

The History of Halloween

Put the paragraphs in the correct order:

() When European immigrants, millions of Irish fleeing the potato famine came to America, they brought their varied Halloween customs with them, including "bobbing" for apples and playing tricks on neighbors. Back in the 30s, the practice was exaggerated and it became an act of vandalism. They would say: Give us candy or we will trash your house!". This period was over and by the late 30s "trick-or-treat" became the Holiday's greeting.

() The influence of Christianity spread into Celtic lands and in the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 All Saints' Day, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alholowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

() Today Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones. Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season, and festive costumes. Americans spend an estimated \$6.9 billion annually on Halloween, making it the country's second largest commercial holiday.

() Halloween's origins date back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain (pronounced sow-in).

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes.

(Source: History.com)

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Answer:

3

2

4

1