



Name _____

The History of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated each year on October 31st. Its origins date back to an ancient Celtic festival called Samhain. The Celts lived 2,000 years ago in what is now Ireland. There isn't a lot of detail known about these celebrations but it is believed that on October 31st the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. They celebrated in costume to disguise against the wandering ghosts. They would also carve faces into gourds such as turnips, rutabagas, gourds, potatoes, and beets to keep spirits away.

Some elements of Halloween came from the Romans celebrating Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple. The

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people dressed up as saints and recited songs or verses from door to door. Children would also go door to door asking for "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives.

1. The holiday was dated back to _____.
2. It was believed that the dead _____.
3. Bobbing for apples comes from the goddess _____.
4. Children would ask for the food known as _____.