



# Festivals

## Halloween

The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class and ask pupils to point to the relevant items on the worksheet that you use first.

- Halloween is celebrated on 31 October in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and many other countries around the world. It is not a public holiday, but it is a very important celebration for children. The word *Halloween* originally came from *All Hallows' Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints' Day, 1 November. The tradition is that on this night, spirits, ghosts and witches wander the earth. People used to make lanterns out of pumpkins and place them in the window to scare away these frightening creatures.
- Nowadays, on the night of Halloween, children get dressed up as witches, ghosts, vampires, and other scary monsters and have a fancy dress party. Items that are traditionally associated with Halloween are pumpkin lanterns, bats, spiders and black cats. Children often play a traditional game called 'apple bobbing'. In this game, you have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food would be cakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces.
- At Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. Children knock on neighbours' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbour chooses a treat, he/she must offer the children sweets, chocolate or fruit. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, such as using a water pistol. It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors on Halloween!

## Halloween worksheet 1

- Pupils count how many examples there are of each Halloween character/object and write the number in the answer box. Pupils colour the Halloween scene.

**Key:** 1 two pumpkin lanterns, 2 one ghost, 3 one cat, 4 one witch, 5 four spiders, 6 six bats, 7 eight cakes, 8 seven sweets, 9 three apples.

- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils work in pairs, A and B with their worksheets face up in front of them. Pupil A names a colour that he/she can see on the worksheet. Pupil B points to it. Pupils A and B exchange roles.

## Halloween worksheet 2

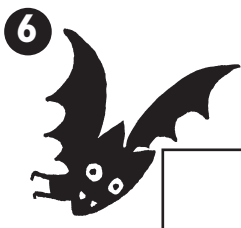
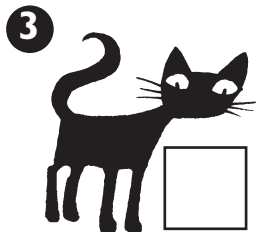
- Pupils need scissors, string, card, glue and a drinking straw. Pupils colour, cut out and mount the Halloween items onto card.
- They cut the string into different lengths and attach a short piece to each item. They tie the items along the straw. They attach a piece of string to each end of the straw and hang the mobiles around the classroom.
- As pupils work, circulate and ask them questions about the items, e.g. *What's this? What colour is your pumpkin?*
- You may like to prepare a model in advance to show pupils the finished mobile.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** In turn, pupils point and name the items on their mobiles.



# Halloween worksheet 1



Count. Write the number.





## Halloween worksheet 2



Colour, cut and make.

