Historical Halloween

ABOUT 2,000 years ago, people called the Celts (who mainly lived in the Britain Isles) celebrated their New Year's Day on 1 November. They believed New Year's Eve (31 October) was a time when the living and the dead came together.

Many years later, the Celtic New Year's Eve became the Halloween we now recognise! Turn the page to find out why Halloween is also known as 'All Saints Day', and how people celebrate this spooky festival around the world.

Editor's Note

Did you know that Halloween is one of the most popular holidays in the US? I never went out trick or treating because it was too dark and cold in England. But five days later is Bonfire Night and that is when we can let off fireworks in the garden. Big Dee enjoys trick or treating too much. Turn to G04 to read what the naughty boy did. Also there is a Halloween board game on G06-07.

Simon

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Halloween is All Saints Day Eve

When Christianity came to Europe, Christians made 1 November All Saints Day and said it was a day to remember saints. Christians believed that the spirits of the dead would visit Earth on 31 October, the night before All Saints Day, just as the Celts believed.

Does wearing costumes on Halloween have something to do with this religious **belief**? Yes, it does. People were afraid of **evil spirits** and thought they might come and do some harm to them. They wore ghost outfits or dressed up like an evil creature to **confuse** the dead.

Halloween is big in the US (美國). The **tradition** of Halloween was taken to the country by **immigrating** Europeans (歐洲人). Americans **modified** the traditions a little bit, though. For example, in the US, Jack-o'-lanterns are made from pumpkins, but in Europe, some people carried lanterns made from turnips.

Now, Halloween is not really considered a religious holiday. It is a fun day for children. In the US, children love to dress up as their favourite characters. Each household decorates their home in orange and black. And no one seems to care about evil spirits anymore. Kids go from house to house, knock on doors and say 'trick or treat' to get sweets.

Halloween activities

Parades
In different countries, there are parades where people dress up in Halloween costumes.

Make up
Children and adults put on make up and dress up as monsters, witches, ghosts or famous characters from horror films. In recent years, people also dressed up as superhero characters, such as Batman and Spiderman. Some even dressed up as an Angry Bird! Eleven percent of people in the US dress up their pets in Halloween costumes.

Food
You will find 'eyeballs', 'worms', 'blood' and even 'fingers' in Halloween meals in some restaurants during the festive time.

Haunted house
There are lots of scary creatures in a haunted house to scare you! In Hong Kong, Ocean Park and Disneyland have huge haunted houses every year for Halloween.

Game

How many sweets can this little girl pick up on the way to the ghost?

Vocabulary
belief (n) 信念
evil spirit (n phr) 邪靈
confuse (v) 混亂
tradition (n) 傳統
immigrating (adj) 移民的
modify (v) 稍作修改
Challenge ★★★★☆