

# Halloween

*Halloween*

## Background information

Halloween began in the British Isles as a festival called Samhain. It was believed that on this day spirits rose from the dead, so people wore masks to scare bad spirits away. Centuries later, in the 1840s, Halloween found its way to America, with the Irish immigrants. Over time, it developed into the children's festival that we now know.

The Spanish began to hear about it from tourists, and in their English lessons. The Spanish believe that black cats are bad luck, particularly around Halloween time. They feel very nervous if a black cat crosses their path, enters their home, or comes aboard their ship!



Also in parts of Spain a traditional pastry – the Bones of the Holy, *Huesos de Santo* – is eaten at this time. They are shaped like skulls, contain anise seeds and are coated in an orange glaze.

In Spain the children now dress up in scary costumes for Halloween or *el Día de las Brujas* (Day of the Witches). People have parties or go out for a meal. Trick-or-treating is now more common. Children go from house to house and collect sweets. In some parts of Spain it is more common for children to trick-or-treat along the cafés and shops rather than houses. Shopkeepers and café owners have baskets of sweets ready for the children who are dressed up. Adults are encouraged to enjoy a coffee or a glass of Rioja while the children collect sweets. Pumpkins are also popular. People carve a scary face and put a candle inside.

In Spain, Halloween is a three-day celebration. Halloween is not only about honouring the dead, but also a celebration of the continuity of life. Older members of society still refer back to an older tradition of honouring the dead at the end of October and use the time to visit cemeteries, honouring saints and going to religious ceremonies. Symbolically, in Spain, Halloween is seen as a time to burn off bad luck with bonfires and clear dark energies. Some families spend the day after Halloween (1<sup>st</sup> November), All Saints Day, *el Día de Todos los Santos*, tidying family burial plots (see page 83).

Finally, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November, families observe the customs and rituals of All Souls' Day, *el Día de los Muertos*.




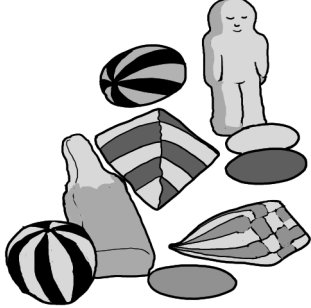





## Teaching activities

- ◆ Pupils could write a Spanish Halloween word each and draw a picture to match it.
- ◆ Write a spooky Halloween story.
- ◆ Anagrams – you could muddle up the letters of the words for pupils to unscramble.
- ◆ Write a recount about Trick or Treating.
- ◆ Design your own spooky costume.
- ◆ Put the spooky words in alphabetical order.
- ◆ Design a Halloween poster, and include some spooky Spanish words.

### Vocabulario

el fantasma	a ghost
la calavera	a skull
el disfraz	a costume
el vampiro	a vampire
la casa encantada	a haunted house
la bruja	a witch
los caramelos	sweets
el esqueleto	a skeleton
la araña	a spider
el zombi	a zombie
la calabaza	a pumpkin
truco o trato	trick or treat



<p>la bruja</p> 	<p>el fantasma</p> 	<p>el esqueleto</p> 	<p>caramelos</p> 
<p>la calavera</p> 	<p>el disfraz</p> 	<p>el vampiro</p> 	<p>la araña</p> 
<p>la casa encantada</p> 	<p>el zombi</p> 		

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## Pupil Task Sheet

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Nombre:

Fecha:



Draw and label key Halloween words. Make up a wordsearch or crossword in Spanish.

Write a spooky, short Halloween story.



**And now for some RESEARCH!**

Investigate and research the origins of Halloween. Present this information.

### Quick quiz

- ◆ What are the origins of Halloween?
- ◆ How do Spanish people celebrate Halloween?