



Halloween Facts to Share During Spooky Season

No matter what your favorite part of Halloween is—the silly Halloween costumes, carving pumpkins, or chowing down on candy—there's a **Halloween fun fact** here you'll love.

For starters, did you know that Halloween itself dates back more than 2,000 years? Or that people used to carve up turnips instead of pumpkins for decoration? Halloween has evolved quite a bit over the centuries. Today, it's a blend of old-fashioned traditions and new customs (like putting the family pet in a Halloween costume). We've also got interesting data on how much Americans spend on things like costumes, candy, and decorations.

Discover the surprising stories behind familiar Halloween symbols, learn how some of the holiday's most popular traditions got started or pick up a few facts that are sure to stump your friends

1. Nearly one-quarter of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday - 23% of Americans say Halloween is their favorite holiday. More women than men say this (26% vs. 19%).

2. A pumpkin is actually a fruit, not a vegetable

3. The record for the world's heaviest pumpkin is over 3,000 pounds

4. The record for most pumpkins smashed in one minute is 52

5. 38% of Americans believe that ghosts exist - A [YouGov poll conducted in 2025](#) a) 41% of Americans believe that ghosts exist. (b) 43% believe that demons really exist (c) 36% believe that "other supernatural beings" exist. d) 6% believe that werewolves exist e) 6% believe that vampires exist.



6. Most of the canned pumpkin in the world is produced by Libby's Pumpkin canning plant in Morton, Illinois. The facility produces [over 85% of the world's canned pumpkin](#).

7. The next time there will be a full moon on Halloween will be 2039

8. Mamie Eisenhower (1958) was the first person to decorate the White House for Halloween

9. Americans spend a ton of money on Halloween costumes

for their pets

10. Most parents admit to stealing some of their children's Halloween candy

11. If you want to keep spooky spirits away, salt should do the trick – a practice dating back to ancient times. Even if you're not a true believer, it can't hurt to sprinkle a bit on your doorstep should any unwelcome visitors stop by on Halloween night.

12. Jason Vorhees from *Friday the 13th* really did drown in the lake ... kind of - Diver [Doug Klein constructed a Jason Vorhees statue](#), mask and all, made of plywood, bubble wrap and foam and had it placed 120 feet down in a water-filled mine pit known as Louise near Crosby, Minnesota. It's only able to be seen by the most advanced divers.

13. There's a city in South Carolina that renamed itself "Halloween" in 2022 a city in Horry County called Conway announced that for the month of October they would be renamed the "city of Halloween,"

14. One in five adults usually pretends not to be home on Halloween

15. "Trick or treat" was not necessarily the original phrase children would shout out to receive candy - Instead, kids would allegedly yell, "Belsnickel" - a German-American Christmas tradition where kids dressed in costumes and went around to their neighbors to see if they could guess the identity of those dressed up.

16. There's a reason black and orange are the colors most associated with Halloween - Trace back to the Celtic festival of Samhain, a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and beginning of winter — or the "darker half" of the year. Thus, black represents the "death" of summer while orange represents the life of the fall harvest.

17. Some pretty famous people were born on Halloween. - Piper Perabo, Willow Smith, Rob Schneider, Letitia Wright, and Vanilla Ice were all born on October 31.

18. The holiday dates back more than 2,000 years - Halloween is even older than Christianity itself. It all started as a pre-Christian Celtic festival called [Samhain](#), which means "summer's end." Held in the beginning of November, the feast recognized the last day of the fall harvest and spirits crossing over, since they believed the veil between the living and spirit world grew thinnest at that time. People in Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France used to ward off ghosts by lighting sacrificial bonfires, and – you guessed it – wearing costumes to trick the spirits, according to [History.com](#).

19. Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times - It was once known as "[guising](#)" in Scotland and Ireland.

20. Some Halloween rituals used to be geared toward finding a husband During the 18th century, single ladies devised Halloween traditions that were supposed to help them meet their romantic match -women used to throw apple peels over their shoulders, hoping to see their future husband's initials in the pattern they made when they landed. When bobbing for apples at parties, the winner would supposedly marry first. Most spookily, they even used to stand in a dark room, holding a candle in front of a mirror to look for their future husband's face to appear in the glass. Bloody Mary who?

21. Immigrants helped popularize the holiday in the U.S.

22. Sugar rationing during World War II paused trick-or-treating

23. Now Halloween is the second-largest commercial holiday in the count

24. Most Americans spend on candy, decorations and costumes – a) average of \$115.14 per person. b) Costumes account for \$4.4 billion c) \$4.3 billion on decorations d) \$4.1 billion on candy.

25. The Irish also brought us jack-o'-lanterns

26. They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes and beets

27. There's also traditional Halloween bread in Ireland called [barmbrack](#) or just "brack." Contains dark and golden raisins plus a small hidden toy or ring.

28. Disney almost made *Hocus Pocus* a completely different movie

29. Illinois produces more than twice as many pumpkins than any other state

30. Candy corn was originally called "chicken feed" The Goelitz Confectionery Company originally sold the polarizing treat in boxes with a rooster on the front to appeal to America's agricultural roots, according to [National Geographic](#). The sugary recipe has gone largely unchanged since the 1880s. Love 'em or hate 'em, you can't argue with that kind of consistency.

31. "Monster Mash" once reigned supreme on the Billboard charts

32. You can even visit a pumpkin patch in Hawaii

33. The Michael Myers mask in *Halloween* has a fascinating backstory - 1978 film, production designer Tommy Lee Wallace picked up two masks from a Hollywood Boulevard magic shop: a clown mask and William Shatner as Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*. "Tommy came in with the clown mask on, and we went, 'Ooh, that's kind of scary.' Then he put on the Shatner mask, and we stopped dead and said, 'It's perfect,'" actor Nick Castle They spray-painted it white, made the eye holes bigger and the rest is spine-tingling history.

34. The fastest pumpkin carving ever only took 16.47 seconds

35. New York City throws the biggest Halloween parade in the U.S.

36. Princesses and superheroes rank as the most popular costumes

37. Reese's Cups are the top Halloween candy

38. A city in Canada banned teens over 16 from trick-or-treating - Bathurst, Canada, faces up to a \$200 fine. The city also has a curfew for all residents, so even those under 16 aren't allowed out after 8 p.m. on Halloween. The rules were instituted to curtail after-dark mischief after a rash of pranks.

39. Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926

40. Some shelters used to suspend black cat adoptions for Halloween

41. Keene, New Hampshire, holds the record for the most jack-o'-lanterns on display

42. The night before Halloween is called Mischief Night or Goosey Night - For those who've lived on the East Coast and the Midwest, it's probably not news to you that lots of teens and tweens pull pranks on October 30. But from toilet papering the trees outside someone's house, to egging cars and more dangerous capers, the tradition never really made its way to the West Coast. At least, not yet.