the warlock but can transform itself to other things.

10. Satan

It is said that he is the opposite to God - an Evil person. He lives in Hell and is the meanest of all living creatures. He is the devil.

Wordlist

English	Svenska
custom	sed
hallows	helgon
origin	ursprung
associated with	förknippat med
bonfires	brasor
haunted	hemsökt
ancient	urgammalt
celts	kelterna
paganism	hednisk
gruesome	hemsk
habitats	hemmiljö
ghoul	ond ande
phantoms	fantomer
goblin	troll
mischievous	elak
malicious	ondskefull
dirty tricks	fula knep
depicted	avbildad
black cloak	svart mantel

broomstick	kvast
warlock	magiker, trollkarl
superstitious	vidskeplighet
reanimated dead body	återupplivad död kropp
blasphemy	hädelse
transformed into a wolf	förvandlats till varg
approximately	cirka
revived	återuppliva
wizard	trollkarl
opposite	motsats
devil	djävulen

Now answer these questions below:

1. From which countries does Halloween come from?
2. What can you tell me about the origins of Halloween?
3. What can you tell me about American Halloween today?
4. What kind of characters are associated with Halloween as we know it?
5. If you think about it; why is Halloween not widely celebrated here in Sweden?
6. Do you celebrate Halloween? If yes, why? If not, why? Support your answer.
7. How many of these thirty words above have you never heard of?
8. Write a summary of the text in Swedish or record yourself making the summary.

/Camilla <3