

Dear Mayo Collage,

We are excited to share facts about Halloween with you.

Where it came from

Originally, Halloween was a harvest festival which was made by the Celts. They lived in Ireland, United Kingdom and France and they also called the end of summer Samhain (sow-in). Usually they wore costumes and enjoyed fortune telling to make the Gods happy. If they were happy, the Celts thought that they would protect them and the crops in the long hard winter.

Where the name came from

Halloween got its name from the Celts calling the first of November All Saints Day. When they became Christians, they called it All Hallows Eve which was an old English word. This was before the first of November. Eventually it became known as Halloween (which we call it now).

Why do people dress up

Historically, most people dressed up because they believed

ghosts roamed the streets and were scared of meeting them. Sometimes, they wore masks to fool the ghosts that they were spirits like them so as not to feel scared. They started to wear costumes and fancy dress to go with the masks. This became known as dressing up for Halloween.

Why we light Jack O lanterns

During Halloween, people carve pumpkins. This is because there is an old Irish tale of a man called Jack who always played tricks on people. When he died, he was not allowed in heaven or hell so he had to walk on Earth with a turnip to guide him with a light inside of it. This is why some people light Jack O lanterns.

Halloween today

In England today, most children dress up in costumes that they like to look scary or just to wear a costume they like. We also go trick or treating to get sweets and chocolates and we fill buckets or bags up with them. Some people decorate the inside or outside of their houses with Halloween decorations. If we want to, we can carve faces out of pumpkins for decoration and can even put lights in them so they glow.