

1. Encyclopedia Americana (1990)

a. Halloween

- i. Festival of Scottish-Irish Origin on October 31 (All Hallows Eve); elements of the customs can be traced back to a Druid ceremony in pre-Christian times
- ii. Druids – a religious order (like priests) of magician-sages among the ancient Celts of Gaul, Britain, among other responsibilities they conducted divination and sacrifices (animals and humans) – Irish druids, emphasized powers of shape shifting, incantation, trance, druids dressed in animal flesh, birds and wings, shamanistic
- iii. Celts had festivals celebrating the sun god and the god of the dead (Samhain). Samhain was commemorated on November 1, which is the New Year for the Celts. Later this was incorporated into Christian rituals. In the 9th century they began to have a feast in honor of all the saints (All Hallows) on November 1st. In the 11th century, they had a feast called All Souls Day celebrated on November 1st, commemorating all those who died the previous year. In Europe, in medieval times, elves, fairies, and witches (who took the form of cats) were superstitiously believed to fly around during All Hallows Eve. Bonfires were lit to ward off evil spirits. Halloween involved rituals used to foretell the future.
- iv. Halloween traditions from Scotland and Ireland that came to America:
 1. Pumpkins replaced the turnips, for carved jack-o-lanterns
 2. In the 19th century, Irish believed that “little people” (fairies) played pranks on Halloween. So, young boys and young men started to carry out practical jokes on that night.
 3. In the 20th century, kids would dress up in costumes, traveling door to door and saying “trick or treat.”

2. The World Book Encyclopedia (1989)

- a. Today, children wear costumes and go trick-or-treating. Jack-o-lanterns are carved out of pumpkins. Activities include: fortune-telling, storytelling about ghosts and witches and bobbing for apples.
- b. In the AD 800's the church, established All Saints Day on November 1 so that people could continue a festival they had celebrated before becoming Christians. The Mass that was said on this day was called Allhallowmas. The evening before is called All Saints' Day became Halloween.
- c. Trick or treating is done by dressing in a costume and coming to a house to get candy, fruit or money (treats) or else that house gets a trick played on them.
- d. Jack-o-lantern's – are used in America to do what they did with turnips, potatoes, beets in England and Ireland. They were used as lanterns to light their way in the night. Irish legend says that a man named Jack, could not enter into heaven

because he was a miser. He could not go into hell either because he played jokes on the devil. The result was that he had to walk the earth with his lantern until judgment day.

- e. Fortunetelling – began in Europe hundreds of years ago. They would bake a cake and put objects such as coin, a ring and a thimble. Whoever found the coin, would supposedly become rich. Whoever found the ring would get married. Whoever found the thimble would never get married. Today the practice cardreading, palmistry in addition to older methods.
- f. Other traditions:
 - i. Bobbing for apples
- g. Historically, people believed that ghosts roamed the earth on Halloween. They also believed witches men on Oct. 31st to worship the devil. Many don't believe that they do this today, but the ghosts and witches remain symbols of Halloween.
- h. History:
 - i. The Celts (druids) celebrated Samhain the Celtic Lord of death on their new year of November 1st. The Celts believed that Samhain allowed the souls of the dead to visit their homes this particular evening.
 - ii. Druids were priest and teachers of the Celts, told the people to put out their hearth fires. The Druids then built a huge new fire that they considered sacred. They burned animals, crops, and sometimes humans. Then each family would relite their hearth fire with the fire that the Druids made. People sometimes wore costumes made of animal heads and skins, and by looking at the inside of the dead animals they would being to tell fortunes of the future.
 - iii. Romans conquered the Celts in the first century. Two Roman autumn festivals were mixed with these Celtic festivals.
 - iv. In the 800's, many converted to Christianity even though they kept celebrating their pagan Celtic festivals. The church then incorporated the pagan Celtic festivals with church rituals and made All Saints Day. The church later honored the dead on November 2 with All Souls Day.
 - v. In Ireland, they held a parade in which they honored a god named Muck Olla. The leader of the parade wore all white and a mask made from the head of an animal.
 - vi. In Scotland, they lit huge bonfires on hillsides to drive away witches and other evil spirits.
 - vii. Halloween did not become popular in American till the 1800's because that was when America received a huge number Scottish and Irish immigrants who celebrated their ancestors Celtic festivals.