

Wait, Halloween is British?!

Before watching make sure that you know the meanings of the words and phrases in the box. Use the dictionary if necessary.

a scary cat / the origins / the Celts / harvest season / Samhain / pagan / spouse

Watch the video and find the answers to the questions below.



- 1) Who, according to Anglophenia, were the original trick-or-treaters?
- 2) Where can the origins of what we know today as Halloween be traced back?
- 3) When was Samhain celebrated by the Celts?
- 4) What does the word 'Samhain' mean in Gaelic?
- 5) Why, according to the ancient Celts, could the spirits of the dead visit the world of the living on the night before Samhain?
- 6) By what century had the pagan Celts been converted to Christianity?
- 7) What is the etymology of the word 'Halloween'?
- 8) Who and when wrote the poem 'Halloween'?
- 9) What can such a tradition as 'bobbing for apples' tell a person about his/her future?
- 10) What are the three Halloween traditions connected with apples?
- 11) Who brought Halloween to America?
- 12) What is the name of the original Scottish version of 'trick-or-treating'?
- 13) What kind of reward did people who performed the original Scottish version of 'trick-or-treating' get?
- 14) What vegetables were used as lanterns in Scotland and most of the UK before the introduction of pumpkins?
- 15) Do the British call the pumpkins 'Jack-o'-Lanterns' or not?
- 16) What kinds of Halloween costumes do the Brits prefer?
- 17) What does a pumpkin on the doorstep of the British house mean?



KEYS

- 1) Who, according to Anglophenia, were the original trick-or-treaters? – **the Scots**
- 2) Where can the origins of what we know today as Halloween be traced back? – **to the ancient festival of Samhain**
- 3) When was Samhain celebrated by the Celts? – **on November, 1st**
- 4) What does the word 'Samhain' mean in Gaelic? – **Summer's end, harvest season and the beginning of winter**
- 5) Why, according to the ancient Celts, could the spirits of the dead visit the world of the living on the night before Samhain? – **because they believed that on this day the veil between the world of the dead and the world of the living was the thinnest**
- 6) By what century had the pagan Celts been converted to Christianity? – **by the 7th century**
- 7) What is the etymology of the word 'Halloween'? – **contraction of the words ALL + HALLOW'S + EVE**
- 8) Who and when wrote the poem 'Halloween'? – **Roberts Burns, in 1759**
- 9) What can such a tradition as 'bobbing for apples' tell a person about his/her future? – **the fist to pick the apple out of water using only his/her mouth will be the first to marry**
- 10) What are the three Halloween traditions connected with apples? – **bobbing for apples, slicing the apple into 9 pieces and eating it in front of the mirror and peeling the apple in one motion without breaking the skin**
- 11) Who brought Halloween to America? – **Irish and Scottish immigrants**
- 12) What is the name of the original Scottish version of 'trick-or treating'? – **guising**
- 13) What kind of reward did people who performed the original Scottish version of 'trick-or treating' get? – **food, drinks, coins, and soul cakes**
- 14) What vegetables were used as lanterns in Scotland and most of the UK before the introduction of pumpkins? – **turnips**
- 15) Do the British call the pumpkins 'Jack-o'-Lanterns' or not? – **no, they are just 'pumpkins'**
- 16) What kinds of Halloween costumes do the Brits prefer? – **spooky things only**
- 17) What does a pumpkin on the doorstep of the British house mean? – **there is probably a bowl/bag of candy/sweets for trick-or-treaters**