

I am going to talk about Halloween, an American custom that is now celebrated around the world.

Halloween is celebrated on October 31 every day. The name Halloween originates from All Hallows Eve.

The tradition did not actually start in America. It is based on the ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. During Samhain, people would build and light bonfires and put on costumes to chase away ghosts. During the 8th century, Pope Gregory III stated that November 1 was a day to honor saints; it became known as All Saints Day. Some traditions of Samhain, such as wearing costumes, were incorporated into All Saints Day. Later, the day before All Saints Day became known as All Hallows Eve, and then Halloween. Today, Halloween is still associated with ghosts and ghouls, with ghost and witch costumes among the most popular dress up choices for both kids and adults.

Halloween was brought to America by the early colonists although it was not celebrated widely in the United States until the 19th century, when immigrants from different parts of Europe, including Ireland, adopted the custom.

Today, Halloween is celebrated not only in America, but all over the world. In many places in the world, children dress up in costumes and go from house to house asking for 'a trick or treat' (a treat being candy)— meaning that if they are not given a treat, they will play a trick on that household. Many children carry plastic buckets shaped like a pumpkin to carry their candy; it is also customary to buy a large pumpkin and carve a crazy or scary face on it, and then put a candle inside the pumpkin. But why pumpkins?

Pumpkins became associated with Halloween in America in the 19th century; before that, turnips were carved with scary faces to scare away ghosts and ghouls. But when immigrants came to America, they started carving faces into pumpkins, which were native to the Americas and larger, and easier to carve.

Halloween is one of the most popular celebrations in America and increasingly, around the world, particularly for kids, who love dressing up in scary or funny costumes and going to parties or walking around their neighborhood to collect a lot of treats, or candy. Many adults also celebrate Halloween by dressing up and gathering with friends.