

All About...

# HALLOWEEN

TRICK  
OR  
TREAT!



## HALLOWEEN QUIZ

1. What is the date of halloween?

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2. What do children say when they go door-to-door asking for candy?

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3. What kind of transportation do witches use?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What vegetable can scare away vampires?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What color is a witch's cat?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. What country did Halloween start in?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is a pumpkin with a face carved in it called?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Halloween is a national holiday in America - true or false?

\_\_\_\_\_



### Is your partner a werewolf?

Ask your partner the questions on the right. After your partner has answered all the questions, analyze their answers and decide:

**Are they a werewolf?**



### Werewolf Survey

1. Do you like dogs?
2. Do you hate cats?
3. Do you prefer eating meat to vegetables?
4. Do you have a good sense of smell?
5. Do you drool in your sleep?
6. Do you like people scratching your back?
7. Do you get excited when you see the moon?
8. Do you enjoy walking through the forest?
9. Do you have a lot of hair?
10. Do you like to eat your steak rare?

Read the article about vampires. Check any words you don't know, then explain what you have just read to your partner.

## Real vampires?

When we think about vampires, we usually imagine the monsters in movies. These vampires can change into bats and can be killed by sunlight.

There is a rare illness (or group of illnesses) that is called "vampirism". People who have vampirism have problems staying in the sun. They also have very strong immune systems, and some even like the taste of blood! Some people even get special "vampire teeth" so they look more like a traditional vampire.

Vampires are real!

### Is your partner a witch?

Ask your partner the questions on the right. After your partner has answered all the questions, analyze their answers and decide:

**Are they a witch?**



### Witch Survey

1. Do you enjoy cooking?
2. Do you like cats?
3. Do you have a long nose?
4. Do you ever wear black clothes?
5. Do you dream about flying?
6. Do you like mushrooms on your food?
7. Do you own a broom?
8. Do you prefer night to daytime?
9. Do you have warts?
10. Do you have a strange laugh?

Read the article about witches. Check any words you don't know, then explain what you have just read to your partner.

## Real witches?

When we think about witches, we usually imagine the ugly old women in movies. These witches fly around on brooms and cast spells on people.

But there is a real religion that is called "Wicca". People who practice Wicca are the real witches of our world. These witches are men and women who have normal lives, but they believe in a strong relationship between humans and nature. They believe there is magic between humans and nature.

Witches are real!

# THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

For use with the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-VRAemlvbl&feature=related>

**From communion with the dead, to pumpkins and pranks, Halloween is a patchwork holiday; stitched together with cultural, religious and occult traditions that span centuries.**

**It all began with the Celts, a people whose culture had spread across Europe more than 2000 years ago. October 31 was the day they celebrated the end of the harvest season in a festival called “Samhain”. That night also marked the Celtic new year and was considered a time between years; a magical time when the ghosts of the dead walked the earth.**

**It was the time when the veil between death and life was supposed to be of at its thinnest.**

**On Samhain, the villagers gathered and lit huge bonfires to drive the dead back to the spirit world and keep them away from the living. But as the Catholic Church’s influence grew in Europe, it frowned on the pagan rituals like Samhain. In the 7th century the Vatican began to merge it with a church sanctioned holiday, so November 1 was designated All Saints Day to honor martyrs and the deceased faithful.**

**Both of these holidays have to do with the afterlife and about survival after death. It was a calculated move on the part of the church to bring more people into the fold.**

**All Saints Day then was known then as “Hallowmas”. “Hallow” means holy or saintly. So the translation is roughly “Mass of the Saints”. The night before, October 31, was “All Hallows Eve”, which gradually morphed into “Halloween”.**

**The holiday came to America with the wave of Irish immigrants during the potato famine of the 1840s. They brought several of their holiday customs with them, including bobbing for apples and playing tricks on neighbors, like removing gates from the front of houses. The young pranksters wore masks so they wouldn't be recognized. But over the years tradition of harmless tricks grew into outright vandalism.**

**Back in the 1930s it really became a dangerous holiday. I mean, there was such hooliganism and vandalism. Trick-or-treating was originally an extortion deal. “Give us candy or we'll trash your house”.**

**Store keepers and neighbors began giving treats, or bribes, to stop the tricks and children were encouraged to travel door-to-door for treats as an alternative to trouble-making. By the late 30's “Trick-or-treat” became the holiday greeting.**