

WHAT IS HALLOWEEN?

Halloween is a celebration full of **pumpkin lanterns** and horror costumes¹. It is very popular in the United States of America. But people usually don't know the **origin** of Halloween.

Halloween is a name for an old north European pagan² festival celebrated³ by **Celtic nations** in the past, for example by the Welsh and the Irish.

A long time ago:

Halloween means the end of the light and warm half of the year, and the beginning of the cold and dark half of the year. The autumn becomes winter. Halloween is a **big feast** before the months of darkness⁴, cold and hunger⁵. Hard times are coming. Halloween is the time when the spirits⁶ of darkness, the **evil forces** of nature, wake up⁷.



Halloween decoration

Today, **All Souls Day** on the 2nd of November is a Christian⁸ version of Halloween, which is celebrated on the 31st of October.

Vocabulary:¹kostým|²pohanský|³oslavovaný|⁴temnota|⁵hlad|⁶duch|⁷probudit|⁸křesťanský

Language notes:pumpkin lantern=dýňová lucerna|actual origin=skutečný původ|Celtic nations=keltské národy|a long time ago=kdysi dávno|big feast=velká hostina|season of death=období smrti|evil forces=zlé síly|All Souls Day=Dušičky

Sources: guardian.com|en.wikipedia.org