

Halloween or **Hallowe'en** (a contraction of **All Hallows' Evening**), also known as **Allhalloween**, **All Hallows' Eve**, or **All Saints' Eve**, is a celebration **observed in a number of countries** on 31 October, the eve of the **Western Christian** feast of **All Hallows' Day**. It begins the **three-day observance** of **Allhallowtide**, the time in the **liturgical year** dedicated to remembering _____, including **saints** (hallows), **martyrs**, and all the faithful departed.

It is widely believed that many Halloween traditions originated from ancient **Celtic harvest festivals**, particularly the **Gaelic** festival **Samhain**; that such festivals may have had _____ roots; and that Samhain itself was **Christianized** as Halloween by the **early Church**. Some believe, however, that Halloween began solely as a Christian holiday, separate from ancient festivals like Samhain.

Halloween activities _____ **trick-or-treating** (or the related **guising**), attending **Halloween costume** parties, carving pumpkins into **jack-o'-lanterns**, lighting **bonfires**, visiting **haunted attractions**, telling _____ stories, and watching **horror films**. In many parts of the world, the Christian religious observances of All Hallows' Eve, including attending church services and lighting **candles** on the graves of the dead, remain popular, although elsewhere it is a more commercial and secular celebration.

scary

pagan

include

the dead