



# Plan for Halloween

By Rebecca Jackson

## How to have a Halloween art lesson

### Pasta skeleton

#### Each child will need:

- Several different types of dried pasta, for example, spaghetti, macaroni, tiny tube pasta, long tube pasta, wagon wheels, long spirals, tiny shells. One piece of black paper.
- White glue.
- One white crayon.

#### Instructions:

1. Ask the children to arrange the pasta on the paper in the shape of a skeleton. This ensures that they have room for the whole body on the piece of paper.

2. You can use just about any type of pasta for the bones. Some tips: A wagon wheel is nice for the head while spaghetti makes good fingers and toes. Tiny tubes are good as vertebrae in the

spine and long tubes can make collarbones. Longer tubes or long spirals make good arm and leg bones. Small shells are nice for the kneecaps, wrists and ankles.

3. Instruct the children to glue the pasta to the black paper using white glue and mark their names on their drawings using the white crayon.

4. You could distribute photocopies of a rough outline of Mr Bones (he only needs to be in the style of a stick man) instead of the plain black paper, for younger students to follow as a guide.



## How to have Halloween games

### Guess the ghost

Ask one child to leave the room. Take a large sheet and ask a different child to stand and hide under the sheet. Mix up the remaining children in the room and then allow the child who left the room, the ghost buster, to come back in. The ghost buster must, by process of elimination, guess who is the ghost under the sheet. Continue until as many children as possible have been either the ghost or the ghost buster.

### Eyeball relay

Divide the children into teams. Give the first child on each team a spoon and a ping-pong ball painted like an eye. Place a witch hat at the point to which the children have to carry the eye on the spoon. Each member of the team must walk around the hat, balancing the eye on their spoon, before returning and passing the eye to the next player. The team that gets all their players back first is the winner.

### Ghost cakes

#### Each child will need:

One fairy cake. One biscuit. Several scoops of chocolate frosting. Several tubes of coloured icing.

Ask the children to:

1. Cover the fairy cake with chocolate frosting using a spatula and partially insert half the biscuit in the top.
2. Coat the exposed section of the biscuit with chocolate frosting to create the ghost.
3. Draw a spooky expression on each ghost with the coloured icing.

## How to use Halloween in a history lesson

The Celts had a great respect for the Gods who, they believed, controlled the earth, its people and seasons. Celebrations for these Gods were held at various times of the year.

The modern-day Halloween is a combination of two such celebrations that both occurred at the same time of year. At the end of October, as they began to take in the last of the summer harvest, the Celts marked the transition from summer to winter by lighting fires and making offerings to the Sun God. They hoped that by thanking him in this way they would be blessed

with good harvests. In addition, they believed that on October 31st the Lord of the dead would call together all of the spirits that inhabited the Earth and, together with the Celtic worshippers, these souls would be laid to rest.

The Celts hoped that by respecting the dead in this way they would be able to continue life on Earth without interference from the ghosts of those who had passed on. In the early evening of October 31st they honoured the Sun God and then at midnight they began to worship the Lord of the dead. Today, over 2000 years later, we continue to

celebrate Halloween although we do so in a very different manner to the Celts.

However, pastimes such as trick or treating and dressing up in spooky masks all have their roots in the Celtic traditions.

#### Activities

1. Go through the story of Halloween with the children. Construct some simple sentences with the children that reflect what you have covered as a group.

2. Ask the children to imagine themselves at a Celtic Halloween. Distribute post-its so that the children can note down one word that describes how they would be

feeling during the festival. After five minutes go round the class asking each child to stick their post-it on the board and to briefly explain why they have chosen their word. Any spelling mistakes can be noted down to be added to the week's spelling list or, for older children, encourage them to use dictionaries to avoid errors. These activities will enhance the children's knowledge of a specific period in the past, help them to understand how it influences traditions today and enable them to communicate what they have observed and learned in a variety of ways.