CLARITY EDUCATION SERIES · HALLOWEEN

Myth or Fact? Where Halloween Came From

Halloween started in Scotland and Ireland, long before pumpkins and plastic masks.

AGES 11–14

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Read each sentence. Tick **MYTH** if it is untrue or **FACT** if it is true. Then answer the two questions at the bottom. Sources are listed at the end so you can check our facts.

1	Halloween grew partly out of Samhain, an old Celtic festival that marked the end of the harvest and the start of winter.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
2	Halloween was invented in America about 100 years ago.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
3	The word “Halloween” comes from “All Hallows’ Eve”, the evening before All Saints’ Day on 1 November.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
4	The very first Halloween lanterns were carved from pumpkins.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
5	Guisers were expected to do a “turn”, like telling a joke or singing a song, to earn their treat.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
6	Samhain celebrations began on the evening before 1 November.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
7	At Samhain, people lit bonfires on hilltops.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
8	All Saints’ Day has always been held on 1 November.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
9	In Scotland, a black cat can be a sign of good luck.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT
10	Using pumpkins as Halloween lanterns caught on in North America.	☐ MYTH	☐ FACT

Explain it

11. Why did people wear masks and disguises at Samhain?

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12. What is “dooking” for apples?

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Sources

1. Encyclopædia Britannica, “Halloween” – britannica.com/topic/Halloween (accessed 21 October 2026).
2. Historic Environment Scotland blog, “Samhainn and the Scottish traditions of Hallowe’en” (2023) – blog.historicenvironment.scot.
3. National Museum of Ireland, “Ghost turnips, the púca, fortune-telling… how our ancestors inspire our Hallowe’en” (2023) – museum.ie.