

The Origins of Halloween

Halloween is celebrated in many parts of the (0) world, and is a time when people dress up as witches or ghosts, and go 'trick-or-treating'. It is (28) one of the most popular traditions in the United States and Britain.

WEST

DOUBT

The celebration (29) about two thousand years ago with the Celts. These people were the (30) of an area that includes Britain, Ireland and Brittany. They relied on the land for their (31) , and this meant that they were at the mercy of (32) weather conditions, especially during the winter.

ORIGIN

INHABIT

LIVE

PREDICT

The Celtic new year began on 1st November, which also marked the beginning of winter, a period (33) associated with death. On the eve of the new year, it was believed that the barriers between the worlds of the living and the dead were (34) withdrawn, and it was possible to communicate with spirits. The Celts believed that the spirits offered them (35) and protection, and the Druids (Celtic priests) were (36) able to predict the future on this night.

TRADITION

TEMPORARY

GUIDE

REPUTE

When the Romans completed their (37) of Celtic lands, they added their own flavour to this festival. The advent of Christianity brought about yet other changes. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV declared November 1st All Saints' Day, also known as 'All Hallows Day', and the night before it was 'All Hallows Eve', which was eventually abbreviated to 'Halloween'.

CONQUER