

# Halloween trivia answers

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## 1. Samhain (Pronounced SAH-win or SOW-in)

*There is some debate as to how many Samhain traditions made their way into the Christian holiday of Halloween. This is because the Celtic people had an oral rather than written tradition and so much about the life of druids and the traditions of the Celtic people has been lost.*

*Halloween is the eve of All Saints Day and we do know that All Saints Day was moved from May 13<sup>th</sup> to coincide with Samhain, which was held around October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 1<sup>st</sup>. By moving the Christian holiday to the date of a pagan festival converted pagans could keep celebrating their traditional holidays while still being Christians. So it wouldn't be surprising if newly converted pagans incorporated their old traditions into the Christian holiday.*

## 2. A saint or a holy person

*Hallow when used as an adjective means holy and as a noun it means someone who is holy. You can see why All Saint's Eve is also known as All Hallow's Eve.*

## 3. 2020

*The last Halloween that had a full moon was in 2001 and the next full moon on Halloween after 2020 won't occur until 2039.*

## 4. Silly string

## 5. Bobbing for apples (a.k.a apple ducking, duck apple, dooking)

*Another variation was also played where apples were hung from strings and contestants would have to try and bite into them.*

## Halloween etymology

## 6. All Hallow's Evening (All Hallows' Even), a.k.a All Hallows' Eve, All Saint's Eve, Allhalloween

*In Scots "eve" is "even". The "v" was eventually dropped, as well as the "all" and the "s" in Hallow's. So All Hallow's Even became Halloween. Halloween is the day before All Hallow's Day (also known as All Saints Day) and is the first day of Allhallowtide which is a three-day celebration for Christian Saints.*

## 7. Between the two e's (Hallowe'en)

*The apostrophe shows where the "v" was dropped from (All) Hallow(s) E(v)en = Hallowe'en. "Even" in Scots means "Evening".*

# Trick-or-treating

## 8. Scotland and Ireland

Guising during *Hallowmas*, the Christian holiday that Halloween kicks off, has been going at least since the 16<sup>th</sup> century in Scotland. Guising along with souling are thought by many to be the origins of modern day trick-or-treating.

## 9. Soul-cakes

Souling goes back at least to the 15<sup>th</sup> century and involves people going from house to house singing for soul-cakes during Halloween. Soul-cakes are small round cakes that are baked to commemorate the dead. Even though souling didn't involve dressing up in costumes (like guising) you can see why many people think it had a strong influence on the trick-or-treating that we do today.

## 10. Canada

Here is the line from the newspaper:

*"The youthful tormentors were at back door and front demanding edible plunder by the word "trick or treat" to which the inmates gladly responded and sent the robbers away rejoicing."*

*"Trick or Treat' Is Demand," Herald (Lethbridge, Alberta), November 4, 1927, p. 5, dateline Blackie, Alberta, Nov. 3.*

## 11. The 1930s

While there were mentions of souling and guising in the USA earlier than the 1930s it wasn't until the mid to late 1930s that we started to see the phrase trick-or-treat being used in print in the USA.

## 12. Zero

There have been a few cases of family members tampering with candy and blaming it on strangers. There have also been numerous false alarms where an illness was thought to be caused from Halloween candy but later was discovered to be something else entirely. Also there have been a tiny number of instances of sharp objects put into candy by strangers. But luckily no one has ever been seriously hurt by one of those objects.

# Jack o' lanterns and pumpkins

## 13. Turnips (also mangel wurzels and possibly rutabagas)

Jack o' lantern refers to a light that is sometimes seen in bogs or marshes. It was explained in Irish folklore as being Stingy Jack who avoided hell by tricking the devil but was denied entry into heaven due to his sins. He now has to wander the earth and lights his way with an ember from hell held within a turnip or rutabaga.

## 14. Ireland

Just like today, faces were carved into the turnips and a candle was put inside. They were used to frighten people and to drive away evil spirits.

## 15. North America

The oldest pumpkin-related seeds were found in Mexico and were dated to sometime between 7000 and 5500 BC.

## 16. Switzerland

In 2014 Beni Meier of Switzerland grew a pumpkin that weighed a whopping 2,378 pounds. That record still stands at the time of this article (September 2016).

## Halloween by the numbers

Sources for these statistics from [National Retail Federation](#) and the [National Confectioners Association](#)

## 17. 8.4 billion

Halloween is second only to Christmas for holiday consumer spending.

## 18. Candy corn

Chocolate dominates first place by a wide margin.

## 19. 22%

Seems a little too large of a percentage, but then I guess some of the survey takers might not have been totally honest.

## 20. 2 pieces

Two pieces were most common at 50%, next up being three pieces at 22%.

## 21. New Year's Eve and the Super Bowl

## 22. 69%

## Halloween costumes

## 23. Witch

Next up was an animal of some type, followed by characters from Batman. Fourth place was a zombie and in fifth place were characters from the Star Wars universe.

## 24. Pumpkin

Next up was hot dog, undoubtedly the top pick for dachshund owners. Third were characters from the Batman franchise, followed by devil. And for 5<sup>th</sup> place, bumble bees.

## 25. Alabama

Here's the wording of the law:

Section 13A-14-4

*Fraudulently pretending to be clergyman.*

*Whoever, being in a public place, fraudulently pretends by garb or outward array to be a minister of any religion, or nun, priest, rabbi or other member of the clergy, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$500.00 or confinement in the county jail for not more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment. (Acts 1965, 1st Ex. Sess., No. 273, p. 381; Code 1975, Â§13-4-99.)*

## Halloween monsters

### 26. A dream

*The inspiration for the book was from a dream. But the reason for writing story was a competition suggested by Lord Byron to a group of friends and associates. They were competing to see who could write the best ghost story.*

*As a side note, the first vampire story written in English titled *The Vampyre* was also written for the competition by Lord Byron's physician.*

### 27. To be ground into medicine

*Mummies were ground up during the middle ages to make medicine because they were thought to have healing properties.*

*After the Middle Ages the buying and selling of mummies remained popular. During the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century mummies were used to make a type of paint called mummy brown or mummia.*

*During the 19<sup>th</sup> century mummies were bought for parties during which a mummy would be unwrapped and examined by the guests.*

### 28. Count Wampyr

*He changed the name from Wampyr to Dracula after he borrowed the book *An Account of the Principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia* from the library in Witby in 1890 during his summer vacation.*

*Source: A Dracula Handbook By Elizabeth Miller*

### 29. Werewolf of London released by Universal Pictures in 1935

*There was an earlier silent era film titled the Werewolf released in 1913 by Universal Films. But it's runtime was only 18 minutes, far from feature length, and no copies remain.*

*You could probably count that one if someone got it, but it's definitely a deep cut, just thought I'd mention it in case you or someone you are quizzing is a serious film buff.*



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