



Evil creatures & scary ghosts

(1)

Like many other holidays, Halloween has changed over the years. Over 2,000 years ago there were people called the Celts. They lived in Ireland, the UK, and parts of Northern France. November 1 was their New Year's Day. They (1) believed that the living and the dead came together the night before the New Year.

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More than a 1,000 years ago the Christian church called November 1 All Saints Day. Another name for this day was All Hallows. This (2) was a special day to honour the saints and other people who died for their religion. The night before All Hallows was called Hallows Eve. Later the name was changed to Halloween.

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The Europeans of that time also believed that the spirits of the dead would visit the earth on Halloween. They (3) worried that evil spirits would cause problems or hurt them (4). So, on that night people wore costumes to look like ghosts or other evil creatures. They (5) wanted the spirits to think they (6) were also dead. So, the spirits had no reason to hurt them (7).

(4)

These days Halloween is usually not seen as a religious holiday. It (8) is mostly a fun day for children. Children dress up in costumes like people did a thousand years ago. But instead of worrying about evil spirits, they (9) go from house to house. They (10) knock on doors and say "trick or treat." The owner has to choose between doing something for the child or giving him a sweet. But almost always the owner of each house gives candy to the child.

Adapted from: www.5minuteenglish.com