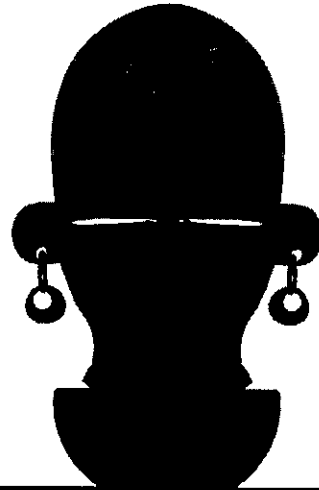
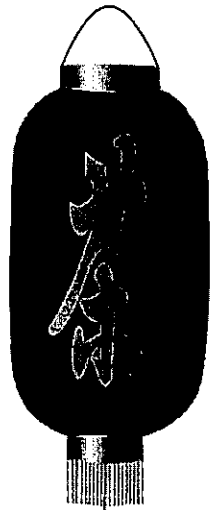
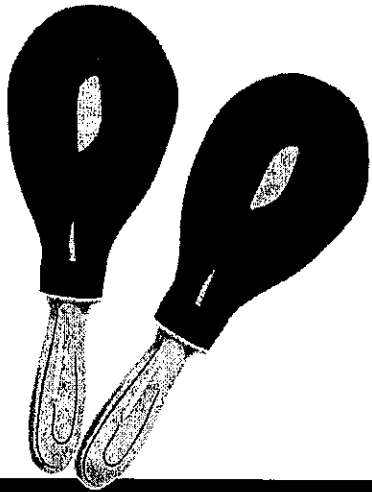
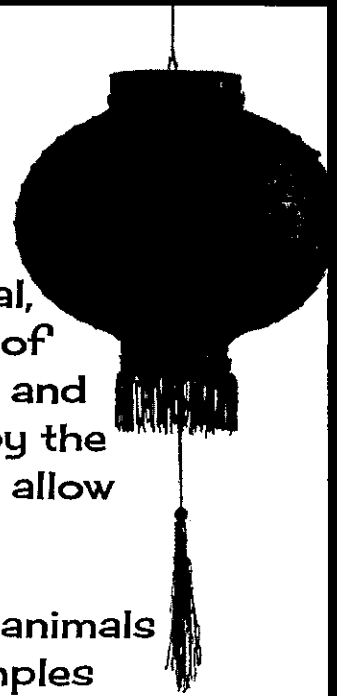


HALLOWEEN Around The -World-



Halloween in China

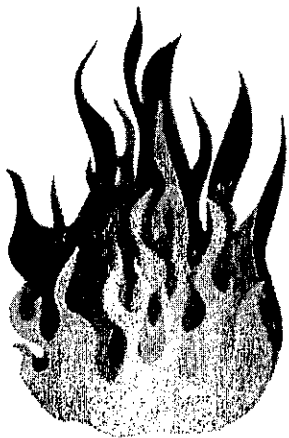
In China the Halloween festival is known as Teng Chie or the Lantern Festival. This celebration happens on the night of the full moon and marks the end of the Chinese New Year. During this festival, food and water are placed in front of photographs of relatives who have passed on. You will see bonfires and many lanterns during this time. The light given off by the lanterns is said both to attract heavenly spirits and allow the living to observe them.



Lanterns in the shapes of dragons, birds or other animals are hung in streets, placed in parks and outside temples and around homes. Short phrases are often written on them to ward off evil spirits. Some decorate their lantern with a riddle, offering a prize to the first person who solves it

Celebrations that are commonly observed include fireworks, folk dancing, and performances such as the dragon parade and lion dance. The special food associated with the festival is yuanxiao, a round, stuffed dumpling made with sticky rice flour that symbolizes family unity, completeness and happiness.

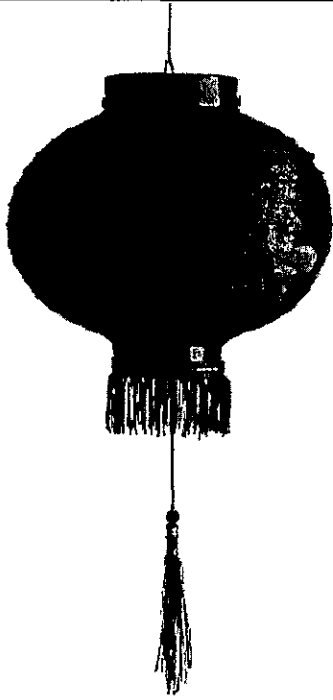
Another Hallowe'en festival is called The Hungry Ghosts Festival. In China the souls of the dead, particularly during the seventh lunar month, wander the earth in search of affection. They are known as the hungry ghosts because of their hunger for recognition and care.



The purpose of the Festival of the Hungry Ghosts, is to make spirits feel welcome and to satisfy their spiritual hunger. This will stop any possible anger they might have and gain their gratitude. You might see people tending roadside fires and burning faux money and other offerings for ghosts and ancestors to use in the afterlife. Food is also left out to curb the physical appetite of the hungry ghosts.

Halloween in China

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using information from your reading.



1. Discuss the importance of lanterns to the Teng Chie festival.

2. What kinds of things would you see citizens doing during the Teng Chie Festival?

3. Why is it called The Hungry Ghost Festival? (Give two reasons).

4. What is the purpose of the following from the Chinese festivals: Making guanxiao, burning fake money, leaving food out?

Halloween in Ireland

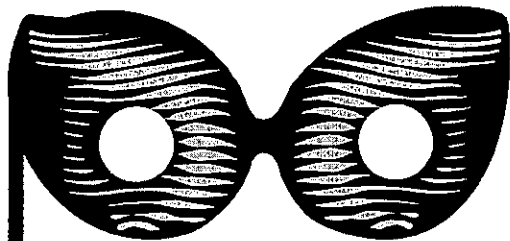
Ireland is believed to be the birthplace of Halloween! The traditions started in Ireland are celebrated in the United States and Canada today.

In rural areas in Ireland, bonfires are lit as they were in the days of the Celts, and children dress up in costumes to spend the evening "trick-or-treating" in their neighborhoods.

After the visiting, most people attend parties with neighbors and friends. At these parties, many games are played, including "snap-apple," in which an apple on a string is tied to a doorframe or tree, and players attempt to take a bite out of the suspended apple. In addition to bobbing for apples, parents often

arrange treasure hunts with sweets or pastries as the "treasure." The Irish also play a card game where cards are laid face-down on a table with sweets or coins beneath them. When a child selects a card, he or she receives whatever prize might be found there.

A traditional food is eaten on Halloween called "barnbrack." This is a type of fruitcake which can be baked at home or store-bought. A muslin-wrapped treat is baked inside the cake which, so it is said, can foretell the future of the one who finds it. If the prize is a ring, then that person will soon be married and a piece of straw means a prosperous year is ahead.



Children are also known to play tricks upon their neighbors on Halloween night. One of which is known as "knock-a-dolly," where children knock on the doors of their neighbors but then run away before the door is opened.



Halloween in Ireland

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using information from your reading.



1. What are two ways that the Irish use apples in their Halloween celebrations

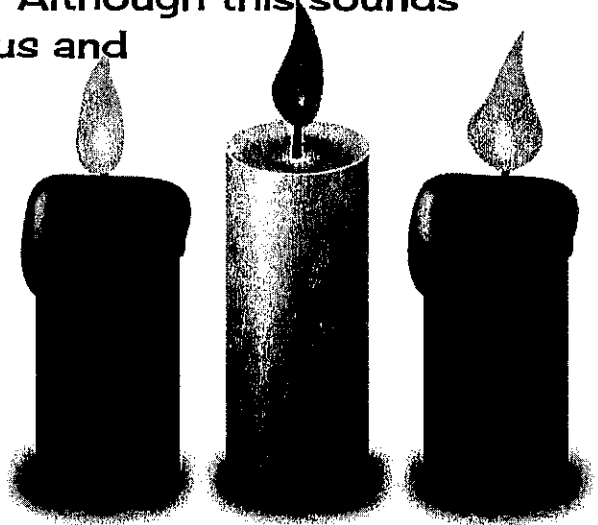
2. What other games are played at the after parties?

3. What is "Barnbrack" and why do the Irish eat it at Halloween?

4. What do Irish children do to trick their neighbors on Halloween?

Halloween in Mexico

Among Spanish-speaking nations, Halloween is known as "El Dia de los Muertos." or Day Of The Dead. Although this sounds rather depressing, it is actually a joyous and happy holiday because it is a time to remember friends and family who are no longer alive. The three-day celebration begins on the evening of October 31. Designed to honor the dead who are believed to return to their homes on Halloween, many families construct an altar in their home and decorate it with candy, flowers, photographs, fresh water and samples of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks. This little alter is called ofrendas. Frequently, a basin and towel are also left out in order that the spirit can wash prior to indulging in the feast. Candles are incense are burned to help the departed find his or her way home.



Another celebration around this time is called Feast of the Holy Souls or Fiesta de las Santas Animas. For this celebration, families begin the fiesta by cleaning their relatives' graves and adorning them with pine needles and flowers. The families assemble a temporary altar near the gravesite, stocking the altars with candles and all kinds of foods such as meat, beans, chilies, salt, tortillas, and fruit. Each person in the family then takes turns in talking to the departed spirit, offering it the food and assuring it that it is loved. The ceremonies go

on for several days, as every family has more than one grave to attend to. On November 2, relatives gather at the gravesite to picnic and reminisce. Some of these gatherings may even include a mariachi band!

Halloween in Mexico

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using information from your reading.

1. Why do Mexicans call Halloween El Dia de los Muertos?



Fiesta De Las
Santas Animas

2. Why are the following items left out during this festival: candles and incense, water basin and wash cloth.

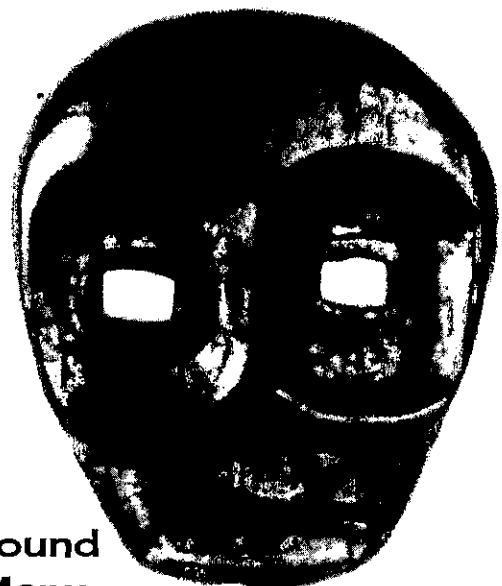
3. Describe the Mexican 'ofrendas'. What is it? What is it's purpose?

4. Describe the events that take place during the Fiesta de las Santas Animas.

Halloween in Nigeria

Among the Igbo people of Nigeria, the Odo are the spirits of the dead, who return to the earth to visit their families every two years. The Odo Festival is held to mark the return of the dead to those still living. The first stage of the festival is the ritual celebrations and festivities to welcome the spirits when they arrive sometime between September and November. Elaborate preparations are made to welcome the returning spirits.

Before they leave, usually in April, there is a big theatrical performance known as the Awuru Odo in which masked players, representing the Odo spirits, reenact the story of their visit to the living and the agony of their departure. The performance takes place on a ritual stage in the market square. Their departure is an emotional affair as they will not return for two years. The Odo plays feature different characters in costumes. The masks used in the performance are refurbished or new ones are made. Fences are put up around the shrines where the Odo will worship. Many of these preparations are carried out in secrecy by the men, while the women, who are totally excluded from and can have no knowledge of the activities, are responsible for providing enough food for the celebration.



Music for the Odo festival is an important feature. Odo characters themselves play OBILENU music, which means "that which lives above" because they play their xylophones, drums and rattles on the upper floor of the house, and their gentle rolling melodies sound distant and soothing. Many of the songs used during the performances are praises and teaching instruments that help to join the community together.

Halloween in Nigeria

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using information from your reading.

1. What is the first stage of the Odo Festival?



2. Describe what you might see during a Awuru Odo.

3. Describe the different experience that men and women have with the Odo Festival.

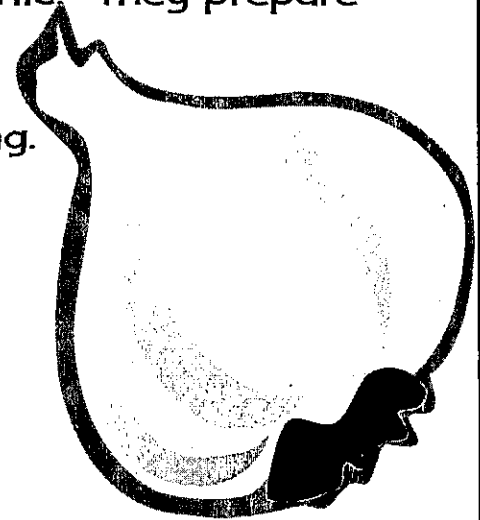
4. Why is music so important to this Nigerian festival?

Halloween in Romania



Halloween in Romania is celebrated around the famous Vlad the Impaler, also known as the vampire Dracula. Over the years, countless numbers of fearless tourists travel to Transylvania to celebrate Halloween with costume parties, story-telling, and actors playing out Dracula inspired scenes.

While some Romanians observe Halloween on October 31st, St. Andrew's Night (November 30) is when the garlic is brought out as a form of protection against ghosts - a traditional superstitious act of fun that is still practiced today. Romanians believe that during the night, vampires and "strigoi" (the undead) are coming out to fight and dance at the crossroads or near abandoned houses. In some villages young people gather at a common location to celebrate the occasion by "guarding the garlic." They prepare their location grazing all access windows and doors with garlic. Each young girl is required to bring three cloves of garlic along. These are put together in a pot, and are guarded by the oldest woman in the house at candlelight. The party lasts all night. At dusk, the young folk take the pot of garlic outside and dance around it. The garlic is then split between the participants, and becomes a "sacred symbol" that will guard families against illness or spells.



There are a number of other interesting Halloween beliefs and superstitions held by Romanians. For example, many believe that people who work on St. Andrew's Day will be unlucky. They also believe that during St. Andrew's Night animals can speak with human voices, but people should not be listening to them because they could die.

Halloween in Romania

Answer the following questions in complete sentences using information from your reading.



1. Why is Transylvania such a popular tourist destination at Halloween?

2. What does 'guarding the garlic' refer to?

3. Discuss what happens at dusk after St. Andrew's Night.

4. Discuss some Halloween superstitions held by the Romanians.

