

# **HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!**

## **The origins of Halloween**



Subject: SESE History

Strand: Local Studies

Unit: Feasts and Festivals in the Past

The header features a light beige banner with a black outline and a wavy, torn-edge effect. Above the banner, several stylized leaves in shades of green, brown, and orange are scattered across the top. To the right of the banner, two acorns with brown caps and reddish-brown bases are shown hanging from a thin branch.

# Samhain

It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from an ancient pagan festival celebrated by **Celtic** people over **2,000 years ago**. This festival was called **Samhain** and was celebrated around the 1st of November. The Samhain festival marked the end of the harvest season. They celebrated the season with bonfires and feasting.



A decorative banner with a light beige background and a black outline, featuring a torn edge on the right side. It is surrounded by several autumn leaves in shades of green, brown, and orange. To the right of the banner, there are two acorns on a small branch.

# All Hallows

In the 800's, the Christian church established a new holiday called All Saints' Day. All Saints' Day was also called **All Hallows'**. Hallow means saint.

All Saint's Day or All Hallows is celebrated on the 1st of November.



A decorative header featuring a light beige banner with a black outline and wavy edges. Above the banner, several autumn leaves in shades of green, brown, and orange are falling. To the right of the banner, two acorns are shown hanging from a small branch.

# All Hallows Eve

The evening before All Hallows' is the 31st of October. This day was known as **All Hallows' Eve** by the Christian church.

It became abbreviated to **All Hallow e'en** and eventually shortened to **Halloween**.

A single red maple leaf with yellow veins, positioned in the bottom right corner of the page.

The header features a light beige banner with a black outline and a wavy, torn-edge effect. Above the banner, several autumn leaves in shades of green, brown, and orange are depicted as if falling. To the right of the banner, two acorns with brown caps and reddish-brown nuts are shown hanging from a thin branch.

# All Souls' Day

The church also added **All Souls' Day** on the 2nd of November. This day was set aside for people to pray for friends and family who had died. Some people put out food for their ancestors, or they left a lantern burning in the window so that ghosts could find their way home for the night.



The header features a light beige banner with a black outline and a wavy, torn-edge effect. Above the banner, several autumn leaves in shades of green, brown, and orange are scattered. To the right of the banner, two acorns with brown caps and light brown bases are shown hanging from a thin branch.

# Allhallowtide

Allhallowtide is a time for honoring the saints and praying for the recently departed souls who have yet to reach Heaven.

- All Hallows Eve - 31st October
- All Saints' Day - 1st November
- All Souls' Day - 2nd November





# Questions:

Q1. Where does the word Halloween come from?

Q2. Celtic people celebrated a festival around the 1st of November to mark the end of the harvest season. What is the name of this festival?

Q3. What is the name of the day before All Saints' Day?

Q4. What is the name of the day after All Saints' Day?

Q5. Think of a Halloween tradition and research its origin. You could use WorldBook Online encyclopedia to help you with your research.



# Answers:

Q1. From the Christian church.

All Hallows' Eve became abbreviated to All Hallow e'en and eventually shortened to Halloween

Q2. Samhain

Q3. All Hallows Eve - 31st October (Halloween)

Q4. All Souls Day - 2nd November

Q5. Tradition: Jack-o'-lanterns

Origin: Linked to an Irish legend. Jack-o'-lantern originally represented spirits present in the dark, or souls released from Christian purgatory.

Link: <https://www.worldbookonline.com/student-new/#/article/home/ar243460/outline/h6>

