

Name: _____

Trick-or-Treat

By Kimber Krochmal

Did you ever wonder where the idea of Trick-or-Treat comes from? Well, it all started with an old Irish tradition.

The Irish believed that on Halloween night the veil between our world and the spirit world was thin. On that night, ghosts could come back to visit their loved ones.

But they also believed that some ghosts were unhappy and used Halloween



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Over time these traditions changed. During the Middle Ages, teenagers and young adults took the place of the spirits. They would dress up and go door to door saying "trick-or-treat." If they were given a treat, they went on to the next house. But if not, they played a trick on that person. These were harmless tricks and no one ever got hurt from them. Still, it was better to just give them a treat.



When the Irish came to America during the Great Potato Famine, they brought the tradition of "trick-or-treat" with them. Soon everyone was joining in and who can blame them? What could be more fun than dressing up and going from house to house getting candy and treats?

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1. Where does the tradition of trick-or-treat come from?
 - a. United States
 - b. England
 - c. Ireland
 - d. Canada
2. Back in the days when people believed unhappy ghosts came out on Halloween, what gifts were left outdoors to keep the ghosts happy?



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4. In the Middle Ages, teenagers and young adults would play tricks on people who did not give them treats. What kind of tricks did they play?
 - a. dangerous tricks
 - b. tricks that scared people
 - c. tricks that didn't hurt anyone
 - d. tricks that involved stealing candy
 5. Trick-or-Treat started as an old, Irish tradition. What is a tradition?
 - a. an activity that has been going on for a long time
 - b. something that people believe is true
 - c. an event that happens in October
 - d. a type of song that people sang long ago

ANSWER KEY

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a. an activity that has been going on for a long time

b. something that people believe is true

c. an event that happens in October

d. a type of song that people sang long ago