



**HALLOWEEN SPECIAL!** - We have a Halloween special for you today! Please listen to the recording of the text about the history of Halloween. There is a glossary to help you with some vocabulary. Have a look at our “fear and phobia” vocabulary and try the exercise. There are also some discussion points if you’d like to use our lesson as a conversation class

**AMERICA** – In the USA, Halloween is big business! It’s the second largest commercial holiday in the country with Americans spending \$6 billion a year on it. People decorate their entire house for the day. In the states they carve pumpkins, often using them to decorate gardens.

Traditions are quite different from Scotland. A lot of this has to do with the immigration of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Europeans mixed with Native Americans and so the idea of Halloween became more community focused. This increased in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with communities using the day as a chance to promote community and neighbourliness. This was when the scary aspect of Halloween began to disappear, and the focus was more on family fun.

Trick or treating became very popular in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as it was an easy and cheap way to include all the community in the celebrations. This is when children go to the houses in the neighbourhood asking for sweets, or “candy”. If they aren’t given anything then they do a trick. Typical tricks are throwing eggs or hanging toilet roll on the house.

It’s thought that trick or treat comes from the tradition of the poor asking the rich for food or money. IN exchange, they would pray for the rich family’s relatives.

An interesting fact about both Scottish and American Halloween traditions is that originally they didn’t focus on the past, but on the future! Young woman often used the day to predict who they would marry and it also marked the start of a new year.

**SCOTLAND** – There is a big tradition of celebrating Pagan festivals in Scotland and Halloween is no exception. The 1<sup>st</sup> of November was traditionally the Pagan New Year and symbolised a move from old to new. It was believed that during the change to the New Year evil spirits were set free.

In Scotland, we don’t use pumpkins to make our lanterns, we use turnips which are a lot more difficult to carve and smaller too. Halloween is still a very popular night in Scotland. Children go “guising”, which is when they visit people’s houses dressed up in costumes. People usually choose scary costumes like witches, vampires or ghosts. However they don’t get something for nothing! They “do a turn” which means they recite a poem, sing a song or do a magic trick. In exchange, they’re traditionally given nuts or satsumas, but nowadays a lot of people get sweets too! Traditional party games are “douking for apples”, where you have to take an apple out of a bowl of water using only your mouth, or “treacle scones” where you have to eat a kind of cake covered in syrup with your hands behind your back.



*A turnip lantern*

## GLOSSARY



**Turnip** – a vegetable. In Spain, only the top part is used, and is called “grelos”.



**Satsuma** – a kind of small orange, similar to a mandarin



Eating “**treacle scones**”. Treacle is a thick black syrup like molasses and scones are a kind of cake.



“**Douking for apples**” – Douki is the Scots word for DUNK, which means to immerse something in water and then take it out quickly, for example “dunk a biscuit in tea”

## FEARS AND PHOBIAS

Listen to the definitions of this vocabulary and match the words to the correct answer. Some of the definitions are repeated

It scares the life/hell out of me    *scared stiff*    terrified    *frightening*    go white as a sheet

*Petrified*    it gives me goosebumps    *it sent shivers down my spine*    He jumped out of his skin

*Shake with fear*    it makes my skin crawl    *it makes me feel sick*    creepy crawlies

*it gives me the heebie jeebies*    it freaks me out    *it gives me the creeps*

- It really frightens me
- It makes me feel scared
- When you get a fright, like someone surprises you
- Insects, snakes, spiders etc.
- Synonyms of frightened
- When your skin looks like a chicken's
- When your body vibrates because you're frightened
- When you're face becomes very white
- So scared you can't move
- I think it's disgusting

## ANSWERS

- It really frightens me - **It scares the life/hell out of me**
- It makes me feel scared - *it gives me the heebie jeebies / it freaks me out / it gives me the creeps*
- When you get a fright, like someone surprises you - **He jumped out of his skin**
- Insects, snakes, spiders etc. - **creepy crawlies**
- Synonyms of frightened – **terrified/ frightening/ Petrified**
- When your skin looks like a chicken's - **it gives me goosebumps**
- When your body vibrates because you're frightened - *Shake with fear / it sent shivers down my spine*
- When your face becomes very white - **go white as a sheet**
- So scared you can't move - *scared stiff*
- I think it's disgusting - **it makes my skin crawl / it makes me feel sick**

## REMEMBER!!!!

\*\*\*\*\* scared, frightened, terrified, afraid **OF** \*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*When do you say frightened and when do you say frightening? \*\*\*\*\*

- ✚ ING Adjectives – the thing or person CAUSING the emotion
- ✚ ED Adjectives – the thing or person RECEIVING, or feeling, the emotion



# HALLOWEEN AND FEARS

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- + Do you know the word for all the monsters in the picture above?
- + Are you afraid of anything?
- + Do you have any phobias?
- + Do you believe in ghosts? Have you ever seen one?
- + What's your worst fear?
- + Talk about a scary experience you've had
- + How can people cure their phobias?
- + Have you ever dressed up as any of them?
- + Is Halloween popular in Spain?
- + Do you ever celebrate it?
- + Does it mean anything to you or do you think it's just another way to make you spend money?
- + Have you ever been to a really good Halloween party?