

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

The month of October is probably best known for its last day, Halloween. As kids, we loved dressing up in spooky costumes, wandering around the neighborhood with our friends, and dragging home tons of candy at the end of the night. As adults we now enjoy giving out candy, scaring the neighbor's kids, and the odd apple cider or two. Did you know that there is much more to Halloween than tricks and treats?

More than 2,000 years ago, the ancient celts celebrated the end of the harvest season and the beginning of their new year with a festival called Samhain (sew-in). The celts believed that the day of Samhain was a day between years, a day when the "veil" between the living and the dead was thin, and a day where ghosts and the dearly departed walked the earth. To drive back the dead, the celts would gather in their villages and have massive bonfires. People would wear masks and torn clothing to confuse the ghosts, extinguish the fires in their own homes and relight them from the bonfire, and have feasts. With the arrival of the Catholic church and its rise to power across Europe, Samhain was adopted into a new holiday called "all saints day."

For more information about Samhain and All Saints Day, check out the materials attached below! Article on Samhain and the Catholic Church:

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/samhain#christian-samhain>

Video on the religious history of Samhain and All-Saints Day:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVB5rPfWPtc>

Podcast- Spooky Appalachia is a group of storytellers focused on paranormal and folklore, mostly from the Appalachian region. The stories are researched and written by us or sourced from individuals that either witnessed the events firsthand or had the story passed to them by a friend or family member: <https://www.spookyappalachia.com/>



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