



HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT AUSTRALIAN RETAILERS REALLY WANT US TO GET ON-BOARD WITH HALLOWEEN? PUMPKINS TO MAKE JACK-O-LANTERNS, CANDY FOR TRICK OR TREATING AND ALL SORTS OF SCARY COSTUMES ARE AVAILABLE FOR US TO PURCHASE. BUT WHY?

HAVE YOU, LIKE ME EVER WONDERED WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT? WELL WE'VE DONE A BIT OF RESEARCH AND THIS IS WHAT WE FOUND!



Halloween is celebrated on October 31. Not all cultures celebrate Halloween.

By the 7th century (we are now in the 21st century), November 1st became known to Christians as “All Saints Day.” On All Saints Day, Christians gave special honour to those followers of Jesus who had died. All Saints Day is a time to remember that nothing—not even death!—can separate us from God’s love.

In the northern hemisphere, celebrating All Saints Day (Nov. 1) in the fall is a great way to celebrate life, because this can be a time of year that feels “dark,” or maybe sad. Why does it feel sad? Maybe because the days grow shorter and cooler and because the harvest season is ending. Some trees are losing their leaves, and the landscape can take on a “shivery” or “spooky” feeling.

The word “Halloween” comes from “Hallows Eve.” Before people used the words “All Saints Day,” they used the phrase “All Hallows Day” to speak about the same thing. To “hallow” something is to honour it, to consider it holy. (You might know the word “hallowed” from the Lord’s Prayer, where we say, “Hallowed be thy name...”) On “Hallows Eve” (October 31) people would get ready for All Hallows Day or All Saints Day on November 1.

There are many different explanations for some of the Halloween traditions we know today. Many of the traditions are tied to the beliefs and practices of the Celtic people in ancient Europe. The Celts (pronounced “Kelts”) viewed October 31 as their New Year’s Eve, and believed that spirits from the dead roamed the earth on that night. (Maybe now you see why some people dress up as ghosts today!) Some people would leave food (“treats”) for the spirits. Some people dressed up in strange costumes to try to confuse the spirits.

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AND TYPE HALLOWEEN IN THE SEARCH.



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