

Name _____

Date _____



Halloween

Today we're going to talk about Halloween...in just a minute.

Did you know Halloween is thousands of years old? The Celts had a harvest festival every fall called Samhain, which means "summer's end." They believed ghosts and other supernatural beings could return to Earth during the changing of seasons. They dressed like animals to scare evil spirits away and left food outside to keep them happy. We still wear costumes and go trick-or-treating on Halloween today!

When the Roman Empire conquered the Celts, many converted to Christianity. In 600 CE, the church created a new holiday on November 1 called All Saints' Day, or All Hallows' Day. The night before was called All Hallows' Eve, which later became "Halloween." Many customs from Samhain became part of this holiday.

The Latin American holiday Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is similar to Halloween. People honor the souls of the dead, decorate with skulls and skeletons, and light candles for spirits who return to Earth for one night.

Today, Halloween isn't really a religious holiday. Ghosts, skeletons, jack-o'-lanterns, costumes, and treats are more about having fun and celebrating the season.

How do you and your community celebrate Halloween?