



## Semantic Field #29 Halloween



Jack-o'-lantern



Ghost



Vampire



Zombie



Mummy



Witch



Werewolf



Skeleton



Death



Devil

**Halloween** or **Hallowe'en** (a contraction of '**All Hallows' Evening**') is a celebration observed in a number of countries on **October 31**, the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It inaugurates the three-day observance of **Allhallowtide**, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to **remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the faithful departed**. It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from ancient **Celtic harvest festivals**, particularly the Gaelic festival of **Samhain**- This would mark the beginning of the dark half of the year, the first day of which was believed to make a special time when the boundary between this world and the netherworld was easier to cross, thus allowing many wandering spirits to roam the Earth at humans' peril. Samhain was probably Christianized as Halloween by the early Church in the **Early Middle Ages**. Halloween rituals include **trick-or-treating** (and the related **disguising**), carving pumpkins into jack-o'-lanterns, lighting bonfires, **apple bobbing**, divination games, playing pranks, visiting haunted attractions, telling scary stories and watching horror films. In many parts of the world, the Christian religious observances of attending church services and lighting candles on the graves of the dead, remain popular. Some Christians historically **abstained from meat** on All Hallows' Eve, a tradition reflected in the eating of certain vegetarian foods on this vigil day, including **apples, potato pancakes, and soul cakes**.