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Halloween Trivia

100 questions · 12 rounds · 2026 edition

Split into teams of 4-6. Read each question twice and allow 30 seconds. One point per answer. The host answer key starts after the last round, so tear it off before you hand the pages out.

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Round 1: Classic Halloween trivia (easy)

A warm-up everyone can answer, covering where the holiday came from and its best-known symbols.

1. Where does the word "Halloween" come from?

2. What ancient Celtic festival is Halloween rooted in?

3. On what date is Halloween celebrated, and what day of the week is it in 2026?

4. Which First Lady was the first to decorate the White House for Halloween?

5. Which country did the jack-o'-lantern tradition come from?

6. What is the name of the trickster in the Irish legend behind the jack-o'-lantern?

7. What fruit do people bob for at Halloween parties?

8. What are Halloween's two traditional colors, and what do they stand for?

9. Which U.S. state grows the most pumpkins?

10. True or false: Halloween began as a pagan festival.

Round 2: Halloween movie trivia

From Hitchcock to Hocus Pocus. Good for teams that spend October on the couch with a horror marathon.

11. Which 1978 horror movie is set in Haddonfield, Illinois?

12. Who directed *Psycho* (1960)?

13. Which horror franchise introduced the haunted doll Annabelle?

14. What is the highest-grossing horror film of all time?

15. Which horror film made the song "Tiptoe Through the Tulips" terrifying?

16. In what year was the original *A Nightmare on Elm Street* released?

17. Which horror villain wears a hockey mask?

18. In *Hocus Pocus* (1993), what is the family name of the three witch sisters?
-
19. In *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, who waits all night in the pumpkin patch?
-
20. Which Tim Burton film's ghost appears when you say his name three times?
-

Round 3: Halloween candy trivia

Americans will spend about \$4.1 billion on Halloween candy in 2026. Here is how well your team knows it.

21. Which candy tops most U.S. rankings of favorite Halloween candy?
-
22. Which type of candy sells the most at Halloween: chocolate, gummies or hard candy?
-
23. About how much candy corn is made each year?
-
24. What was candy corn originally called?
-
25. Which candy bar, launched in 1930, was named after a horse?
-
26. Which chewy candy was packed in U.S. soldiers' rations during World War II?
-
27. Which candy regularly lands at the bottom of "worst Halloween candy" polls?
-
28. What flavor are red Swedish Fish?
-
29. How much will Americans spend on Halloween candy in 2026, according to the National Retail Federation?
-
30. Which candy bar was named after a malted milkshake, not the galaxy?
-

Round 4: Halloween costume trivia

The 2026 numbers come from the National Retail Federation's annual Halloween survey.

31. What is the most popular adult Halloween costume in 2026?
-
32. What is the most popular children's costume in 2026?
-
33. What is the most popular pet costume?
-
34. How much will Americans spend on Halloween costumes in 2026?
-

35. Why did people originally wear disguises at Samhain?

36. What is "guising"?

37. Who wrote *Frankenstein*, first published in 1818?

38. What is Frankenstein's creature made from?

Round 5: Trick-or-treat trivia

Door-to-door begging for treats is far older than the candy bar. Today trick-or-treating sits alongside costume contests, Halloween parties and haunted house attractions.

39. What was the medieval practice of going door to door offering prayers for the dead in exchange for "soul cakes"?

40. When did trick-or-treating become widespread in the United States?

41. Where was the phrase "trick or treat" first recorded in print?

42. What Christian feast on November 2 honors all the faithful departed?

43. What is total U.S. Halloween spending expected to reach in 2026?

44. About how much does the average American plan to spend on Halloween in 2026?

45. What is "trunk-or-treat"?

Round 6: Famous figures and monsters

Halloween is full of creatures like ghosts, witches, vampires and mummies. This round covers the monsters, magicians and one radio broadcast that fooled a nation.

46. What does "Dracula" mean in Romanian?

47. Who wrote *Dracula*, and when was it published?

48. Which real 15th-century prince lent Dracula his name?

49. Which famous magician died on Halloween?

50. Who played Dracula in the 1931 Universal film?

51. Who is known as the "Mother of Modern Witchcraft"?

52. Is "Frankenstein" the name of the monster or the scientist?

53. What are Egyptian mummies wrapped in?

54. Which 1938 radio drama, aired the night before Halloween, convinced some listeners that Martians had landed?

55. Which Massachusetts town, known for its 1692 witch trials, calls itself "Witch City"?

Round 7: Pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns

Before pumpkins there were turnips, and before the 2025 record there was a long line of very heavy fruit.

56. What did people in Ireland carve before pumpkins?

57. How much did the heaviest pumpkin ever grown weigh?

58. How much did the heaviest carved jack-o'-lantern weigh?

59. What is the most popular pumpkin variety for carving?

60. About how many seeds are in an average pumpkin?

61. Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable?

62. Roughly how much of a pumpkin is water?

63. Why did Irish immigrants in America switch from turnips to pumpkins?

64. Which Illinois town calls itself the "Pumpkin Capital of the World"?

Round 8: Halloween music trivia

Five minutes of this round and someone will start doing the Thriller dance.

65. Who sang "Monster Mash" in 1962?

66. Finish the lyric: "It was a ___ smash."

67. Which music video features a famous dance routine with zombies?

68. Michael Jackson hired the director of which werewolf film to make the "Thriller" video?

69. In what year was the album *Thriller* released?

70. What was the working title of the song "Thriller"?

71. Who wrote and sang the *Ghostbusters* theme ("Who you gonna call")?

Round 9: Superstitions and myths

Folklore answers, so accept anything close.

72. Which animal is most associated with witches and bad luck?

73. According to folklore, what does it mean if you see a spider on Halloween?

74. According to old superstition, what happens if you wear your clothes inside out and walk backwards on Halloween night?

75. Why did the Celts light huge fires at Samhain?

76. True or false: medieval folklore held that witches could turn into black cats.

77. What is the fear of Halloween called?

78. How often does a full moon fall on Halloween?

79. Why did bats become a symbol of Halloween?

Round 10: Halloween history and origins

Two thousand years in eight questions.

80. What did Samhain mark in the Celtic calendar?

81. Which Scottish poet's 1785 poem "Halloween" helped popularize the holiday?

82. Who brought Halloween to the United States in large numbers?

83. Which Christian holiday falls the day after Halloween?

84. Which pope moved All Saints' Day to November 1?

85. Where does the word "bonfire" come from?

86. Why did people first wear costumes on Halloween?

87. Which city holds the largest Halloween parade in the United States?

Round 11: Halloween around the world

Not every country celebrates October 31, but most have a night for spirits.

88. Which European city hosts the largest Halloween festival?

89. Which Mexican holiday on November 1-2 honors loved ones who have died?

90. What is the name of Japan's summer festival honoring the spirits of ancestors?

91. In Sweden and Finland, children dress up as witches and go door to door for treats during which holiday?

92. Which Celtic festival has been revived around October 31 in Galicia, Spain?

93. Which Chinese festival honors wandering spirits in the seventh lunar month?

94. What do Filipinos call their All Saints' and All Souls' Day observance?

95. Which country lights bonfires on November 5 for Guy Fawkes Night?

Round 12: Hard Halloween trivia for adults

The tiebreaker round. If a team gets all five, check their phones.

96. What is the Irish Halloween fruit bread with a ring baked inside?

97. Which Irish mashed potato dish traditionally hides coins or a ring at Halloween?

98. Which orange flower is the symbol of Día de los Muertos?

99. How many films were in the original *Halloween* franchise, from 1978 to *Halloween Ends* in 2022?

100. "Monster Mash" hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 just before Halloween in which year?

Host answer key

Keep this page away from the players.

Round 1: Classic Halloween trivia (easy)

1. From "All Hallows' Eve," the evening before All Saints' Day on November 1. Over time the phrase All Hallows' Eve was shortened to Halloween.
2. Samhain (pronounced "SOW-in"). Halloween originated from this ancient Celtic festival, celebrated from sunset on October 31 to November 1.
3. October 31. In 2026 it falls on a Saturday.
4. Mamie Eisenhower, in 1958.
5. Ireland.
6. Stingy Jack. Jack-o'-lanterns originated from this Irish myth: Jack tricked the devil and was left to wander the earth with a carved turnip lantern.
7. Apples. Bobbing for apples is a traditional Halloween game that comes from old British harvest festivals.
8. Orange for the autumn harvest and black for death and darkness.
9. Illinois.
10. True. It grew out of Samhain and later merged with the Christian All Hallows' Eve.

Round 2: Halloween movie trivia

11. *Halloween*, directed by John Carpenter.
12. Alfred Hitchcock.
13. *The Conjuring* universe.
14. *It* (2017), with about \$700 million worldwide.
15. *Insidious* (2010).
16. 1984.
17. Jason Voorhees, in the *Friday the 13th* films.
18. Sanderson (Winifred, Mary and Sarah).
19. Linus.
20. *Beetlejuice* (1988).

Round 3: Halloween candy trivia

21. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.
22. Chocolate, by a wide margin.
23. Roughly 35 million pounds, or around 9 billion kernels.
24. "Chicken Feed." Candy corn was originally called Chicken Feed because it was marketed to farm families.
25. Snickers, named after the Mars family's favorite horse.
26. Tootsie Rolls.
27. Circus Peanuts, with candy corn not far behind.
28. Lingonberry, a Scandinavian berry.
29. About \$4.1 billion.
30. Milky Way.

Round 4: Halloween costume trivia

- 31. A witch (about 4.8 million adults), followed by a vampire.
- 32. Spider-Man (about 4.6 million children).
- 33. A pumpkin, followed by a hot dog.
- 34. About \$4.4 billion.
- 35. To hide from the spirits believed to roam the earth that night.
- 36. A Scottish and Irish custom. Guising involves dressing in costumes and performing a song, poem or joke in exchange for treats.
- 37. Mary Shelley.
- 38. Parts of different dead bodies, assembled and brought to life by Victor Frankenstein.

Round 5: Trick-or-treat trivia

- 39. Souling. Trick-or-treating originated from souling and other medieval European traditions.
- 40. After World War II, in the late 1940s and 1950s. Before candy became dominant, Halloween treats were usually fruits, nuts and coins.
- 41. Alberta, Canada, in 1927.
- 42. All Souls' Day.
- 43. A record \$13.5 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.
- 44. About \$115.
- 45. Trick-or-treating from decorated car trunks in a parking lot, often run by schools and churches.

Round 6: Famous figures and monsters

- 46. "Son of Dracul." *Dracul* can mean either dragon or devil.
- 47. Bram Stoker, in 1897. Vampire legends are much older and can be traced back to ancient civilizations.
- 48. Vlad III of Wallachia, known as Vlad the Impaler.
- 49. Harry Houdini, on October 31, 1926.
- 50. Bela Lugosi.
- 51. Doreen Valiente.
- 52. The scientist, Victor Frankenstein. The creature is never given a name.
- 53. Linen bandages.
- 54. Orson Welles's *The War of the Worlds*, on October 30, 1938.
- 55. Salem.

Round 7: Pumpkins and jack-o'-lanterns

- 56. Turnips. The first jack-o'-lanterns were made from turnips, potatoes and beets, not pumpkins.
- 57. 2,819 pounds. "Muggle," grown by twin brothers Ian and Stuart Paton in England, set the record in 2025.
- 58. About 1,810 pounds, carved in 2010.
- 59. Connecticut Field.
- 60. About 500.
- 61. A fruit. Botanically, it is a type of berry.
- 62. About 90%.
- 63. Pumpkins were native, plentiful and much easier to carve.

64. Morton, Illinois.

Round 8: Halloween music trivia

65. Bobby "Boris" Pickett.

66. Graveyard.

67. Michael Jackson's "Thriller."

68. *An American Werewolf in London*, directed by John Landis.

69. 1982.

70. "Starlight."

71. Ray Parker Jr.

Round 9: Superstitions and myths

72. The black cat. Black cats are associated with witchcraft and bad luck on Halloween.

73. The spirit of a loved one is watching over you.

74. You will see a witch at midnight.

75. To ward off evil spirits and guide the souls of the dead.

76. True.

77. Samhainophobia.

78. About three or four times a century. The last was in 2020 and the next is in 2039.

79. Samhain bonfires attracted insects, and the insects attracted bats.

Round 10: Halloween history and origins

80. The end of the harvest and the start of winter, the "darker half" of the year.

81. Robert Burns.

82. Irish immigrants popularized Halloween in the United States, especially after the potato famine of the 1840s.

83. All Saints' Day, November 1.

84. Pope Gregory III, in the 8th century.

85. "Bone fire." Animal bones were burned in the fires.

86. To disguise themselves from ghosts and evil spirits.

87. New York City. The Village Halloween Parade draws around 50,000 costumed marchers.

Round 11: Halloween around the world

88. Derry, Northern Ireland.

89. Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead).

90. Obon.

91. Easter.

92. Samaín.

93. The Hungry Ghost Festival.

94. Undas.

95. The United Kingdom.

Round 12: Hard Halloween trivia for adults

- 96. Barmbrack. Whoever finds the ring is said to marry within the year.
- 97. Colcannon.
- 98. The marigold (cempasúchil).
- 99. 13.
- 100. 1962.

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