Halloween

   Halloween is a festival that takes place on October 31. In the United States children wear costumes and masks and go trick-or-treating. Many of them carve jack-o'-lantens out of pumpkins. Fortunetelling and storytelling about ghosts and witches are popular activities.
   Halloween developed from new year festivals and festivals of the dead. Christian church established a festival on November 1 called All Saints' Day so that people could continue to celebrate their festivals.
   The Mass said on All Saints' Day was called Allhallowmass. The day before All Saints' Day was known all hallows' Eve or All Hallow e'en.
   The main Halloween activity for children is trick-or-treating. Children dress in costumes and masks and go from door to door saying "trick or treat". The neighbours give children such treats as candy, fruit and pennies so that children do not play tricks on them.
   Jack-o'-lanterns are hallowed-out pumpkins with face carved into one side. Most jack-o'-lanterns contain a candle inside. An Irish legend says that jack-o'-lanterns are named after the man called Jack.
   He could not enter heaven because he was a miser, and he could not enter hell because he had played jokes on devil. As a result, Jack has to walk on the earth with his lantern until Judgment Day.
   Fortunetelling is an important part of Halloween. For example, a coin, a ring, and a thimble were baked into a cake. It was believed that the person who found the coin would become wealthy. The one who found the ring would marry soon. And the person who found the thimble would never get married. Today people practice cardreading or palmistry.
   People once believed that there were many ghosts and witches on the Earth and that they met on October 31 to worship the devil. Today, people do not believe in ghosts and witches but they like to tell stories about them on Halloween.

Orange and bright we commonly think of sweet porridge, when we see this plant. But American people made it a symbol of the holiday. They use it not only for consumption, but also for a horror effect after its carving. What is it? Of course, it is a pumpkin, the main association of the Americans with Halloween. Jack-o'-lanterns in the pumpkins with a terrific facial expression are only one symbol of this wonderful holiday, but there are many other exciting activities to celebrate Halloween.

Halloween is a holiday with a long history celebrated on October, 31. Its contradictive origin is [considered to be influenced both by Christianity](http://tooday.ru/?l=eng&r=4&t=halloween-hellouvin-82#1638)and Celtic festivals. It is a day to remember all the dead, but gradually its celebration has changed greatly from a serious spiritual day to a humorous and ridiculous death confrontation. Halloween is regarded a pagan festival in Europe, but still many people desire to communicate with spirits or foresee their future on this day. Nowadays [it has been assimilated to the societies](http://tooday.ru/?l=eng&r=4&t=halloween-hellouvin-82#1639) of different countries, but nothing can be compared with the annual parade in New York devoted to Halloween. It is a major nighttime parade, where thousands of participants wear colorful costumes, millions of spectators follow it either being present there, or on TV.