

Myth or Fact? Where Halloween Came From

Halloween started in Scotland and Ireland, long before pumpkins and plastic masks.



AGES
11-14

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Read each sentence. Tick **MYTH** if it is untrue or **FACT** if it is true. Then answer the two questions at the bottom. Sources are listed at the end so you can check our facts.

1

Halloween grew partly out of Samhain, an old Celtic festival that marked the end of the harvest and the start of winter.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

2

Halloween was invented in America about 100 years ago.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

3

The word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows' Eve", the evening before All Saints' Day on 1 November.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

4

The very first Halloween lanterns were carved from pumpkins.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

5

Guisers were expected to do a "turn", like telling a joke or singing a song, to earn their treat.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

6

Samhain celebrations began on the evening before 1 November.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

7

At Samhain, people lit bonfires on hilltops.

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MYTH

☐

FACT

8

All Saints' Day has always been held on 1 November.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

9

In Scotland, a black cat can be a sign of good luck.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

10

Using pumpkins as Halloween lanterns caught on in North America.

☐

MYTH

☐

FACT

Explain it

11. Why did people wear masks and disguises at Samhain?

12. What is "dooking" for apples?

Sources

1. Encyclopædia Britannica, "Halloween" – [britannica.com/topic/Halloween](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Halloween) (accessed 21 October 2026).
2. Historic Environment Scotland blog, "Samhainn and the Scottish traditions of Hallowe'en" (2023) – blog.historicenvironment.scot.
3. National Museum of Ireland, "Ghost turnips, the púca, fortune-telling... how our ancestors inspire our Hallowe'en" (2023) – [museum.ie](https://www.museum.ie).