American Culture: History of Halloween

Where did Halloween Come From?

Halloween started in ancient Ireland, England, and northern France. The Celts (a group of people) celebrated the new year on November first. The day marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter. The Druids (the religious leaders of the Celts) believed on this night before the new year on October 31 the dead could return to the earth. Ghosts mostly caused trouble by hurting crops, playing tricks, and helping the Druids tell the future. People dressed up in costumes, like animal skins, and had large bonfires.

What about in the United States?

When Halloween came to the United States, it looked different from the Celts’ holiday. Halloween in the United States comes from a combination of celebrations from European immigrants and American Indian tribes. There were bonfires, stories about dead relatives, costumes, dancing, singing, and fortune telling.

What about candy?

Modern Halloween with candy, parades, and less ghosts started in the 1900s. By 1920 Halloween was no longer connected to religion. It was a secular holiday. Halloween became a community event. Children went from house to house in costume and said “trick or treat”. If the children got candy, then they would go to the next house. If the children did not get candy, then they would cause problems by playing a trick. An example of a Halloween trick is throwing eggs at a house or throwing toilet paper in the yard. (Tricks are not good. These tricks are now illegal in the United States.) Today children still go from house to house and ask for candy.
The Worst Halloween Candy Ever?
Do you know the name of the candy in this picture? The online candy retailer CandyStore.com recently surveyed 40,000 of its customers on their favorite and least-favorite Halloween sweets. According to the survey, this candy was ranked one of the least favorite types of candy of all time!

Things to Do

Fearfest Haunted House
Monday Oct 30 8pm-11pm
Tuesday Oct 31 8pm-11pm
Columbia MO
Cost: $20-$35

Off Campus Housing Fair
9am-3pm
MU Student Center Lower Level
Free Movie: It Comes at Night 8-10pm
Wrench Auditorium Memorial Union South

Festival of South African Dance
Thursday Nov 2 7-9:30 pm
Jesse Auditorium
Cost $39

Mizzou After Dark: Grocery Bag Bingo
Stotler Lounge Memorial Union
Friday Nov 3 7-10pm

Magic Tree Lighting
Friday Nov 3 7pm
The District 9th and Broadway

Halloween Movies to Watch

Scary
- Halloween
- Night of the Living Dead
- 28 Days Later
- Scream

Fun and Not scary
- Beetlejuice
- Hocus Pocus
- Sleepy Hollow
- The Addams Family

Cartoons
- The Corpse Bride
- A Nightmare Before Christmas
- Coraline

Idiom Corner

Under the weather
When someone is under the weather, it means that the person:
- is slightly ill
- feels a little sick
- doesn’t feel well

A person can...
BE under the weather
FEEL under the weather

EXAMPLES
I feel a little under the weather so I don’t think I will go out tonight.
He didn’t go to work today because he was a little under the weather.
Mary was under the weather this morning. I hope she feels better soon.