

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween/videos/bet-you-didnt-know-halloween>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9NW5AFiHFY>



## Bet You Didn't Know: Halloween

Before watching a [History.com](http://www.history.com) video about Halloween, make sure that you know the words in the box. Consult the dictionary if necessary.

the Celts / to keep at bay / Samhain / trick-or-treating / Hallows / Medieval /  
souling / guising / the living / the dead

Now watch the video twice and decide whether the sentences below are True or False. If False, try to correct the sentence!

- 1) When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades, bobbing for apples, delicious family dinners, and other family-friendly activities. – T / F
- 2) Halloween goes back some 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. – T / F
- 3) The ancient Celts wore masks when they left the house, so they would be mistaken for the ghosts. – T / F
- 4) The Christian church turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. – T / F
- 5) All Souls' Day was on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. – T / F
- 6) 'Souling' is a Medieval tradition when the needy and the poor would be given out pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for people's living relatives. – T / F



- 7) In the Medieval Halloween tradition of 'guising', young people would dress up in costumes and accept food, wine, and money in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes. – T / F
- 8) In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived the old traditions of 'souling' and 'guising'; the result was trick-or-treating. – T / F
- 9) Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S. consumers spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes and candy annually. – T / F
- 10) In the USA Halloween is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most commercial holiday after Thanksgiving Day. – T / F

## KEYS

- 1) When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades, bobbing for apples, delicious family dinners, and other family-friendly activities. – F
- 2) Halloween goes back some 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. – T
- 3) The ancient Celts wore masks when they left the house, so they would be mistaken for the ghosts. – T
- 4) The Christian church turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. – F
- 5) All Souls' Day was on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. – T
- 6) 'Souling' is a Medieval tradition when the needy and the poor would be given out pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for people's living relatives. – F
- 7) In the Medieval Halloween tradition of 'guising', young people would dress up in costume and accept food, wine, and money in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes. – T
- 8) In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived the old traditions of 'souling' and 'guising'; the result was trick-or-treating. – T
- 9) Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S. consumers spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes and candy annually. – F
- 10) In the USA Halloween is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most commercial holiday after Thanksgiving Day. – F

## TRANSCRIPT

When most people think of Halloween, they think of trick-or-treating, parades, bobbing for apples, and other family-friendly activities. But bet you didn't know the true story behind the ancient origins of Halloween. It all goes back some 2000 years to the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain celebrated on November 1<sup>st</sup>. On the night before Samhain, people believed that the dead returned as ghosts. They would leave food and wine on their doorsteps to keep roaming spirits at bay and wear masks when they left the house, so they would be mistaken for fellow ghosts. The Christian church turned Samhain into All Saints Day or All Hallows in the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The night before became All Hallows' Eve, later shortened to Halloween. You heard of trick-or-treating on Halloween, but what about "souling" or "guising"? All three of these traditions originated in Medieval Britain. On All Souls' Day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the needy would bake for pastries known as soul cakes. In return, they would pray for people's dead relatives. This was called "souling". In the Medieval Halloween tradition of guising, young people would dress up in costume and accept food, wine, money, and other offerings in exchange for singing, reciting poetry, or telling jokes. In 19<sup>th</sup> century America, Irish and Scottish immigrants revived these old traditions; the result was trick-or-treating. At first, it was much more about the tricks in the form of pranks and hijinks than the treats. It wasn't until the 1950s that the custom took on its current family-friendly, kid-centered form. Today, Halloween is big business, with U.S. consumers spending more than 2.5 billion on costumes annually, adding the candy, and it's estimated that Americans spend up to 6 billion on Halloween each year, making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> most commercial holiday after Christmas. So whether you are a fan of tricks, treats, or trivia, there's a bit of Halloween history we bet you didn't know.