



ALL THINGS HALLOWEEN WEBQUEST!

by

Gail Skroback Hennessey

From the words, "All Hallows' Evening", Halloween is celebrated on October 31st. Learn about this holiday which has its origins in an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. Did someone say, "Trick or Treat?"

1. The idea of Trick or Treating may have its history in a Celtic custom. In both England and Ireland, which type of children got food? _____ What did the children do in return for the treat? _____. What was this activity called? _____ In the United States, children, in the early 1900s, did this to get treats. _____

Find the answers at this link: <http://www.timeforkids.com/photos-video/slideshow/halloween-history/17296> (page 2)

2. When you think of Halloween, pumpkins are a symbol of the holiday. The world's largest fruit, the pumpkin is thought to have originated in this part of the world. _____ Pumpkins are 90% water. People once

believed that pumpkin could cure snake bites and were thought to remove freckles! Describe the way colonial Americans used pumpkins in "pies"._____ The first Jack-O-Lanterns originated in this European country._____ Pumpkins weren't known in the country so beets, potatoes and _____ and _____ were carved instead. Find the answers at this link: <http://www.pumpkinnook.com/facts.htm>

3. Superstitions are beliefs that are not fact based. Are your ears hot? Superstitions say that means you are being talked about. Do your feet itch. You will soon be walking in a new place. It was once believed to be bad luck to sing in the morning as you are showing happiness before doing anything that day!, During the Middle Ages, salt was expensive, so spilling it was considered bad luck. It was believed that good spirits lived in trees, so the idea of knocking on wood for good luck made sense to call these spirits to help protect you. What is believed to happen if you find a cricket in your house?_____ What should you do if an eyelash falls out?_____ What animal is considered good luck to bring along on a ship?_____ If you say goodbye to someone on a bridge, what is believed to happen?

Find the answers at this link: <http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/scary.html>

4. For many years, which activity was popular with the holiday? _____ In addition to insects, what creature associated with Halloween was attracted to this activity? _____ What was the purpose of this activity? _____ What day marked the end of summer? _____ Why did people fear October 31st? _____ Find the answers at this link:

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5. The only flying mammals,bats are **nocturnal**. What does this mean?_____What is the term for how bats use noises and wait for the sound waves to bounce back off objects to sense location?_____With over 1000 different types of bat species,the smallest bat is the bumblebee bat. It has a wing span of about 1.3 inches and is found in Thailand. Which is the largest of all the bats?

_____ Find the answers at this link:
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/bat.html>

6. Perhaps you have dressed as Count Dracula for Halloween. The story about a human that turned blood sucking vampire at night,was written by _____, in 1897. It is thought the author used the story of a very cruel ruler, from the 15th century called_____ for his inspiration. This ruler lived in what is today the European country of_____.Nicknamed Dracula, the word translate to mean_____and _____.For a while, people in the area of the castle hoped to open a Dracula Theme Park but it never got beyond the idea stage. Find the answers at this link: <http://www.pitara.com/science-for-kids/5ws-and-h/what-is-the-mystery-of-dracula/>

7. The story of Frankenstein was written in 1816, by _____, an 18 year old teenager. Where did she get the idea for the story?_____.What did Luigi Galvani discover about the brain?_____In the story, WHO actually was Frankenstein?_____Find the answers at this link: <http://www.kidzworld.com/article/24907-the-legend-of-frankenstein>

8. Skeletons are associated with Halloween. Did you know that there are 206 bones in the human body? What is the main mineral which bones are made of?_____What is the center of a bone called which contains soft material?_____ There are two types of of this material, yellow and red. What kind of cells are produced in the red?_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.ducksters.com/science/bones.php>

9. In which part of our body are the smallest bones?
_____There are 58 bones in the legs and feet! What is the term for the connecting points of bones?_____ What is the substance in joints that helps bones not wear out from use?
_____Which part of the body has 33 bones?_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.ducksters.com/science/bones.php>

10. Bones replace themselves every 7 years! WOW! There are 22 bones in the human skull. How many bones does a new-born baby have?_____ Why do you think an adult has less bones?
_____What is the name for the longest bone in the body?_____Teeth are part of the skeletal system. YES or NO: Teeth are considered to be bones._____ Which medical science studies the skeletal system?_____ Find the answers at this link: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/humanbody/skeletonbones.html>

11. Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin ,Texas,has the largest bat colony in all of North America! At peak season, there can be up to_____ bats living under the bridge. On an average night, these bats eat about _____ insects. Why do the bats especially like living under this bridge?_____

Find the answers at this link: http://austin.about.com/od/austinattractions/p/Bats_in_Austin.htm

12. Owls are a popular bird when you think of Halloween. They don't make any sounds when flying. What is the term for a group of owl?_____What is the term for not being about to see up close?_____The largest of the _____ species of owl, is the Great Grey Owl. The smallest is considered to be the Elf Owl.

What are the sharp claws of an owl called?_____Find the answers at this link: <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/owl.html>

Comprehension Questions:

1. List three superstitions mentioned in the webquest.
2. Write three facts learned about bats from the webquest.
3. What is the longest bone in the human body? What is the part of the body with the most bones?
4. Which book did Mary Shelley write ? Which book did Bram Stoker write? Which main character do you think is the scariest and why?
5. Describe how colonial Americans used pumpkins in making their "pies". People once thought pumpkins could be used as a medicine for what two things?

6. What is triskaidekaphobia?

7. What do you do to celebrate Halloween? If you were to describe Halloween to a space alien, how would you describe the holiday?

Fun Facts:

Fear of the number 13 is called **triskaidekaphobia**. Fear of Friday the 13th is called **paraskavedekatriaphobia**. (Yikes—try pronouncing both words!) Did you know that many hotels don't have a 13th floor? (Well, actually there IS a 13th floor but it isn't named 13th). Some airplanes don't have a row named 13 and many hospitals don't have a room 13. There WAS an Apollo 13, a space mission that blasted into space on April 11, 1970. (It was launched at 13:13!) On April 13 (not a Friday), there was an explosion. Fortunately, the crew was able to come home safely.

A superstition says that if you see a spider on Halloween, it means a loved one's spirit is protecting you.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt refused to travel on the 13th of the month. He also would not sit at a table with only 13 people.

Black cats are thought to bring bad luck in the USA but it is a **WHITE** cat that is thought to bring bad luck in Great Britain.

Orange and black are the colors of Halloween. Purple has also become a popular color for the holiday. There are no words that rhyme with orange!

In Austria, bread and water and a lamp are left on a table at night to welcome departed loved ones' souls.

If you have **samhainophobia**, you have a fear of the holiday-
Halloween!

The famous magician, Harry Houdini, died on Halloween.

The first wrapped penny candy in the USA were Tootsie Rolls.

There are very few full moons on October 31st. There will be one in
2020! Mark your calendar!

Did you know there is actually a National Candy Corn Day? It's
October 30th.

Snickers are the most popular candy treat at Halloween.

Over 35 million pounds of candy corn are made each year! (or 9
billion pieces of the candy)

Teacher Page:

Have students in small groups work on the web quest. Regroup and discuss the web quest.

Have groups make 7 true or false questions to exchange with another group to answer as a review.

Extension Activities:

How many THREE letter or more words can you made using letters in Halloween?

Draw/color a pumpkin. Write a day in the life of a pumpkin sitting on a porch waiting for Trick or Treaters to arrive.

Color/Illustrate a superstition. <http://www.livescience.com/14141-13-common-silly-superstitions.html> or <http://news.discovery.com/human/psychology/friday-12-superstitions-121301.htm>

Write a paragraph about a superstition.

Pretend you are a bat living under the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin, Texas. Tell about your night. What do you see? Hear? Feel? Etc.

Read a Scary Story. <http://www.halloween.com/halloween-stories.php>

Discuss summary writing. Have students write a summary of the story.

Lyrics to Dry Bones(Skeleton Bones) song: <http://www.songlyrics.com/child/dry-bones-lyrics/>

England, Ireland, India, Japan and China were mentioned in the webquest. Assign groups of students, a country and find 7 facts to share with the class. On a world map, have students locate these countries and their capital cities.

Links:

<http://kidshealth.org/en/kids/bones.html> Great source of information on the skeletal system.

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/labeled-skeletal-system-diagram.html> skeletal system diagram

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Make Barmbrack, a tradition bread eaten on Halloween. <http://breadbaking.about.com/od/dessertandholidaybreads/r/brambrack.htm>

What do you think are the most popular costumes for kids at Halloween?(pirate, princess, spider-man, witch, pumpkin, vampire are some of the most popular)

Key:

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4. Bonfires /bats /ward off evil spirits before start of winter season/November 1st/Those ghosts could destroy the harvest.
5. active at night/ Echolocation/ Pteropus or flying foxes or fruit bats
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8. calcium/marrow/ red and white blood cells
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10. around 300/ bones merge together/ femur / no /orthopedics
11. 1.5million/ 10,000-30000 pounds of insects each night/ lots of narrow deep openings in the bridge
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NOTE:

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Illustration from: wpclipart.com



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7. Mary Shelley/scientists stealing bodies from graveyards and trying to bring them back to life.brain sends electric signals telling other parts of body what to do/mad scientist who created the monster
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