

Halloween

1. As pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play your chosen music and display a focus image.

2. Introduction

Tell the assembly that today they will be finding out about the origins of Halloween. Explain to the group that this is a celebration that has been happening for thousands of years, but which has evolved over time. While they watch the video, ask pupils to think about how some of Halloween's traditions have changed over the years.

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 02". Final words: 'Happy Halloween!'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Ask: **Turn to the person next to you and tell them your favourite thing to do to celebrate Halloween.**

Then lead a discussion about the video to consolidate pupils' understanding of Halloween and the significance of its origins:

- **Can you remember who the first people were to celebrate on Halloween?** (The Celts)
- **Why did the Celts celebrate Samhain ('SOH-in') at that particular time?** (It was their new year, marking the end of harvest time and the beginning of a long cold winter). Wait for responses. Follow up with: **What did they believe happened over the new year?** (The boundaries between worlds became blurred and spirits could come into our world)
- **Can you remember some of the things that the Celts did to celebrate Samhain ('SOH-in')?** (Lit bonfires / left offering of food and drink / wore masks as disguises)
- **Who can remember the names of the days that came to replace Samhain ('SOH-in') when Christianity spread across Europe?** (All Saint's Day / All Hallows' Day / All Hallows' Eve)
- **How were 'trick or treating' and carving pumpkins different in the past?** (Trick or treating involved reading poems or jokes for gifts or treats; other vegetables were also carved, including turnips and beetroots)

6. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing.

Video page



7. Opportunity to reflect

Think about how the fun things we do today have been done in different ways for thousands of years...

For the ancient Celts, the New Year Samhain ('SOH-in') celebrations were very important, marking the change of the year and a time to consider the hidden dangers just out of sight...

Christian people celebrated in a similar way, but for a different reason. Instead of warding off evil spirits, they took the opportunity to honour the saints of the Christian church...

Today, many of us have fun on Halloween without needing a reason. But the things we do are based on ancient traditions...

8. Opportunity for prayer

Thank you for the opportunity to celebrate on Halloween.

Today we can enjoy a night of spooky fun, thanks to the traditions that have been passed down over many generations.

Help us to remember the significance of Samhain ('SOH-in') and All Hallows' Eve, and to stay safe and have fun this Halloween.

Amen.