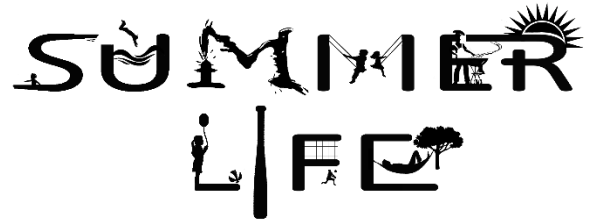


# HOLIDAYS

## Session 1: Origins of Halloween



### Halloween Quotes

Witch - Doreen Valiente: Halloween is one of the four Great Sabbats of the witches that everyone has heard about. To witches, Halloween is a serious occasion, however merrily celebrated. It is the old Celtic Eve of Samhain. With the coming of Christianity, the Church tried to Christianize the old festival by making 1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints Day, or All Hallows as the old term was. Thus Samhain Eve became All Hallows Eve, or Halloween. But attempts to discourage the pagan celebrations were so unavailing that the festival was eventually banned from the Church calendar. It was not until 1928 that the Church of England formally restored All Hallows to its calendar, on the assumption that the old pagan associations of Halloween were at last really dead and forgotten; a supposition that was certainly premature."

Witch - Margot Adler: "All the Great Festivals of Paganism, wherever they may be found, correspond in common with the Solstices, Equinoxes, and other natural annual cycles of life. Most of these remain with us today in more or less disguised form as the so-called Christian holidays of Christmas (Yule), Easter (Ostara), May Day (Beltane), Thanksgiving (Harvest Home), Halloween (Samhain) and even Groundhogs day (Oimecl)." "

Witch - Sharon Graham: "Salem (Massachusetts) is a mecca, especially around Samhain. It is our holiday, our new year, and a lot of witches come here from all over the world"

Satanist - Anton Szandor LaVey (now deceased): "Two major holidays, Halloween and Walpurgisnacht are celebrated by the Church of Satan."

High Priestess in Church of Satan: "Halloween is traditionally a time when the obscure portal into the realms of darkness, death and the supernatural is thrown open. Demons and spirits have free reign for one night, cavorting, enticing us into their revels and revealing glimpses into the future. As a child drawn to darker passions from birth, I always delighted in the fear and fantasies of Halloween. It gives even the most mundane people the opportunity to taste wickedness for one night. They have a chance to dance with the Devil, either stumbling, tittering and nervous in the arms of the Black Prince, or boldly, ravenously sharing in the sensual excesses and fright of others on this magical, unholy night. Now, birth and death have, for me, become inextricably interwoven into this day."

Encyclopedia Britannica: "In ancient Britain and Ireland, the Celtic festival of Samhain eve was observed on October 31st, at the end of summer. It was the occasion for one of the ancient fire festivals when huge bonfires were set on hilltops to frighten away evil spirits... The souls of the dead were thought to revisit their homes on this day, and the autumnal festival acquired sinister significance, with ghosts, witches, hobgoblins, black cats, fairies, and demons of all kinds said to be roaming about. In addition, Halloween was thought to be the most favorable time for divinations concerning marriage, luck, health, and death. Samhain, also spelled Samain, (Celtic. "End of Summer), one of the most important and sinister calendar festivals of the Celtic year. At Samhain, held on November 1, the world of the gods was believed to be made visible to mankind, and the gods played many tricks on their mortal worshippers; it was a time fraught with danger, charged with fear, and full of supernatural episodes. Sacrifices and propitiations of every kind were thought to be vital, for without them the Celts believed they could not prevail over the perils of the season or counteract the activities of the deities. Samhain was an important precursor to Halloween."

## Halloween Facts, Timeline, Traditions, and Scriptures

### Facts:

- It is the second most popular holiday next to Christmas
- In 2013, there was over 15 Billion spent on Halloween
- In 2013, there was \$400 million spent on costumes for pets
- One quarter of all the candy sold annually in the U.S. is purchased for Halloween.

### Timeline of Halloween:

- Before the time of Christ, the Celts celebrate Samhain (pronounced Sow-in)
- In the first century (AD), the Romans conquer the Irish and Celts.
- The Romans celebrated two feasts for the dead: Pomona Day and Feralia. Pomona Day was celebrated on November 1st, and quickly gets mixed with Samhain traditions.
- The Catholic Church wants to honor the Saints who have died. Rome is now Christian and begins changing their 'dead celebration days' to 'Saints Days'.
  - Mentioned by Ephram Syrus in 373AD.
  - Mentioned by John Chrysotom around 400AD, and he said it was first Sunday after Pentecost.
- May 13th, 609AD, Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in commemoration of Christian martyrs. All Saints Day officially began.
- 741AD, Pope Gregory III moved All Saints' Day to November 1st to dedicate the All Saints' Chapel in St. Peters, Rome.
- 988AD, the Catholic Church adds All Souls' Day on November 2nd.
- October 31st - November 2nd combine to make 'Hallowmas'
- 1556AD, the Scottish phrase "All Hallows Eve" becomes common.
- 1745AD, "All Hallows Eve" is commonly called "Halloween" in the English Speaking 'west'.
- 1846AD, The Irish Potato Famine. Millions of Irish migrate to the U.S.
- 1848, Spiritism begins to rise in the U.S.

### Where do these traditions come from?

- Days of the Dead
- Bonfires
- Costumes
- Trick or Treating
- Fruits and Nuts
- Jack-O-Lanterns
- Bobbing for Apples
- Superstitions

### Important Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
- Psalm 24:1 and Romans 14:5-6
- Deuteronomy 12:31
- Ecclesiastes 5:5
- Psalm 115:17
- Deuteronomy 18:10-12
- Hebrews 9:27
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- 1 Corinthians 15:50-58