



## **THE HALLOWEEN**

Halloween, called Halloween in Brazil, is a traditional party celebrated annually, in the United States, on October 31.

### **Origin of Halloween**

The origin of the Halloween party has a great trajectory, since it has been practiced for over 3 thousand years. It emerged with the Celts, people who were polytheists and believed in several gods related to animals and the forces of nature.

The Celts celebrated the Samhain festival, which lasted for 3 days, starting on October 31st. In it, in addition to celebrating the end of summer, the celebration of the Celtic year, which began on November 1, was also celebrated.

### **Halloween Scenery**

It was believed that on that day the dead rose and took possession of the bodies of the living. For this reason, costumes were used and the party was filled with dark artifacts with the main purpose of defending themselves against these evil spirits. Later, during the Middle Ages, the Church began to condemn the event, and hence the name "Halloween". During the Medieval period, healers were considered to be wizards and for taking a stand against the Church's dogmas, they were burned at the stake.

Thus, in an attempt to remove the pagan character from the feast, the church made changes to the calendar, so that All Saints' Day began to be celebrated on November 1, which previously happened on May 13.

The name Halloween came from the combination of the words hallow, which means "saint", and eve, which means "eve". With the colonization of American lands, tradition was included in that country's culture. In addition to the United States, the party was broadcast by several countries in the world, and also had a significant celebration in Canada and the United Kingdom.

### **History of Halloween in the United States**

In the United States, the Halloween tradition is very strong. It was brought by Irish immigrants in the 19th century. Since then, the party has been the biggest hit. Children wear costumes and knock on the doors of the houses saying the traditional phrase: "trick or treat?" (Trick or treat, in English). The game consists of asking for sweets, threatening to commit a prank on anyone who denies the treats. The children's request for sweets is related to the ancient Celtic tradition. As a way of appeasing evil spirits, people offered them food. Celtic women made a cake called a "soul cake". The houses and streets are decorated with dark themes (witches, skulls, mummies, vampires, ghosts, colors black, purple and orange etc.). One of the most emblematic marks of the party is the large pumpkins with faces and candles inside. The pumpkin candle tradition comes from Irish folklore and is related to the figure of "Jack of the lantern". However, in the original story the pumpkin was a turnip. Jack was a drinker who, by deceiving the devil, managed to escape from hell. When Jack died, he was not accepted into heaven, so his soul wandered through the nights using a flashlight to light the way. The lantern was made with a turnip.

Currently, the celebration has great commercial value. In addition to the United States, the party was broadcast by several countries in the world, having a strong tradition in Canada and the United Kingdom.

### **History of Halloween in Brazil**

Although Halloween is not a tradition in Brazil, there are currently many themed parties that take place on October 31st. This was due to American influence, it is a recent celebration in the country. One of the greatest drivers of this culture was the language courses in the country. In many language schools, students celebrate the date related to English and American culture. Saci Day was introduced in the country in 2003 through Federal Bill No. 2,762. The idea was to celebrate something that belonged to national folklore and, therefore, is celebrated on the same day of Halloween: October 31st.