

Halloween

Halloween occurs once a year on the night of the 31st October. It's the time when people dress up as witches, ghosts, skeletons, monsters, devils, or other weird, supernatural, creatures. Halloween parties are popular among both children and adults, and dressing up in costume is all part of the fun!

In American terms it's 'trick or treat' night! For those that don't already know - 'trick or treat' is when children go round to your front door, dressed up as witches or ghosts, and say 'trick or treat!' In order for the child to get their reward or treat, they need to perform a song or trick. Failure to reward the child with sweets, or money, can result in flour ending up on your window, or some other misdemeanour happening! This practice actually goes back to somewhere in Europe, in the Middle Ages. Halloween is a Christian term, deriving from All Hallows' Eve. It is thought to have Pagan roots. Halloween has Celtic origins in Scotland and Ireland. The name and customs took over from Samhain. This is a celebration on October 31st, to mark the end of the harvest period, and the beginning of the dark period of winter. Irish migration in the 19th century took the culture of Halloween over to America. Confined to the Irish immigrants, it gradually spread right across America, into what it is today. Around the world, folk celebrate Halloween in different ways. In America, pumpkins, known as Jack-o-lanterns, are popular. Ireland sees lit bonfires and firework displays.

Source: www.newsflashenglish.com

Vocabulary

misdemeanour - an action that is bad or unacceptable, but not very serious

pagan - people in the past who did not believe in Christianity

confined - being inside the limits of a particular activity, area, etc.

immigrant - a person who has come to live permanently in a country that is not their own

bonfire - a large outdoor fire for burning waste or as part of a celebration

You can see the whole lesson from your teacher, please ask them to send it to you before the class.

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