

## Why do we celebrate Halloween?

### Myths and beliefs

Once upon a time there was a guy named Jack. He was a stingy and cruel man. One day, Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him but he didn't want to pay so he convinced the Devil to turn into a coin to pay for the drink. Once the Devil agreed and transformed into a coin, Jack decided to keep him and put the coin in his pocket next to a silver cross, so he couldn't transform back to himself. They both agreed to give Jack one year to live and then he set the Devil free.

Next year Jack met the Devil again and tricked him by asking him to climb a tree and pick a fruit for them. While he was grabbing the fruit, Jack carved onto the tree the sign of a cross and the Devil was stuck to the tree. They both agreed that Jack would live ten years and the Devil wouldn't bother him.

When Jack died, God didn't want him in heaven, so he sent him down to hell, but the Devil didn't want him there either. Keeping his promise not to claim his soul, he sent him off into the darkest night with only a burning coal inside a carved turnip. Later people turned the turnip into a pumpkin.

**Συντάκτης: ο μαθητής της Ε1 Αστέρης Ρ. με την καθοδήγηση της Δασκάλας της Ειδικής Αγωγής κ. Μαρία Πορταρίτη**

Halloween traditions originated over 2.000 years ago, back around 500BC with the ancient Celtic people of Ireland, Scotland and Northern Europe. They celebrated a Celtic festival known as Samhain (means summer's end). They divided the year into two halves (end of harvest session) and (beginning of the



cold dark winter). Samhein was celebrated on the 1st of November with the festivities started on October 31<sup>st</sup>. On the night of 31<sup>st</sup> they believed that the veil between the two worlds, the living and the dead was lifted and this allowed spirits to walk the earth. They left candles and offered food for their dead loved ones.

Christianity celebrated: **All Saints' Day** on May 13<sup>th</sup> for **saints** (which they move it to November 1<sup>st</sup>), **All Hallow's Day** (which celebrated the **holy**) and **All Soul's Day** (in order to celebrate all **souls**). All these days were shortened and eventually became known as **All Hallow's Even** known as **Halloween**.



**Did you know all these?**

**Συντάκτες: οι μαθητές της Στ με την καθοδήγηση της Δασκάλα των Αγγλικών κ. Ελένη Συνδουκα**