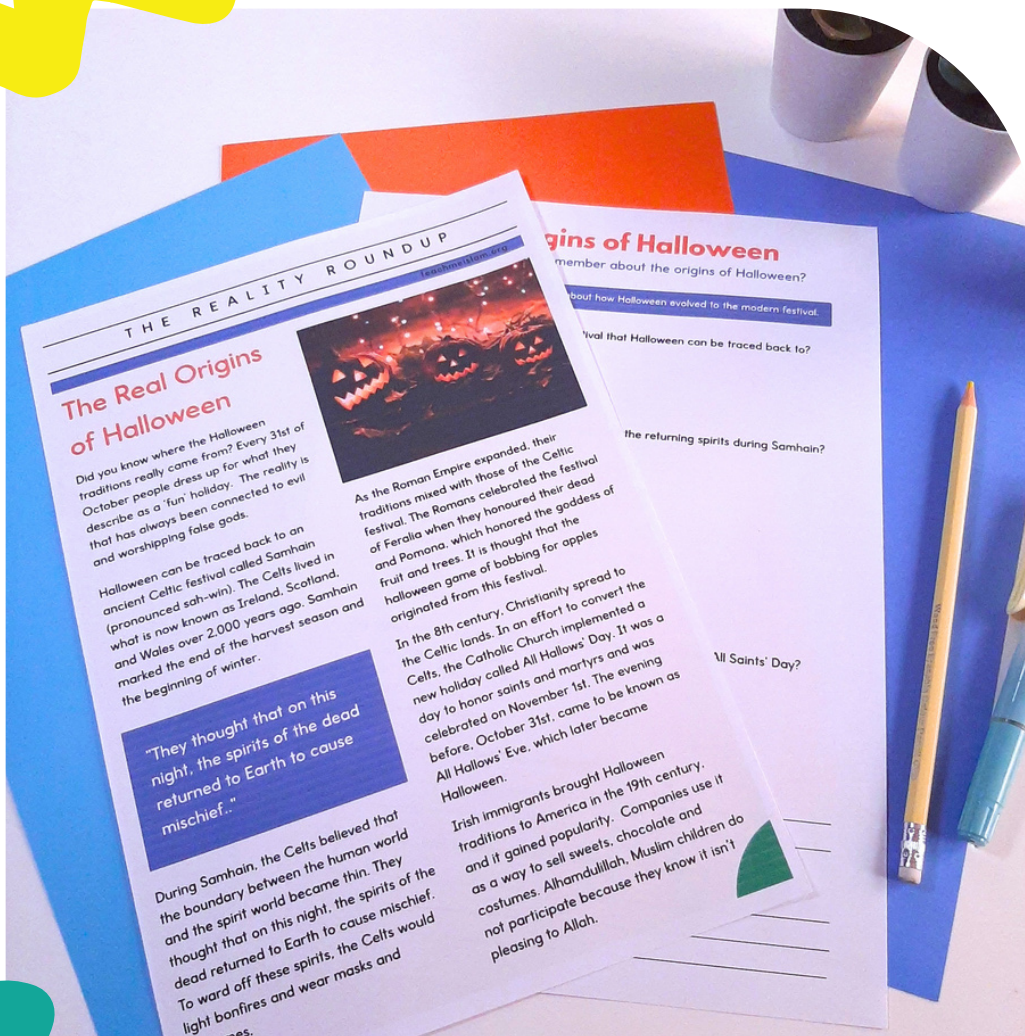


READ, LEARN, REFLECT



# THE REAL ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

FREE Reading Comprehension  
for Muslim Kids



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# The Real Origins of Halloween

Did you know where the Halloween traditions really came from? Every 31st of October people dress up for what they describe as a 'fun' holiday. The reality is that has always been connected to evil and worshipping false gods.

Halloween can be traced back to an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain (pronounced sah-win). The Celts lived in what is now known as Ireland, Scotland, and Wales over 2,000 years ago. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.

"They thought that on this night, the spirits of the dead returned to Earth to cause mischief.."

During Samhain, the Celts believed that the boundary between the human world and the spirit world became thin. They thought that on this night, the spirits of the dead returned to Earth to cause mischief. To ward off these spirits, the Celts would light bonfires and wear masks and costumes.



As the Roman Empire expanded, their traditions mixed with those of the Celtic festival. The Romans celebrated the festival of Feralia when they honoured their dead and Pomona, which honored the goddess of fruit and trees. It is thought that the halloween game of bobbing for apples originated from this festival.

In the 8th century, Christianity spread to the Celtic lands. In an effort to convert the Celts, the Catholic Church implemented a new holiday called All Hallows' Day. It was a day to honor saints and martyrs and was celebrated on November 1st. The evening before, October 31st, came to be known as All Hallows' Eve, which later became Halloween.

Irish immigrants brought Halloween traditions to America in the 19th century, and it gained popularity. Companies use it as a way to sell sweets, chocolate and costumes. Alhamdulillah, Muslim children do not participate because they know it isn't pleasing to Allah.

# The Origins of Halloween

How much can you remember about the origins of Halloween?

Answer the following questions about how Halloween evolved to the modern festival.

1. What is the ancient Celtic festival that Halloween can be traced back to?
  - a) Samhain
  - b) Feralia
  - c) Pomona
  - d) All Saints' Day
  
2. How did people falsely try to ward off the returning spirits during Samhain?
  - a) Wearing costumes
  - b) Planting trees
  - c) Building houses
  - d) Baking cakes
  
3. Who celebrated the festival of Feralia?
  - a) The Celts
  - b) The Romans
  - c) The Greeks
  - d) The Egyptians
  
4. When did the Catholic Church designate November 1st as All Saints' Day?
  - a) In the 8th century
  - b) In the 18th century
  - c) In the 10th century
  - d) In the 4th century

5. Why do companies promote Halloween?

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6. Why do you think Muslims should not celebrate Halloween?

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- ⑤ Why do companies promote Halloween?

Companies promote Halloween to sell sweets/candy, chocolate and costumes.

- ⑥ Why do you think Muslims should not celebrate Halloween?

Students' responses will vary but could include because Halloween is associated with worshipping false gods, it is not pleasing to Allah, it is copying the non-Muslims in their worship or Muslims only celebrate eid.

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