

The early history of Halloween

16th century

The story of Halloween starts with the Celts, a group of people who mostly lived in Ireland.

They believe that when you die, you become a good spirit or a bad spirit. The good spirits help the people who are alive, but bad spirits want to hurt everyone.

Every year, on the first day of November, there is a party to thank the good spirits who helped collecting food during the summer to survive a long and cold winter.

During this party, people were costumes and tell scary stories to scare away bad spirits who don't sleep.

17th century

Celts from Ireland were religious / Christianity.

On the first of November, Christians celebrate all the spirits that are in heaven.

This day is called "All Saint's Day" or "All Hallows' Day". The evening of the 31st of October is called "All Hallows' Eve" which is the name of "Halloween".

Halloween became a scary spirit's night. People think that the bad spirits are angry because they don't remember them on "All Saint's Day". They think the bad spirits will take revenge on Halloween and that they will scare a lot of people.

To scare the bad spirits away, people were scary costumes and because bad spirits can't stand the light, they make Jack-o'-Lanterns which are pumpkins with scary faces and a candle inside.

18th century

The Celts from the Americas and Halloween became a very popular day. On this day, a lot of children were in scary costumes. For now, there can be a witch, vampire, a monster, a ghost, zombie, and many others.