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Restroom Reader
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HALLOWEEN FUN FACTS

The owl is a popular Halloween image. In Medieval Europe, owls were thought to be witches, and to hear an owl's call meant someone was about to die.



The first Jack O'Lanterns were actually made from turnips.



The word "witch" comes from the Old English *wicce*, meaning "wise woman." In fact, *wiccans* were highly respected people at one time. According to popular belief, witches held one of their two main meetings, or sabbats, on Halloween night.



Halloween is the second highest grossing commercial holiday after Christmas.

Fifty percent of kids prefer to receive chocolate candy for Halloween, compared with 24% who prefer non-chocolate candy and 10% who preferred gum.



Because the movie *Halloween* (1978) was on such a tight budget, they had to use the cheapest mask they could find for the character Michael Myers, which turned out to be a William Shatner *Star Trek* mask. Shatner initially didn't know the mask was in his likeness, but when he found out years later, he said he was honored.



Trick-or-treating evolved from the ancient Celtic tradition of putting out treats and food to placate spirits who roamed the streets at Samhain, a sacred festival that marked the end of the Celtic calendar year.



Ireland is typically believed to be the birthplace of Halloween.

According to tradition, if a person wears his or her clothes inside out and then walks backwards on Halloween, he or she will see a witch at midnight.



Scottish girls believed they could see images of their future husband if they hung wet sheets in front of the fire on Halloween. Other girls believed they would see their boyfriend's faces if they looked into mirrors while walking downstairs at midnight on Halloween.



In 1974, eight-year-old Timothy O'Bryan died of cyanide poisoning after eating Halloween candy. Investigators later learned that his father had taken out a \$20,000 life insurance policy on each of his children and that he had poisoned his own son and also attempted to poison his daughter.



Children are more than twice as likely to be killed in a pedestrian/car accident on Halloween than on any other night.

Facts obtained from
<http://facts.randomhistory.com/halloween-facts.html>