

THE COLOURS OF HALLOWEEN...



On October the 31st, the night before All Saints Day, Americans, Scots and Irish people celebrate Halloween : they dress up as witches and ghosts, have parties, tell ghost stories and play games. In the 8th century, the Catholic Church changed this festival "All Hallows Day", on November 1st. the night before All Hallows Day is All Hallows Eve, on October 31st. the word "Halloween" comes from "All Hallows Eve".



Halloween is the second-biggest celebration in America after Christmas. Every year Americans spend more than \$2.5 billion on sweets, cards and decorations. More than 66% of houses are decorated. Many people make Jack-o'-Lanterns for Halloween. They go to special farms to buy pumpkins to make Jack O'Lanterns : they cut faces in pumpkins and put candles inside. 80% of American pumpkins are sold for Halloween. People plan Halloween parties and think about the costume they'll wear on Halloween night. They also send Halloween cards to friends and family.

It's not originally an American tradition - Irish immigrants brought it to the USA !



Jack O Lanterns and decorated houses



A HALLOWE'EN RECIPE Granny's Creamy Pumpkin Pie

Ingredients

980 g fresh pumpkin, cooked and mashed
1 g ground ginger
400 g sweetened condensed milk
2 g ground nutmeg
2 eggs
3 g salt
2 g ground cinnamon
1 recipe pastry for a 24 cm pie dish

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 220°C.
2. In a large bowl, mix pumpkin puree, sweetened condensed milk and eggs. Add cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and salt. Mix together with a whisk.
3. Place the unbaked pastry into pie dish, then pour mixture.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes. reduce the heat to 175°C and bake for another 35 minutes.



In pre-Christian times, the Celts celebrated the pagan festival of *Samhain* celebrating the New Year in the autumn. Celts believed that the dead could come back to the world that day, so people wore costumes like witches and ghosts, to frighten the real witches and ghosts. Today Irish and Scottish kids visit houses and sing a song or tell a joke. People give them sweets or apples and even sometimes money. Teenagers don't usually go "trick or treating". They prefer to play tricks on people, like spraying foam on people's doors and decorating trees with toilet paper. And of, course, it's the perfect time to have a party !



Hallowe'en goodies : yummy !



People decorate their houses for Halloween parties, and they prepare food like pumpkin pies and toffee apples. They dress up, which makes a spooky atmosphere. Scary costumes like witches, skeletons, vampires and ghosts are the most popular.



Kids trick or treating !



Adults partying !

Don't think that Halloween is just for kids ! More than thirty per cent of adults wear costumes for Halloween. They go to Halloween balls or parties where a jury gives prizes for the best costumes. In New York, Greenwich Village Halloween parade is the largest and most festive Halloween party in the world. Halloween may not be a national holiday in the USA, but it is certainly a national celebration !

