

## Halloween

**Grade Level:** 7-12

**Subject/Content:** Social Studies/Geography/World History/Culture Studies

**Summary of Lesson:** Students will use Gale resources to examine the history of Halloween and statistics about modern day celebrations of Halloween.

**Focus Question:** Where did Halloween originate and how do people celebrate it today

**Database(s):** *Student Resources In Context*

### Procedures by Teacher:

1. Arrange for student access to the Gale resources
2. The teacher may want to link the article below for student use.
  - a. "Halloween and Festivals of the Dead." *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays*. Ed. Robert H. Griffin and Ann H. Shurgin. Vol. 2. Detroit: UXL, 2000. 195-209. *Student Resources in Context*. Copy worksheet for each student

### Halloween – History and Interesting Tidbits

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your idea of Halloween? In the space below, jot down your own thoughts on the meaning behind the celebration and how your own family takes part in it.
2. Using *Student Resources In Context* search for HALLOWEEN AND FESTIVALS OF THE DEAD. Read the article from *Junior Worldmark Encyclopedia of World Holidays*.
3. After reading the article, describe how four other cultures have celebrated Halloween and the meaning behind the holiday.
4. According to this article, how did the tradition of carving pumpkins begin in the United States?
5. Search for HALLOWEEN and read at least two more articles on the topics.
6. Using your own knowledge and what you have read, explain how the celebration of Halloween has changed over the years. Speculate on why

these changes have occurred and how modern celebrations mirror modern society.

**Steps/Activities by Student(s):**

Use the databases to find answers to the Halloween Worksheet.

**Outcome:** Students will have an understanding of how Halloween began and how it has changed over time.

**Related Activities:** Students may survey their own neighborhood, collect data and compare to the database statistics.