



Festivals

Halloween

The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class and ask pupils to point to the relevant items on the worksheet that you use first.

- Halloween is celebrated on 31 October in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand and many other countries around the world. It is not a public holiday, but it is a very important celebration for children. The word *Halloween* originally came from *All Hallows' Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints' Day, 1 November. The tradition is that on this night, spirits, ghosts and witches wander the earth. People used to make lanterns out of pumpkins and place them in the window to scare away these frightening creatures.
- Nowadays, on the night of Halloween, children get dressed up as witches, ghosts, vampires, and other scary monsters and have a fancy dress party. Items that are traditionally associated with Halloween are pumpkin lanterns, bats, spiders and black cats. Children often play a traditional game called 'apple bobbing'. In this game, you have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food would be cakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces.
- At Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. Children knock on neighbours' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbour chooses a treat, he/she must offer the children sweets, chocolate or fruit. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, such as using a water pistol. It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors on Halloween!

Halloween worksheet 1

- Pupils count how many examples there are of each Halloween character/object and write the number in the answer box. Pupils colour the Halloween scene.

Key: 1 two pumpkin lanterns, 2 one ghost, 3 one cat, 4 one witch, 5 four spiders, 6 six bats, 7 eight cakes, 8 seven sweets, 9 three apples.

- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils work in pairs, A and B with their worksheets face up in front of them. Pupil A names a colour that he/she can see on the worksheet. Pupil B points to it. Pupils A and B exchange roles.

Halloween worksheet 2

- Pupils need scissors, string, card, glue and a drinking straw. Pupils colour, cut out and mount the Halloween items onto card.
- They cut the string into different lengths and attach a short piece to each item. They tie the items along the straw. They attach a piece of string to each end of the straw and hang the mobiles around the classroom.
- As pupils work, circulate and ask them questions about the items, e.g. *What's this? What colour is your pumpkin?*
- You may like to prepare a model in advance to show pupils the finished mobile.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** In turn, pupils point and name the items on their mobiles.

Easter

The following cultural notes describe both the origins and the current traditions of this festival. Explain as much as you feel is relevant to the class and ask pupils to point to the relevant items on the worksheet that you use first.

- Easter is a Christian festival which celebrates Jesus rising from the dead. As Easter always falls in spring, some people associate it more widely with new life, which is why images of chicks and eggs, lambs, baby rabbits and spring flowers are also traditional. The date is fixed according to the lunar calendar and therefore differs slightly every year. In the weeks before Easter, people send Easter cards to their friends and family, and they buy chocolate Easter eggs and Easter bunnies for their children. Many children like to boil real eggs and then paint them with bright colours. Children often have egg rolling competitions or hold Easter egg hunts looking for the colourful eggs around the garden. Baskets are also associated with Easter. People make and fill them with Easter eggs and spring flowers to decorate their houses.
- In the United Kingdom, people like to eat hot cross buns, a type of sweet bread with dried fruit in it. These buns are marked with the Christian symbol of the cross and are traditionally eaten during Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter). In the Middle Ages, the bakers sold these buns in the streets.
- Easter is an important church festival and Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays.

Easter worksheet 1

- Pupils need scissors, glue and two pieces of different coloured card.
- Pupils cut out the rectangles. They mount the pictures on one piece of coloured card and the words on the other piece of coloured card.
- Pupils work in pairs, A and B. They shuffle their cards together and lay them face down on the desk. Pupil A turns over two cards, one of each colour, and names each card. If the cards are the same, Pupil A keeps them. If not, Pupil A turns the cards face down again. Pupils A and B exchange roles. The pupil with the most cards at the end of the game is the winner.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Call out the four Easter items in random order. Pupils hold up the corresponding picture and word card. Pupils can work in pairs and continue this activity.

Easter worksheet 2

- Pupils need scissors, glue and card.
- Pupils colour, cut out and mount the basket and Easter eggs on card. They stick the reverse of the sides of the basket together and fold the flaps outwards so the basket stands up. Finally pupils stick their eggs inside the top of the basket.
- Ask pupils to say all the Easter words they know.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupils show their parents their Easter basket and tell them in LI about Easter traditions in English-speaking countries. They can try and teach their parents the Easter words they know.

Halloween worksheet 1



Count. Write the number.



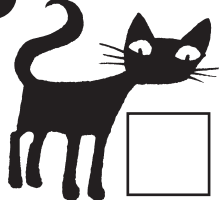
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2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

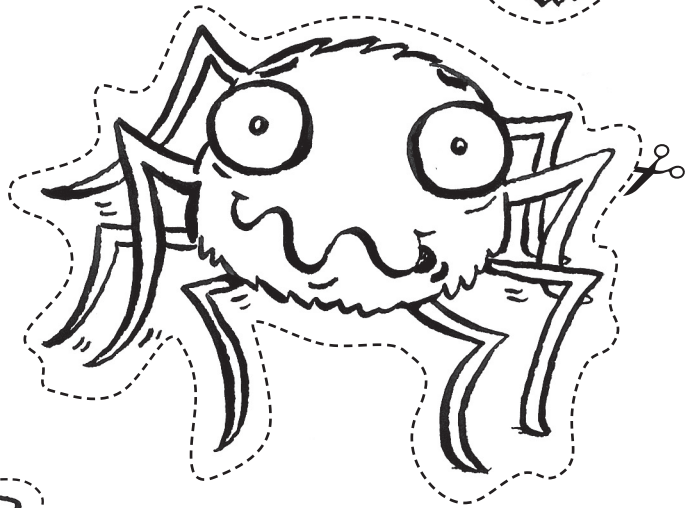




Halloween worksheet 2



Colour, cut and make.

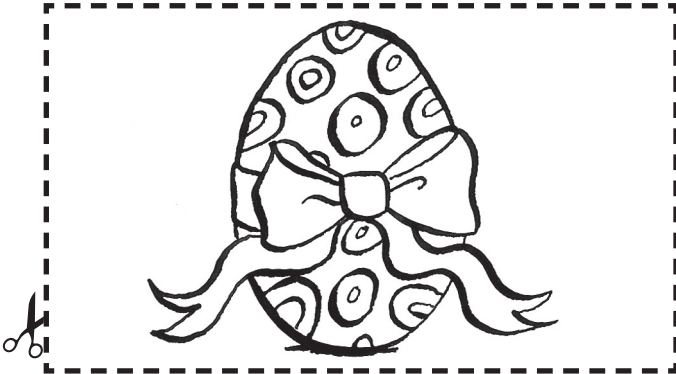




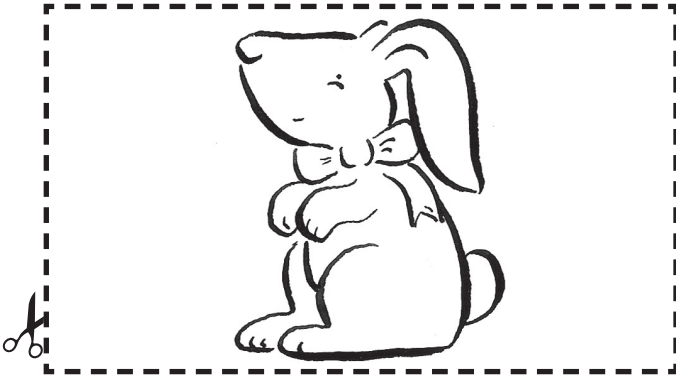
Easter worksheet 1



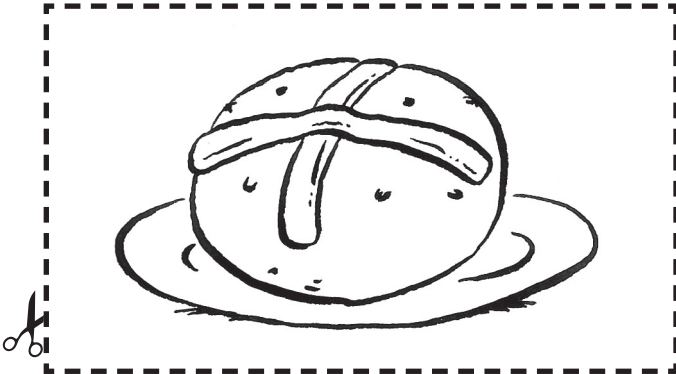
Cut and play.



Easter egg



hot cross bun



Easter bunny



flower



Easter worksheet 2



Colour, cut and make.

