

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 ...

Festivals: Halloween

by Adrian Tennant

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).

Festivals: Halloween
by Adrian Tennant

YOUNG LEARNERS

I am a ...	
I live in a ...	
I eat ...	
I like ...	

He/she is a ...	
He/she lives in a ...	
He/she eats ...	
He/she likes ...	

Festivals: Halloween

by Adrian Tennant

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?

- 1 Find the Halloween words in the wordsearch:

U	L	Y	N	D	H	D	T	Y	M
M	A	D	R	P	A	A	D	N	P
R	N	E	G	X	L	R	W	O	C
O	T	T	C	H	L	L	P	T	O
W	E	R	E	W	O	L	V	E	S
I	R	P	N	F	W	S	E	H	T
T	N	A	F	D	E	O	T	A	U
C	A	N	D	Y	E	C	A	T	M
H	I	R	C	A	N	D	L	E	E
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	E	I	S

Words to find: candle, candy, cat, costumes, ghost, Halloween, lantern, pumpkin, werewolves, witch.

- 1 Talk about these questions.

1. Do you celebrate / have Halloween in your country?
2. What do you do on October 31st?
3. Are there any stories about witches or ghosts? (Tell a partner a story you remember).
4. What's your favourite holiday?