

Notes and Credits:

The articles, History of Halloween and Jack-O-Lanterns, are part of a site that was created especially for the ThinkQuest Jr. web design contest. The authors are students in the fourth and sixth grades. The articles may be viewed on the web at:

<http://library.thinkquest.org/J0111082/html/Information/traditions.htm>

The Cinnamon Shortbread Recipe may be found here on the web:

<http://www.northbound-train.com/recipes/shortbread.html>

The Paper Plate Mask may be found here on the web:

<http://www.kinderinfo.com/paper-plate-mask/>

SCA sources for further Halloween information:

http://www.freewebtown.com/JamesandGwen/Libellus_October_Issue_6.pdf

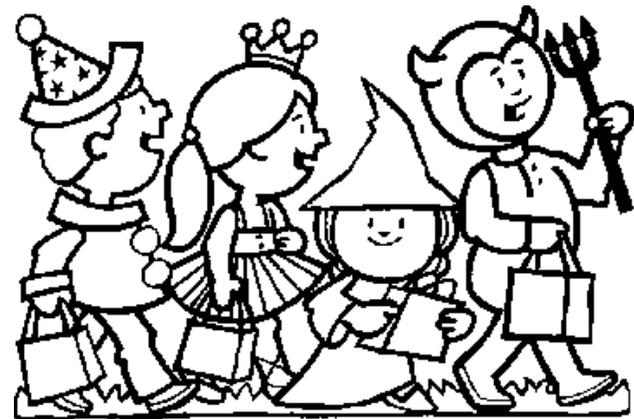
<http://merryrose.atlantia.sca.org/archive/1998-10oct/msg00268.html>

<http://merryrose.atlantia.sca.org/archive/1998-10oct/msg00289.html>

www.florilegium.org/files/PERFORMANCE.../Mask-Making-art.rtf

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Halloween



Children Activities Booklet



History of Halloween

The word Halloween actually comes from the term "All Hallows Eve." All Hallows Day or "All Saint's Day" was a Catholic holiday set aside to honor saints on November 1st. Celtic Ireland in the 5th century BC believed that October 31st was the last day of summer -- calling the holiday Samhain (sow-en), which also started the Celtic New Year.

The Celtic tribes would later light their fires from one Druidic fire kept burning at Usinach in the middle of Ireland.

The Romans later adopted the Celtic practices. As time went on, they weren't so worried about spirits possessing bodies, but they kept dressing up.

Halloween was brought to America in the 1840's by Irish immigrant fleeing their country's potato famine. New England added the practice of dressing up.

"Trick-or-treating" came from a 9th century European custom called "souling." On November 2, All Souls Day, Christians would walk from village to village begging for "soul cakes" made from bread and currants. People would offer prayers for the deceased believing it would speed up a soul's passage to heaven. The more cakes given out, the more prayers offered.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes, and then 250 degrees for 35 minutes. When done, cut immediately into bars, about 3/4 x 2 inches each (or whatever size you want). When almost cool, sprinkle generously with superfine sugar. Makes about 8 dozen cookies.

Tips & Notes

- This really is best when done by hand. The texture of the cookie is a little off when it's made in an electric mixer (but it's still OK, so don't let that stop you from making the cookie).
- I like baking them the full 35 minutes, so that the cookie is nice and brown. If you would like a more delicate cookie, bake a little less.
- These freeze very well.
- If you cannot find superfine sugar in the stores you can make it yourself. Thoroughly clean out a coffee grinder, add regular granulated sugar, and grind for about 2 seconds. If you do it right, you'll have superfine sugar; too long and you'll have powdered sugar. Due to the difficulty in cleaning a coffee grinder, I usually make about 3 cups at a time and store it.
- I would not recommend using an airbake pan for these -- you want them to brown.





Jean's Scottish Cinnamon Shortbread

Ingredients

- 1 lb. butter
- 5 cups unbleached flour
- 1 cup cane sugar
- 3-4 tablespoons of cinnamon
- 1/8 - 1/4 teaspoon each of: mace, allspice, cloves, nutmeg
- superfine sugar to sprinkle (see note below)

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix flour and sugar and set aside. In a large bowl, knead the butter well, until soft. Gradually add the flour/sugar/spices mixture while continuing to knead, until all is well mixed. Do not over work!

Press into an ungreased 11x17 pan. Take a fork and poke through the dough across the width of the pan, making similar lines about 1-1/4" apart down the length of the pan.



Paper Plate Mask

You'll Need:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|----------|
| * Paper Plates | * Construction paper | * Glue |
| * Scissors | * Markers or Crayons | * String |

Directions:

Cut two circles out of the paper plate for your eyes. Decorate the paper plate with markers or crayons. Cut shapes out of construction paper for ears, nose or trunk etc. Using the scissors or a hole punch, make two small wholes in the sides of the plate. Attach string to each side of the plate by pulling it trough and making a knot. Use the string to tie the mask to your face.

You can also use stickers, scraps of fabric, feathers etc. to decorate the mask. You can make any kind of animal, a clown etc. Just be creative and have fun with it.



DRAW FACES ON
THESE PUMPKINS AND
THEN COLOR THEM.
TRY SCARY, HAPPY,
SAD, MAD, AND ONE
OF YOUR OWN.



Jack-O-Lanterns

The tradition of carving faces into vegetables comes from Ireland. They mostly used turnips, and instead of lighting with a candle like we do now, a hot coal was set inside back then.

The legend tells of how a drunk named Jack met the Devil on his last day here on earth. He bargained with the Devil to buy him one last drink. When the Devil changed into sixpence to pay for Jack's drink, Jack put him in his pocket instead. The Devil couldn't get out for quite a long time because there was a silver cross in the pocket too. When the Devil did escape Jack tricked him again and made the Devil promise never to come back for him again. Jack died soon after that. When he died, his gloomy past kept him out of Heaven, and the Devil couldn't take him either, so he was doomed to walk the earth until Judgment Day. Jack begged for light to shine his way, so the Devil threw him a burning coal from his fires. Jack put the coal in a turnip and held it in his arms at night as he walked the roads.

Jack of Lanterns or "Jack-O-Lantern" became a symbol of an unfortunate lost soul.