

HALLOWEEN

"From a dental perspective, it is better to eat a bagful of [Halloween] treats in one sitting than to allow children to graze on them for days and weeks." - Dr. Richard Busse, President of the Association of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia

Who does Halloween celebrate?

All Saints' Day was created by Pope Boniface IV in the 7th century CE. There were so many saints by this time that there were not enough days in the year to accommodate them. So, *All Saints' Day* was to recognize the saints who were without their own day, and to celebrate saints that the Church had failed to recognize. It originally was held on May 13, but was moved by Pope Gregory in 835 CE to November 1. This may have been done in order to distract Christians from celebrating Samhain.

Halloween was originally called **All Hallows' Eve** which means the evening before All Saints' Day. "Hallow" is an Old English word for "saint". This was shortened to **Hallowe'en** and finally to **Halloween**. Satanists have adopted Hallowe'en as one of their three main seasonal days of celebration. The others are Walpurgus Nacht on May 1st, and the Satanist's birthday.

All Souls' Day was created for Nov 2 to honor faithful Christians who had died but were not saints. The three days from Oct-31 to Nov-2 was given the name **Hallow Tide**.¹

Druids: *Druidae* (Celtic origin) Pliny the Elder (Gaius Plinius Secundus, 23/24-79 A.D.) believed it to be a cognate with the Greek work "drus," meaning "an oak." "Dru-wid" combines the word roots "oak" and "knowledge" ("wid" means "to know" or "to see" - as in the Sanskrit "vid"). The oak was an important sacred tree to the Druids. In the Celtic social system, Druid was a title given to learned men and women possessing "oak knowledge" (or "oak wisdom").² - "*Druidry is not a religion. It's a philosophy and you can worship a God or a Goddess, it's up to you. You can be a Christian or a Moslem or anything else and still be a Druid. But while a Christian will say God made that tree, a Druid will say the energy of a creative force is in that tree.*" - Kieron, a UK Druid.



Ezekiel 6¹² Thus will I spend My fury upon them.¹³ Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when their slain are among their idols all around their altars, on every high hill, on all the mountaintops, under every green tree, and under every thick oak, wherever they offered sweet incense to all their idols.¹⁴ So I will stretch out My hand against them and make the land desolate, yes, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblah, in all their dwelling places. Then they shall know that I am the LORD.

- Celts coalesced as a society circa 800 BC - Located in what is now the United Kingdom, much of Western Europe and Turkey.
- Held a major celebration near the end of our month of October, which they called called "**Samhain**," [*Samhain* or "Samhuinn" is pronounced "sow-" (as in female pig) "en" (with the neutral vowel sound)] a festival to recognize the end of summer. - Believed that the veil between this world and the next was thinnest at this time of year.
- Friends and relatives who had died would often return, with their souls inhabiting an animal - often a **black cat**.
- In celebration of the recently completed harvest, Celts would give offerings of food to the gods. - They often went from door to door to collect food to donate to their deities. Young Celts would ask the townspeople for kindling and wood, and take it to top of the hill for the Samhain bonfire. - Origin of "**trick or treating**?"
- Samhain was a fire festival. Sacred bonfires were lit on the tops of hills in honor of the gods.
- The townspeople would take an ember from the bonfire to their home and re-light the fire in their family hearth.
- The ember would usually be carried in a holder - often a turnip or gourd.
- Felt nervous about walking home in the dark; were afraid of evil spirits. - Dressed up in **costumes** and carved scary faces in their ember holders.
- **Jack-o'-lantern:** Came from an Irish folk tale of the 18th century. Jack was an Irishman. He had tricked the Devil into climbing an apple tree. He then cut a cross symbol in the tree trunk, thus trapping the Devil in the branches. At his death, he was unable to again access to Heaven because of his meanness. The Devil, having a long memory, would not allow him into Hell. So he was forced to walk the earth endlessly. The devil took pity on him and gave him a piece of coal to light his path. Jack put it inside a hollowed-out turnip that he had been eating. [1]
- **Apples** - Have long been associated with female deities, and with immortality, resurrection, and knowledge. One reason is that if an apple is cut through its equator, it will reveal a five-pointed star outlined at the center of each hemisphere. This was a pentagram -- a Goddess symbol among the Roma (Gypsies), Celts, Egyptians, etc. Unmarried people would attempt to take a bite out of an apple bobbing in a pail of water, or suspended on a string. The first person to do so was believed to be the next to marry. [1]
- **Ritual Killing:** Many historians believed that the ancient Druids performed human sacrifices. All of these references can be traced back to the writings of **one** individual, Julius Caesar. He may well have been prejudiced against the Celts because of their continual warfare with the Romans. In war, the enemy is routinely demonized. Some remains of executions have been found in the archeological record, but it is not obvious whether the victims were killed during religious rituals or to carry out the sentence of a court. There is one reference to human sacrifice in Celtic literature, but it appears to be a Christian forgery. The ancient Celts might have engaged in ritual killing; certainly other contemporary societies did. [1]

Deuteronomy 18⁹ "When you come into the land which the LORD⁹ your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations.¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,¹¹ or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

2 Chronicles 33⁵ And he built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the house of the LORD.⁶ Also he caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; he practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.⁷ He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the house of God, of which God had said to David and to Solomon his son, "In this house and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put My name forever;

How should a Christian "celebrate" Halloween?

¹ www.religioustolerance.org

² <http://www.crystalinks.com/druids.html>