

# JACK-O'-LANTERN

For many people in North America, it is difficult to imagine Halloween without pumpkins carved into jack-o'-lanterns. This tradition has its roots in the ancient Celtic holiday at the end of the Celtic year which started at sundown on October 31st and ended at sundown on November 1st. This was the time to honour all loved ones that had passed on.

The traditional jack-o'-lantern was carved from turnips or gourds, and burning coal was put inside for light. These lanterns were put on porches or in windows to welcome the spirits of deceased loved ones but also to protect against bad spirits. When the first European settlers came to America, they found pumpkins larger and easier to carve. Since that time, candles have replaced coal and the pumpkin jack-o'-lantern is still the most important symbol of Halloween. *Hana Škrdllová (Canada)*

## FUNNY PUMPKIN FACTS

You can salt and roast pumpkin seeds (like sunflower seeds) instead of throwing them away.

Pumpkins are traditionally carved with triangle noses like Michael Jackson. That is why some people call them "Jacko Lanterns".

In Britain, "pumpkin" is a slang word for a person with red hair, equivalent to "carrot-top" in America.

## THE ORIGINS OF THE NAME

An Irish legend tells of a farmer named Jack, who managed to catch the devil and made him promise that he would never take Jack into hell. When Jack died, he was not accepted into heaven, but because of the devil's promise, he couldn't go to hell either. So he had to endlessly wander the Earth. As he needed light, he carved out a turnip, put a candle inside it, and began his wandering and searching for a resting place. He is known as Jack of the Lantern or Jack-o'-Lantern.

Despite the legend, the term jack-o'-lantern originally meant simply a night watchman (a person who guards a place at night), or man with a lantern. Later, it also referred to the natural light sometimes seen over marshes (wet muddy grounds) at night.

## Vocabulary

pumpkin ['pʌmpkɪn] - ořech [pɔ:ʃ] - žebrači, veranda  
deceased [dɪ'si:st] - zesnulý  
easier to carve - žijící, že ořech  
to carve [kɑ:v] - vyřezat, jsou větší a snáz se vyřezávají  
wandering ['wɒndəɪŋ] - bloudat  
resting place - místo odpočinku  
lantern ['læntən] - lucerna  
sunflower - slunečnice  
instead of throwing them away  
coal [kəʊl] - uhlí, uhlyk  
- místo toho, aby se vyhodila

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