



## Halloween



Spooky pumpkins, spiders and witches can be seen everywhere when Halloween comes around each year, but where did this tradition actually originate from?

Halloween is derived from "All Hallows Even" (Allerheiligenavond) - the night from the 31st of October to the 1st of November. The origins can be found in Ireland - the Irish then brought the tradition to the USA. That is where Halloween became a huge event after Thanksgiving and Christmas.

On the evening of Halloween, children dress up and go "trick or treating". If someone refuses to give the kids sweets, they play a trick on that person. Popular costumes are ghosts, witches, skeletons, zombies, corpses, bats and fairies.



One must not forget the glowing pumpkins with their spooky faces.

There's a story why we use them every year: There once was a boy called Jack who lived in Ireland. Jack made a deal with the devil that once Jack died his soul would be left in peace. When Jack eventually died he was not allowed up to heaven as he had been in contact with the devil but



he could not go to hell either as the devil left his soul alone. Jack was now wondering around in darkness. The devil found it hard to watch jack suffer and so he gave him a piece of glowing charcoal. Jack then stuck the charcoal into a turnip he had taken with him as provisions. From that point on Jack wonders around every night on the 31st of October.

As pumpkins were more common in the USA, they simply swapped them with the turnips. The grimaces were cut into the turnip to drive away all the evil spirits.

