

Halloween

Reading Passage & Activities



Context Clues
Look back in the passage and use context clues of each word. Circle the answer and then write the text that helped you determine the answer.

1. grace
a. hide
context clues: _____

2. partook
a. denied
context clues: _____

3. condensed
a. shortened
context clues: _____

4. diligently
a. intensely
context clues: _____

Halloween
Name: _____

Halloween is celebrated by many people across the United States. People participate in Halloween in a variety of ways. Small children dress up as animals or superheroes, and older kids walk around their neighborhood dressed up in different costumes for candy. Many people decorate their houses with orange and black decorations and grinning jack-o-lanterns grace front porches.

The origins of Halloween come from a variety of customs from Europe. Hundreds of years ago, the people that lived in the area that is now the United Kingdom and Ireland partook in a festival known as Samhain. This festival was a celebration of the end of the summer harvest and usually took place on the first day of November. Years later, November 1st became a

Differentiated Passage

Grades 6-8

Assignment
Name: _____

many popular Halloween traditions p. You need to write a paragraph that y years ago have influenced the way ne paragraph you need to: reen changed from its beginning in cheet takes

diligently hollowed out. The tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns began in Ireland and Scotland but turnips were used there instead of pumpkins and they were much smaller. Pumpkins became more commonly used in the United States because

rooted in costume believed through the night sky on Halloween. No one believes that real witches fly around on Halloween now, but they remain a popular symbol of Halloween.

Trick-or-treating is very likely the most popular event that takes place on Halloween. Children dress up in costume and are given candy, usually in response to the phrase "trick or treat." While there are some similar activities from centuries ago, trick-or-treating as we know it is a much more recent

READ WRITE MIDDLE

Informational text passage written at two reading levels!

Name: _____

Halloween

Halloween is celebrated by many people across the United States. People participate in Halloween in a variety of ways. Small children dress up as animals or superheroes, and older kids walk around their neighborhood dressed up in different costumes for candy. Many people decorate their houses with orange and black decorations. Smiling jack-o-lanterns grace front porches.

The origins of Halloween come from a variety of customs from Europe. Hundreds of years ago, the people that lived in the area that is now the United Kingdom and Ireland got into a festival known as Samhain. This festival was a celebration of the end of the summer harvest and a bonfire took place on the first day of November. A few years later, in October 1st, became the Christian holiday called All Saints' Day, which is also known as All Hallows' Day. The day before that, October 31st, was known as All Hallows' Eve or Hallows' Eve. Hallows' Eve was later condensed to Halloween.

Jack-o-lanterns are a popular symbol for Halloween and many children have delighted in carving a scary or funny face into a pumpkin they diligently hollowed out. The tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns began in Ireland and Scotland but turnips were used there instead of pumpkins and they were much smaller. Pumpkins became more commonly used in the United States because they were easier to carve and much larger.

Many of the emblematic symbols that represent Halloween are rooted in myths from many years ago. Witches have long been a popular costume and decoration for Halloween. Hundreds of years ago, some people believed that evil things took place on Halloween and that actual witches flew through the night sky on Halloween. No one believes that real witches fly around on Halloween now, but they remain a popular symbol of Halloween.

Trick-or-treating is very likely the most popular event that takes place on Halloween. Children dress up in costume and are given candy in response to the phrase "trick or treat." While there are some similarities from centuries ago, the tradition of trick-or-treating we know today is a more recent tradition. It actually did not become a common practice in the United States until the 1930s and has grown in popularity since.

Not all people celebrate Halloween, but many people do and have fond memories of dressing up as small children and devouring too much candy. Many adults still become very excited about the holiday and spend weeks planning their costumes and decorations. The people that celebrate Halloween probably give little thought to the festival and practices from hundreds of years ago that have influenced the holiday so profoundly.

2

©Read Write Middle 2017

Name: _____

Halloween

Halloween is celebrated by many people in the United States. Children dress up as animals or superheroes. Older kids walk around in costumes for candy. People decorate their houses with orange and black decorations. Smiling jack-o-lanterns grace front porches.

Halloween came from different customs from Europe. Hundreds of years ago, people got into a festival called Samhain. This was a celebration at the end of summer. It took place on the first day of November. A few years later, in October 1st, became a Christian holiday called All Saints' Day. The day was also known as All Hallows' Day. October 31st was known as All Hallows' Eve or Hallows' Eve. Hallows' Eve was later condensed to Halloween.

Jack-o-lanterns are popular during Halloween. Many children enjoy carving a scary face into a pumpkin that they diligently emptied out. The tradition of carving jack-o-lanterns started in Ireland and Scotland using turnips. Jack-o-lanterns made of turnips were much smaller. The pumpkin became more commonly used in the United States. Pumpkins were easier to carve and much larger.

Many of the emblematic symbols that represent Halloween are from myths from long ago. Witches are a popular costume and decoration for Halloween. Hundreds of years ago, some people believed that evil things took place on Halloween. They also believed that actual witches flew through the night sky on Halloween. No one believes that real witches fly around on Halloween anymore, but they are still a popular symbol of Halloween.

Trick-or-treating is the most popular event that takes place on Halloween. Children dress up in costume and are given candy in response to the phrase "trick or treat." While there are some similarities from centuries ago, the tradition of trick-or-treating we know today is a more recent tradition. It actually did not become a common practice in the United States until the 1930s. It has grown in popularity since.

Not all people celebrate Halloween. Many children love dressing up and devouring too much candy. Some adults still become very excited about the holiday. The people that celebrate Halloween probably give little thought to the customs from long ago that have affected the holiday so profoundly.

3

©Read Write Middle 2017



Differentiated context clues activity!

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer and then write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

1. grace
a. to be b. kind c. decorate
context clues: _____
2. pretend
a. denied b. look c. pretended
context clues: _____
3. condensed
a. shortened b. lengthened c. called
context clues: _____
4. diligently
a. intensely b. quickly c. playfully
context clues: _____
5. emblematic
a. unique b. typical c. haunted
context clues: _____
6. depicting
a. illustrating b. expressing c. comparing
context clues: _____
7. profoundly
a. slightly b. professionally c. greatly
context clues: _____

4
©Read Write Middle 2017

Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage and then write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

1. grace
context clues: _____
2. pretend
context clues: _____
3. condensed: _____
context clues: _____
4. diligently: _____
context clues: _____
5. emblematic: _____
context clues: _____
6. depicting
context clues: _____
7. profoundly: _____
context clues: _____

5
©Read Write Middle 2017



Writing assignment and comprehension questions also included!!

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. What is the central idea of the passage? List two supporting details as well.
PREVIEW
2. In what ways do people celebrate Halloween?

3. List two ways that European customs influenced the way Halloween is celebrated in the United States?

4. Why are witches a symbol of Halloween?
PREVIEW
5. What sets trick-or-treating apart from other Halloween traditions mentioned in the passage?

6
©Read Write Middle 2017

Name: _____

Writing Assignment

Although they are very different now, many popular Halloween traditions began in Europe hundreds of years ago. You need to write a paragraph that explains how customs from Europe many years ago have influenced the way that Halloween is celebrated today. In the paragraph you need to:

- explain the European origins of Halloween
- explain how at least one tradition has changed from its beginning in Europe to the present
- use evidence from the text
- make sure you proofread your writing to check for any mistakes

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

7
©Read Write Middle 2017

