British festivals: Halloween

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**Público**: Maestros o profesores de lengua inglesa de cualquier etapa educativa.  
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**Abstract**

This article is a PowerPoint presentation explained page by page where there is a propose of how to work the festivity of Halloween in the classroom. Information is given about what day is celebrated Halloween in the United Kingdom, how, and the different activities children carry out there. Also it is proposed a series of activities such as: circle, matching, a word search, true-false, a rhyme and how to make a jack-o-lantern. Finally, evaluation activities are given.  
**Keywords**: british culture, halloween.

**Título**: Festividades Británicas: Halloween.  
**Resumen**

El artículo es una presentación PowerPoint explicada diapositiva a diapositiva donde se da una propuesta para trabajar en el aula la festividad anglosajona de Halloween. Se da información sobre qué día se celebra en el Reino Unido, cómo y las distintas actividades que realizan los niños allí. Además se proponen una serie de actividades como señalar, unir con flechas, una sopa de letras, actividades de verdadero falso, una rima y cómo hacer una linterna de calabaza. Finalmente se dan actividades de evaluación oral.  
**Palabras clave**: Cultura inglesa, actividades.

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British culture is one of the most important aspects to treat in our English classroom. Pupils must know different vocabulary and structures, but also they will have to learn how to value the foreign language. For this reason, it is necessary to teach cultural aspects, one example is the following one.

In Great Britain, as in all the countries there are many popular festivals, such as: Christmas, Easter, Carnival...
But we are going to concentrate on one of the most popular, which is: Halloween.

Everything is related with dark and horror as we can see in the picture. Here we can find some of the objects related to Halloween: a haunted house, a ghost, witches, the moon, bats, candles and a Jack-o-lantern.

Halloween is celebrated 31st October. In the picture you can see a group of children, a class with his/her teacher. Can you name the dressings they are wearing? –Vampire, witch, demon, skeleton, ghost… People dress up as witches, ghosts, vampires… But… do you think they only use scary dressings at Halloween? We will see it later on and also we will explain what is trick or treat.
The next two slides we can decide whether we give them to the students when we finish our presentation or not. On the following one, children are supposed to circle or point the objects related to Halloween (we can show them on the interactive board and/or we can give them a sheet later on). When they finish this activity, they will have to name the objects which are scary, the teacher will write them on the whiteboard and/or they will write them on their sheets.

1. Circle the objects that are connected to Halloween, magic and ghosts

   ![Objects related to Halloween](image)

2. Which objects are scary?

This is a very simple slide. The children will just match the words with the pictures. It is a good moment to concentrate on some words, like pumpkin and its difference with jack-o-lantern, children must know it. We can also show how the word “mummy” has two meanings: the one in the picture and “mum”. Another thing we may analyse is how is formed the word “batman”: bat + man; now they know this compound form.

Match the words in the moon to the pictures

   ![Match the words](image)
This Word search sheet must be given to the students at the end of the oral presentation.

Firstly, the students will underline on the interactive board using different colours and when the presentation had finished, they will do the same on a sheet. Finally, they will draw this vocabulary on the right and on the left of the word search.

Here we explain when is Halloween celebrated and what is trick or treat. We can also suggest some activities to do orally with the pupils. On the first one, they can answer it in Spanish, so they can see how different cultures celebrate the same festivity. The second one is to check the previous understanding, true or false, when it is false, the students must check the sentence.

TRICKS AND TREATS

Halloween is a holy evening on October 31, the eve of All Saints’ Day. In modern times, it is the occasion for children requesting tricks and treats. Many Halloween costumes have become games played by children. In later ages, small children have gone from house to house demanding “trick or treat” (the treat, often a candy, is generally given and the trick rarely played.) Children have traditionally dressed in costume: like witches, demons…

1. What date is it? 
   When is the next bank holiday? 
   Why?

2. True or false:
   - Halloween is celebrated on November the first. 
     T / F
   - Children wear costumes like vampires or ghosts. 
     T / F
   - With treat or trick you can have candies. 
     T / F
As it is shown in the picture, Halloween is an excuse to dress up in many different costumes; people not only dress up in scary or horror costumes. For example, in the picture the children are a dinosaur and a princess.

The rhyme is very popular; we have to help the students to remember it.

A very typical decoration in Halloween is the jack-o-lantern. People usually put these lanterns with other Halloween decorations in their gardens or outdoors. It is very easy to make one, but children have to ask for an adult to help because it is necessary to use a knife or something to cut. You can try it! It is very easy, you will need: a pumpkin, a candle, a knife and a spoon.

HOW TO MAKE A JACK-O-LANTERN

- The instructions for this Halloween lantern are mixed up.
Put them in the correct order.

1. Cut two eyes, a nose and a mouth on one side of the hollowed pumpkin.
2. Cut the top and the bottom off the pumpkin. Keep the bottom piece for later.
3. Lower the “head” over the candle, and light the candle.
4. Stand a candle in the piece cut off the bottom of the pumpkin.
5. Scoop the pulp from inside the pumpkin with a spoon.
Finally, to review some of the contents taught we will have different questions. The children will put their hands up if they know the answers; with the correct answers they will win one positive point in the English subject. It is always advisable at the end of each lesson to make a self-evaluation activity.

The last sheet is to wish the children happy Halloween.

We can say too: “Can you remember their names? What is your favourite one? How do you dress up in Halloween? Related to scary or not?”

This in an example of a powerpoint presentation to introduce or review halloween. There are many different activities children can do in relation with this topic, such as: posters, crosswords, board games, dominoes, songs...