

# 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.
- Halloween is celebrated on 31 October in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries around the world. It is not a public holiday in the United Kingdom. However, it is a very important celebration for children. The word 'Halloween' originally came from *All Hallow's Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints Day, 1 November. The tradition goes 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. They have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food is cakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces!
- At Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. They knock on neighbours' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbour chooses a treat he/she must offer the children sweets or chocolate. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, like using a water pistol! It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors at Halloween!

## Halloween worksheet 1

- Pupils read the sentences about bats and decide whether they are true or false. Pupils work in groups. They compare their answers and decide on a group answer. Give marks to each group for correct answers.
- Pupils need scissors and elastic. NB. It is a good idea to photocopy the template onto card. Alternatively it could be glued or stapled to a strip of card.
- Pupils colour the bat black and cut along the dotted line to make a mask. They then thread elastic through the holes.

**Key:** 1 F, 2 F, 3 F (bats and mice belong to different families), 4 T, 5 F (they have one every year), 6 F (70 percent are insectivores; the rest eat pollen and fruit. The vampire bats of Latin America eat blood – you can decide whether or not to tell the pupils about the blood!).

- Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils all wear their masks and stand in a row. One pupil takes off his/her mask and stands apart. Point to a masked pupil and ask *Who is it?* The pupil without the mask names him/her.

## Halloween worksheet 2

- Pupils look at the spell, count how many of each item the witch has and then write how many she needs to buy. They invent a reason for the spell.

**Key:** 2 frogs, 3 lizards, 2 spiders, 5 eyes, 4 snakes.  
Suggested reasons for spell: To make her cat green.  
To be young and beautiful.

- Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils invent new spells and what they are for. They can draw the ingredients.



# Halloween worksheet 1



**Read and think. Tick true (T) or False (F).**

1 Bats can't see.

T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2 Bats can't hear.

T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>

3 Bats are flying mice.

T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>

4 Bats can live more than 20 years.

T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>

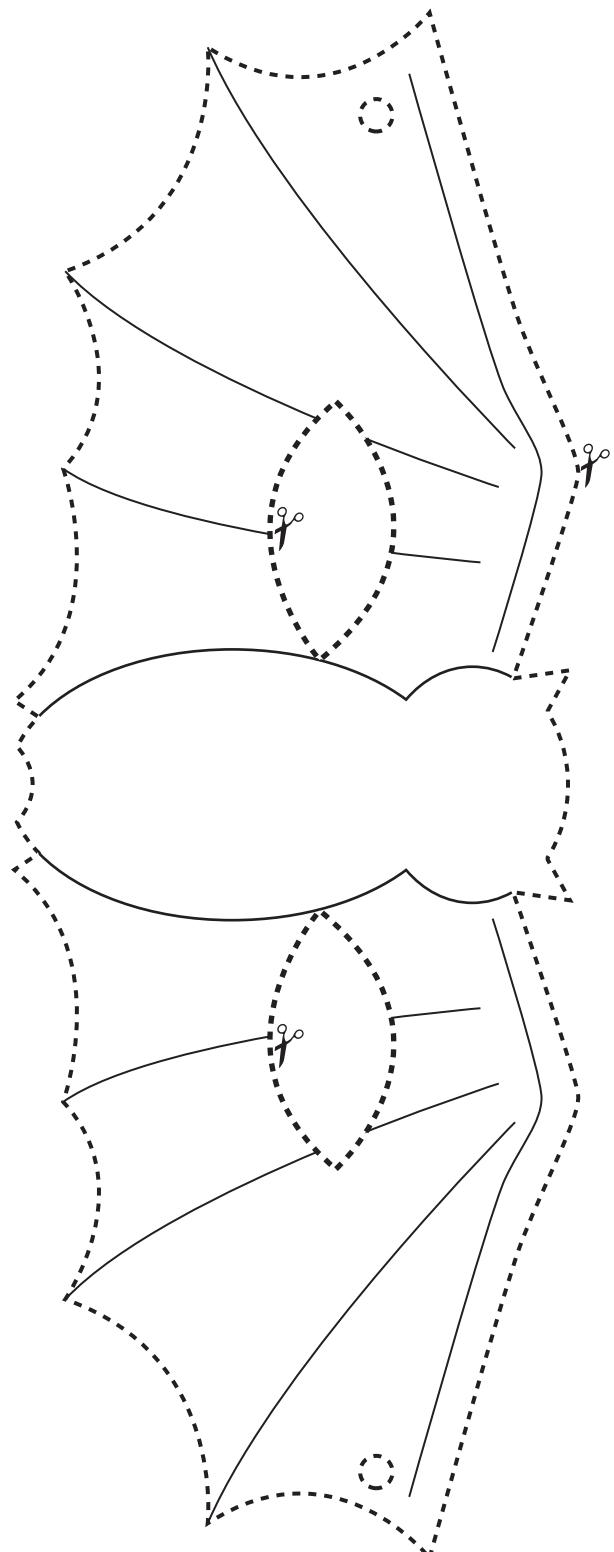
5 Mother bats usually have five babies every year.

T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>

6 Thirty percent of bats eat insects.

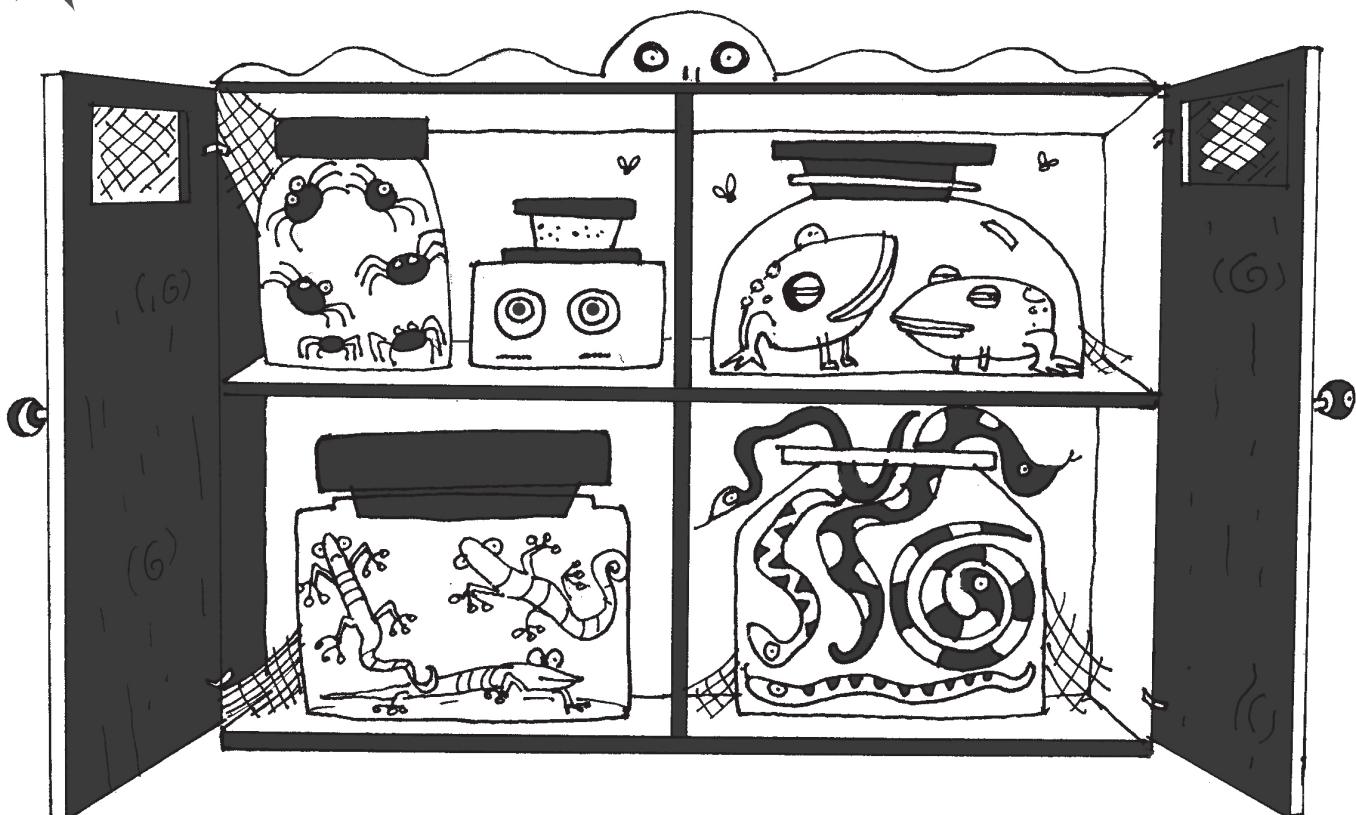
T	<input type="checkbox"/>
F	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Make a bat mask.**



# Halloween worksheet 2

★ Count and write.



## Halloween spell

Four frogs

Seven eyes

Six lizards

Nine snakes

Eight spiders



What does the witch need to buy  
for her spell? She needs to buy

Two frogs      eyes

lizards      snakes

spiders

What is the spell for?

To \_\_\_\_\_.