

The Spooky Season

USA

The
October
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Issue

What is in
this issue:

American
&
Australian
Halloween



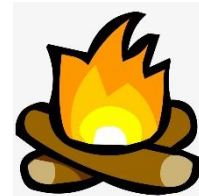
Halloween History

Halloween started as an old **Celtic** festival to **celebrate** the change of seasons from autumn to winter. This festival is called **Samhain**. People would make big **bonfires** outside at night. People originally dressed in costumes to protect themselves from evil **spirits** of the dead that would come out on October 31st. They believed that the worlds of the **living** and the **dead** were very close together on this night. The festival became popular in the U.S. thanks to **Irish immigrants** in the **1800's**. Then, it slowly became 'Halloween,' the holiday we know today. Nowadays, most people just dress up for fun!



In Japan, **pumpkins** are usually green, right? Classic Halloween pumpkins are always orange. When we **carve** faces or pictures on them and put a light inside, they are called **jack-o'-lanterns**. But did you know that when this tradition began in Ireland, they did not use pumpkins? They used **turnips**! Orange pumpkins only became popular when Irish people came to **America**.

Halloween Now



Halloween colors are **orange** and **black**, then sometimes **purple** and **bright green**. **Haunted houses**, stores, and restaurants will often decorate with jack-o'-lanterns, bats, spiders, and more. In the **northern hemisphere**, Halloween represents the end of autumn and the beginning of winter. The days get shorter, and the nights get longer because of the path of the sun. In my part of the U.S., the red, orange, and yellow leaves fall from the trees and it gets cold outside. However, in some places like Hawaii, it never gets cold. That does not sound like Halloween to me because it should be **chilly**!

Sometimes teachers and students go to school in **costume** in the U.S. Children often **dress up** as famous characters, scary **creatures**, or animals for Halloween night. Disney princesses, Marvel and DC Comics **superheroes**, and Star Wars characters are all popular.



Some classic monsters are **vampires**, **ghosts**, **witches**, **wizards**, **werewolves**, **mummies**, **aliens**, **devils/demons**, and **zombies**. Some more Halloween animals are black cats, **toads**, rats, crows/ravens, and **owls**. Children walk around their neighborhoods in costume asking for candy at each door on Halloween night. If the children do not receive **treats**, then they will play **tricks** on people. This is **trick-or-treating**! My father dresses up as a **grim reaper** every year to give out candy. My dogs do not like it but at least it stops them from stealing the candy!



Halloween parties with decorations, dancing, games, music, and **pranks** are popular with young adults. Many bars and clubs have special events. There is traditionally a **costume contest**. Some party games like **apple-bobbing** or **fortunetelling** have their roots in *Samhain*! Foods like candy and popcorn are perfect for a party! In the US, people buy more candy for Halloween than Valentine's Day or Easter. It is the biggest candy day of the year!



Pop Culture Phenomenon



Halloween, as we know it now, spread from the U.S. throughout the world through American **pop culture**. **Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party** at Disney Parks also helped share the fun! Many types of **media** make this holiday so interesting!



Music



Here are some classic songs to play at your Halloween party to get into the spooky spirit!

1. **"Thriller"** by Michael Jackson
2. **'Monster Mash'** by Bobby 'Borris' Pickett
3. **'Superstition'** by Stevie Wonder
4. **'This is Halloween'** from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)
5. **'Ghostbuster's Theme Song'** from *Ghostbusters* (1984)
6. **'Disturbia'** by Rihanna

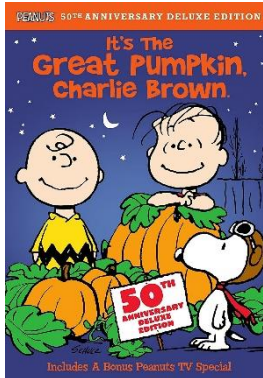




Halloween Movies



There are many classic **Hollywood** Halloween movies but be careful! Many are very scary. Movies **rated G** and **PG** are good for children. **PG-13** movies are for **teenagers**, people 13 and older. You must be 17, almost an **adult** in the US, to see **Rated R** movies. I hate **horror** movies so here are my **family-friendly** favorites!



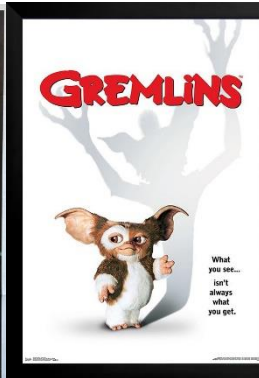
It's the Great Pumpkin,
Charlie Brown (1966)



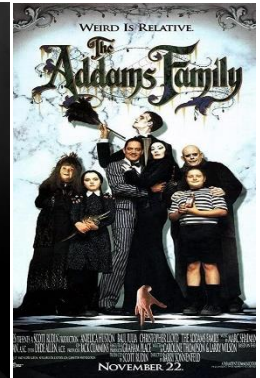
E.T. the Extra-
Terrestrial (1982)



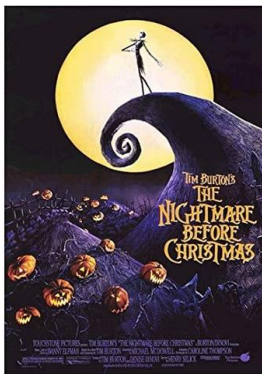
Ghostbusters
(1984)



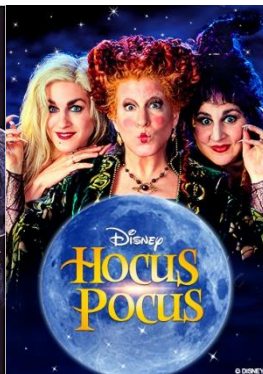
Gremlins (1984)



The Addams Family
(1991)



The Nightmare Before
Christmas (1993)



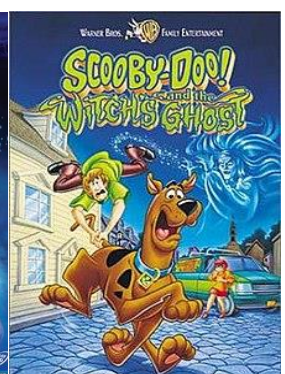
Hocus Pocus (1993)



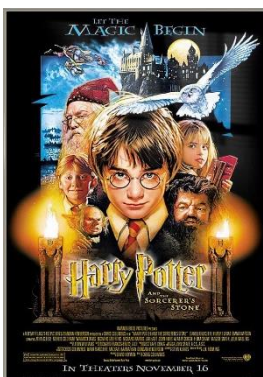
Casper (1995)



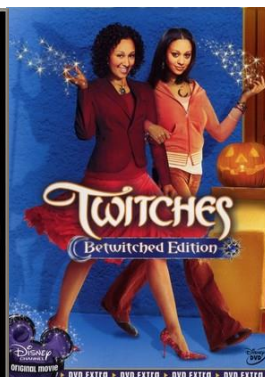
Halloweentown
(1998)



Scooby-Doo! and the
Witch's Ghost (1999)



Harry Potter and the
Sorcerer's Stone (2001)



Twitches (2005)



Twilight (2008)



Coraline (2009)



Hotel Transylvania
(2012)



Halloween in Australia



We didn't always celebrate Halloween

Many Australians think of Halloween as an American holiday. Some even think we **shouldn't** celebrate it because they don't want to **copy** America too much. Also, Halloween is always thought of as an autumn event, with **images** of **falling** orange leaves, and pumpkins. But in Australia, Halloween is in spring, so it doesn't look like that.

Even so, I think we **should** celebrate it! Australia is very **multicultural**, and people from all over the world live there. So, it **makes sense** that we would learn from American culture. And even if we don't have autumn weather, we can use **decorations** to make it look like we do. Plus, I think the most important part of Halloween is the fun, spooky costumes- and you can wear them anywhere!

Erin's Halloween recommendations

Escape rooms

In an escape room, you have a **limited** amount of time (normally around 1 hour) to solve lots of **puzzles** and get out of a **locked** room. There are escape rooms in Japan too! Some of them have a scary theme, and are perfect for Halloween night. One year my friends and I solved the 'Nightfall' escape room on Halloween. The **theme** was a child's **nightmare**. While trying to solve the puzzles we found **secret** doors that led from a child's bedroom, to a classroom, to a **dentist's office** where a crazy **clown** ran in to scare us.



You get a special picture if you escape in time! The sign we are holding says: 'We escaped Nightfall'.

Theme park 'fright nights'

During some nights in October a **theme park** in my **hometown** opens until late at night. There are Halloween **parades**, you can ride **rollercoasters** at night, and most special of all- there are **Haunted houses**, also known as horror **mazes**. You go in with your friends and have to find your way out as people in scary **costumes** jump out at you. They sometimes even **chase** you! But don't be too scared! The staff will just spook you- they will **never** touch or hurt you. I **recommend** it if you ever go to Australia, but for now, I also recommend Tokyo Disneyland's Halloween events!



Who is she?!

I dressed as a witch for Halloween one year. The costume is based on the μ's Halloween song 'Dancing stars on me'.



Last year I wore this black cat dress to the school Halloween dress up day.

XOXO,
Erin