

Festivals: Halloween

by Adrian Tennant

Level: Beginner to Pre-Intermediate

Time needed: 30 minutes +

Section / Subject: Young Learners > Festivals

Main skills: Listening, Speaking

Aim: To introduce and talk about the topic of Halloween.

Materials required: Copies of the worksheets for every student. For activity 2 in section coloured paper, scissors, crayons (or coloured pens), string, sticky tape.

Key vocabulary: candle, candy, cat, costumes, ghost, Halloween, lantern, pumpkin, werewolves, witch, celebrate, October.

Activity 1

Introduction

① On the board write up the word Halloween and see if your children know anything about it. Elicit any ideas and write them up on the board. Don't make any comments yet. Note: This might happen in the children's L1, allow this and supply the English words (this is a good opportunity to teach some new vocabulary).

② Next, read out the following text (read it twice if necessary).

People celebrate Halloween on October 31st. Children dress up as witches and ghosts. In some countries they light candles or make lanterns from pumpkins. Do you celebrate Halloween where you live?

③ Now, ask students the following questions:

1. When is Halloween?
2. What do children do?
3. What do people make from pumpkins?

Main activity

Note: For this activity it would be nice to have coloured paper, scissors, crayons (or coloured pens), string, sticky tape.

① Put students into small groups or pairs and ask them to choose one of the following: a witch, a were wolf, a ghost.

② Tell them to draw or design a mask. It should be big enough to cover their face (A4 or slightly bigger). Monitor and help where necessary.

③ Once they have designed the mask they can make one for each student in the group. If you have got the necessary materials they could do this in class, otherwise ask them to do it for homework.

④ In the next class ask the students to bring in their masks. Hand out a copy of worksheet 1 and ask them to complete the sentences which start I ...monitor and help where necessary.

⑤ Next, put the students in pairs (and get them to wear their masks if possible) and tell them to read their sentences to their partner. He/she should then complete the sentences that start he/she ...

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Activity 2

Introduction

- ① Put the students into small groups and ask them to look at the questions on worksheet 2. Ask them to talk about the questions together. Monitor and help where necessary.
- ② Ask a few students to report back on their group discussion.

Main activity

- ① Either read out the text about Halloween and ask students the questions (see introduction for 8 year olds) or hand out the worksheet and get the students to read the short text before you ask them the questions.
- ② Next, put the students in pairs and hand out a copy of worksheet 2 to each student or pair of students and ask them to do the wordsearch.
- ③ Once they have completed the wordsearch, you could ask the students to draw pictures of some of the words (this is often a good way of checking they understand the meaning, as well as it being a fun activity).
- ④ Check that everyone has found the words (you could use the OHP for this – photocopy a copy of the wordsearch onto a OHT – Overhead Transparency – and mark the words on it).

(Note: Don't worry too much if students use their first language during group discussion. When they report back to the class encourage them to use English as much as possible).

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1. Together with your partner, take turns asking each other questions from the quiz below. Write down the other person's answers in your notebook.

Halloween quiz



1. Which power would you like to have?
 - a. invisibility
 - b. flying
 - c. superhuman strength
 - d. immortality
2. What's your favourite food?
 - a. a light salad
 - b. meat, especially rare or raw
 - c. barbecue
 - d. I'm not a foodie. Anything in the fridge is fine.
3. When you go to a party, what do you like to wear?
 - a. Something casual so no one will notice me.
 - b. Something really elegant and a bit daring. Why not?
 - c. A big fur coat, to really stand out.
 - d. Any old piece of clothing is fine.
4. How would you describe your own personality?
 - a. shy, quiet, observing, attentive
 - b. self-confident, outgoing, likes being at the centre of attention
 - c. strong, noticeable, impatient, impulsive
 - d. calm, distracted, quiet, likes to go unnoticed

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5. What kind of places do you prefer?
 - a. quiet, empty places
 - b. dark places, with lots of people to chat to and observe
 - c. forests or places with lots of trees and fields
 - d. urban areas
6. Which movie/TV show is the best, in your opinion?
 - a. *The Sixth Sense*
 - b. *Twilight*
 - c. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
 - d. *The Walking Dead*
7. What's your favourite part of the day?
 - a. afternoon and evening
 - b. evening and night
 - c. night, especially with a beautiful moon in the sky
 - d. both day and night
8. How do you react when somebody irritates you?
 - a. I don't do anything in the moment, but I make a promise: 'When I die, I will have my revenge!'
 - b. I give the person a sinister smile, and at night, I get my revenge.
 - c. I get very nervous and attack.
 - d. I feel like biting the person's head off.
9. Which actress/singer do you like best?
 - a. Nicole Kidman
 - b. Angelina Jolie
 - c. Tina Turner
 - d. Kristen Stewart
10. Which actor do you like best?
 - a. Patrick Swayze
 - b. Brad Pitt
 - c. Hugh Jackman
 - d. Keanu Reeves

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2. Find out which character you are, based on your answers, and tell your class or your partner. Do you agree with your result? Why? Why not? Discuss your results.

Mostly A answers

Are you a little pale? I bet you would love to haunt some people, wouldn't you? Because you are a **Ghost**, my friend! You like to be on your own, go unnoticed, but people should know that if they do something bad to you, they will get some 'afterlife' visits ... oh, yes they will!

Mostly B answers

Elegant, charming, a little vain, and sometimes ... evil! You are a **Vampire**! You can get people to do what you want because you can be very persuasive. And even better, you don't mind a bit of blood, do you?

Mostly C answers

Strong, fast and really impulsive – **Werewolf**! That's you! You are the quiet type, but when you get angry, a beast takes control. Watch out, people! You may look like a cute poodle, but when the full moon is out, you are a big scary werewolf.

Mostly D answers

Not dead, not alive, crazy about ... human flesh! You are a **Zombie**! Quiet, always looking for something, even without knowing exactly what. Your appearance is not the most important thing in your life either, right? Yeah, zombies usually don't care too much about looking their best when they are out there, searching for people to eat.