

# What is Halloween?

- Halloween is on October 31<sup>st</sup> every year.
- Christians traditionally called October 31<sup>st</sup> All Hallows' Eve. This is because October 31st is the day before All Saints' Day or All Hallows' Day.

### Halloween Traditions Costumes

- A long time ago, some people thought that if they dressed up in scary looking costumes it would stop any bad spirits from bothering them.
- Today, people have fun dressing up in costumes. Children go trick-or-treating. Costume parties are often held on Hallowegn.

### Halloween Traditions Pumpkins

- Carved pumpkins are called jack-o'-lanterns.
- A long time ago, people kept jack-o'-lanterns outside their homes on Halloween night. They were supposed to scare away evil spirits.
- In Ireland, jack-o'-lanterns were originally carved out of turnips. When a lot
  of Irish people moved to America, they wanted to make jack-o'-lanterns.
  They couldn't find enough turnips, so they carved pumpkins instead.
- Today, people carve all sorts of silly or spooky faces into pumpkins. They are displayed as decorations.

# Halloween Traditions Apple Bobbing

- Apple bobbing is a game often played on Halloween.
- A large container is filled with water. Apples are then put into the container and float on the water.
- Players try to catch an apple using only their teeth! They are not allowed to use their hands to help them.

### Halloween Traditions Trick-or-Treating

0

- Children dress up in costumes and knock on neighbors' doors. They say 'trick-or treat!" The children are given treats such as candy or chocolate.
- It is important to stay safe when trick-or-treating. Always go trick-or-treating with an adult.

