

HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

READING COMPREHENSION & DIGITAL GAME

The History of Halloween		correct, your answer box will turn green and a piece of the decoder image will be revealed. If incorrect, the box will turn red. After all 12 questions are answered correctly, use the decoder picture to solve the secret code. Be sure to check your spelling!
Questions	Answers	
1 Halloween is celebrated on the 31st day of which month?		
2 The roots of Halloween can be traced back to _____ traditions.		
3 What is the name of the Celtic festival that many consider the origin of Halloween?		
4 What did Celts believe would ward off evil spirits? Select the correct letter. A. Chants and dances B. Bonfires and animal costumes C. Food offerings		
5 On what day is All Saints' Day celebrated? (Write your answer in the format of MM/DD. Example: October 3rd would be 10/03)		
6 All Saints' Day was created in the _____th century. (Type the number as a digit. Do not spell it out!)		
7 In Christian tradition, the night before All Saints' Day was known as All Hallows' _____.		
8 The Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos is called the _____ in English.		
9 In which country is the Hungry Ghost Festival observed?		
10 The Japanese holiday Obon is meant to pay respects to whom?		
11 What is often worn on Halloween in the United States?		
12 People often carve _____ to make Halloween decorations.		

Use the decoder image to reveal the secret code.

Secret Code: 1-20-13-17-24

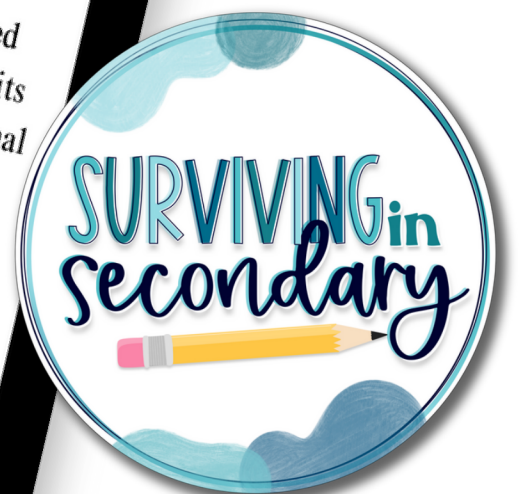
The History of Halloween

Halloween is a thrilling holiday celebrated worldwide on October 31st. While it's famous for costumes, candy, and spooky decorations, the history of Halloween is a rich tapestry woven from diverse cultural traditions. Read on to explore the fascinating origins and diverse customs that have shaped Halloween into what we know today.

Halloween traces its roots back to ancient Celtic celebrations, particularly the festival of Samhain, which took place over 2,000 years ago in regions that are now Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on the night of October 31st, the boundary between the living and the dead grew thin, allowing spirits to cross over. To ward off these spirits, they lit bonfires and wore costumes made of animal heads.

As Christianity spread across Europe, it blended with existing traditions. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III designated November 1st as All Saints' Day, a day to honor saints and martyrs. The night before, which had previously become known as All Hallows' Eve, eventually shortened to Halloween. Elements of Samhain, like dressing up and lighting bonfires, merged with the new Christian traditions.

In various cultures throughout the world. In Mexico, the Day of the Dead is a vibrant celebration where families honor their deceased loved ones with colorful altars and sugar skulls.



WHY WILL YOU (AND YOUR STUDENTS) FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS RESOURCE?

- ✓ No-prep
- ✓ Sub plan-ready
- ✓ Self-grading and time-saving
- ✓ Motivating and engaging

Answer key
included!

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Directions: Click [here](#) to read the passage. Then, read each question and type your answer into the box. If correct, your answer box will turn green and a piece of the decoder image will be revealed. If incorrect, the box will turn red. After all 12 questions are answered correctly, use the decoder picture to solve the secret code. Be sure to check your spelling!

Questions	Answers
Halloween is celebrated on the 31st day of which month?	
Origins of Halloween can be traced back to _____ traditions.	
Name of the Celtic festival that many consider the origin of Halloween?	
Which belief would ward off evil spirits? Select the correct letter. A. Bonfires and dances B. Bonfires and animal costumes C. Food offerings	
All Saints' Day celebrated? (Write your answer in the format MM/DD. Example: October 3rd would be 10/03)	
Halloween was created in the _____th century. (Type the number as a digit. Do not spell it out!)	
In tradition, the night before All Saints' Day was known as All Hallows' _____.	
Holiday Dia de los Muertos is called the _____ in English.	
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PLEASE NOTE: Google Sheets REQUIRED

