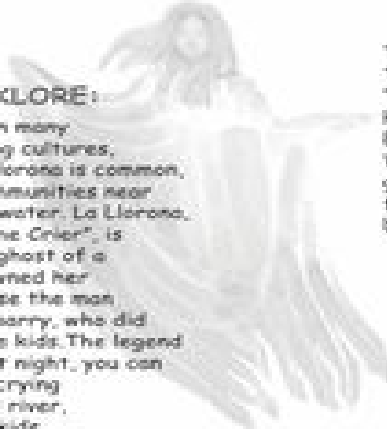


GHOSTS

Ghosts are believed to be the spirits of people who have died. They haunt the living, for many reasons, usually because of "unfinished business" with friends or family. They are often thought of as a wispy, misty white figure, wearing clothes that match the time period during which they died. Ghosts don't usually harm people, but are said to make strange noises and move household objects.

LOCAL FOLKLORE:

In Mexico and in many Spanish-speaking cultures, the tale of La Llorona is common, especially in communities near large bodies of water. La Llorona, which means "The Crier", is supposedly the ghost of a woman who drowned her children to please the man she wanted to marry, who did not want to have kids. The legend says that late at night, you can hear her spirit crying near the lake or river, looking for her kids.



FAMOUS GHOSTS:

The Headless Horseman - Most people know The Headless Horseman from Washington Irving's "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow", but tales of a headless man riding a horse have been around in Europe since at least the Middle Ages. In Washington Irving's story, the Horseman is the ghost of a Revolutionary War soldier. Another famous example is in The Brothers Grimm's famous book of German fairytales.



QUIZ

If you were going to be a ghost for Halloween, what would you wear to look like one? Describe how your costume represents a ghost using examples from the articles you have just read.

If you were a ghost, where would you like to haunt? Who would you visit? _____

Does your own culture have any legends about ghosts? Rewrite your favorite ghost story on a separate sheet of paper.