

What is Halloween?



P. Ginter / Bilderberg

Halloween is the night before All Hallows', or, as it is called today, All Saints' Day (1 November). In pre-Christian times people used to make big fires and wear masks to frighten away evil spirits. They also hollowed out turnips and carved scary faces in them to make jack-o'-lanterns. Then they put a lighted candle inside the turnip so that the ghostly face glowed in the dark. In North America people use pumpkins for this today. In the 20th century most people are no longer afraid of ghosts and demons. But horror films like *Halloween* use the eerie atmosphere of this holiday to frighten audiences. But not everything about Halloween is scary. In the US kids go "trick-or-treating" on Halloween. This means that kids dress in costumes and go from house to house and get sweets (treats) from the people there. They play a trick on the people who haven't got any sweets for them, but this doesn't often happen. 🍬

hallow	(veraltet) Heilige(r)
pre-Christian ['kristʃən]	vorchristlich
they used to make	früher machten sie
evil spirit ['i:vl]	böser Geist
to hollow something out	etwas aushöhlen
turnip	Rübe
to carve something	etwas schnitzen
scary ['skeəri]	schaurig, Furcht erregend
jack-o'-lantern	Kürbislaterne
to glow	leuchten
pumpkin	Kürbis
eerie ['iəri]	unheimlich
audience [ˈɔ:diəns]	Zuschauer, Publikum
treat	Leckerbissen
to play a trick on somebody	jemandem einen Streich spielen

Halloween in Hollywood

In Hollywood there is a theme park just for Halloween, and you can visit it on the three weekends before the real day (31 October). This is not a place for anyone who is frightened easily. Halloween Horror Nights III has attractions such as "The Thrilling, Chilling World of Rob Zombie", with songs from his album *Hellbilly Deluxe*, and a series of rooms that get more and more frightening. In "Cleaver's Meat Locker" a group of cannibals take you through a meat-processing factory. And at "Chucky's Insult Emporium" Hollywood's ugliest character makes you feel as attractive and charming as he is. The bad news is that the theme park is far away – at Universal Studios in California. The good news is that you can visit their web site at www.halloween99.com. But don't eat a lot of sweets before you log on! 🍬

theme park [θi:m]	Vergnügungspark
thrilling	spannend
chilling	hier: gruselig, schaurig
cleaver	Hackbeil, Hackmesser
locker	Schließfach, Spind; hier: Kühlraum
to process something	etwas verarbeiten
insult ['ɪnsʌlt]	Beleidigung, Beschimpfung, Schimpfwort
emporium [em'pɔ:riəm]	Umschlagplatz, Warenhaus, Laden
to log on	hier: eine Internetseite aufrufen

