

Conjure Up a Spooky Party



Halloween trick-or-treating is lots of fun, but this kid-friendly holiday is also a great time to host a party! Talk to your family about how many guests to invite. With your parents' help, you will want to plan the:

- ✓ guest list
- ✓ invitations
- ✓ decorations
- ✓ games to play
- ✓ food

Your invitations can be made by hand or on a computer. For a fun twist, you might dress in a costume and hand-deliver them!

Haunt your own house!

- As your guests come in, tell them that you are taking them one by one on an eerie adventure.
- Big boxes taped together make an ideal witches' maze to wander through.
 - Music playing too slow or too fast creates a scary mood.
 - Make up a group ghost story. Sit in a circle. Everyone adds a sentence to the story as you go around the circle.



What's that?!

- Blindfold your guests and guide them as they walk around a table and describe what icky things they are feeling.

- You might use:
- (clean) chicken bones = witches' fingers
 - dried apricots = dried-up tongues
 - cooked spaghetti = brains
 - pantyhose = hanging vines
 - peeled grapes = eyeballs



Fun activities

- "Bob" for apples. String a clothesline across a corner of the room and hang apples with string. Each person takes bites of their apple without using their hands. The first one done is the winner.
- Decorate pumpkins. Ask each guest to decorate a small pumpkin using cut paper and markers. Give awards like "scariest" or "fanciest."
- Play musical chairs. Use spooky music!
- Play pass the orange. Get in a line or circle. Try passing an orange from person to person without touching it with your hands.
- Do a mummy wrap race. Divide into teams. Each team wraps one member with toilet paper like a mummy. The first team to complete their mummy wins.
- Do your best monster moves with a freeze dance. When the music stops, strike your best monster pose. Anyone who's still moving is out.



Trick-or-treat Safety Quiz

Unscramble these things that you'll need to have a safe and fun Halloween. And don't forget to say "thank you" for each treat!

1. Using **aumpke** on your face is best. A mask can block your view of traffic and other kids.
2. Your **ustmoec** should be made of a light color or trimmed with tape that shines in the dark.
3. Your family should look over your **estart** before you dig in.
4. Carry a **lhaltfgsih** if you'll be out after dark.
5. Your **essoh** should be comfortable and easy to walk in.

Your answers

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Don't forget

- Stay in neighborhoods you know.
- Go trick-or-treating with a group.
- Cross the street only at an intersection. Don't run between parked cars.
- Don't go into strangers' homes, even if you're invited in.

Answers: 1. makeup; 2. costume; 3. treats; 4. flashlight; 5. shoes

Resources



On the Web:

- bit.ly/4fVPWno

At the library:

- "Plinky Witch and the Happy Haunted House" by Liz Cooper

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Halloween parties are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



DANCE, DECORATION, FOOD, FUN, GAMES, GUEST, HALLOWEEN, HAUNT, INVITATION, MONSTER, MUMMY, MUSIC, PARTY, PUMPKIN, SAFETY, SCARY, STORY, TREAT, TRICK.

N D I A E C N A D Y D H Y P R
B E G N F U N V R Q A T R F B
Y C U B V Z C A N L R E T O T
I O E H S I C Y L A T A A O P
S R S T S S T O P S R M E D U
G A T U W E W A N M I U R Z M
A T M W F E T O T X C M T O P
M I B A E B M N M I K M R W K
E O S N H A U N T P O Y V L I
S N D R Y R O T S O P N G I N

Cook's Corner

Parmesan Potatoes

You'll need:

- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper (optional)
- 4 cups russet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- cooking spray



What to do:

1. Combine Parmesan cheese, flour and spices in a large plastic bag. Add cubed potatoes and shake to coat.
2. Spread olive oil in the bottom of a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.
3. Add potatoes and toss to coat with olive oil. Spray potatoes lightly with cooking spray.
4. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 1 hour. Flip potatoes every 20 minutes. Serves 6.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. house made of logs (5) _____
2. it's surrounded by water (6) _____
3. singer Camila (7) _____
4. storm with high winds (9) _____
5. not filled in (5) _____
6. line between two countries (6) _____
7. property-buying board game (8) _____

HUR	OP	ISL	MON
ANK	ELLO	RIC	BOR
AND	OLY	CA	BL
ANE	CAB	DER	BIN

Answers: cabin; island; Cabelleo, hurricane, blank, border, Monopoly.



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Mini Jokes



Hannah: How should a ghost's eggs be cooked?
Hal: Terrified!

Eco Note



A meteorite that crashed through the roof of a Georgia home on June 26 is estimated to be 4.56 billion years old, making it older than Earth. Researchers at the University of Georgia confirmed the age of the cherry tomato-sized rock using microscopic analysis of 23 grams of fragments recovered from the site in McDonough. The meteorite, part of a group of asteroids believed to have originated from a breakup event 470 million years ago, rattled homes and was widely visible as it fell.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

For later:

Look in your newspaper for party ideas for a Halloween get-together.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



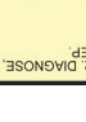
KidSpot

By Dan Thompson

10-18

Can you fill in the missing body-part words to make new words below?
For example, the word **arm** can be found in the word **charm**. Use the picture clues to help you complete the words.

Clues:



1. B _____ rd

2. Diag _____

3. _____ bag

4. _____ brow

5. Ec _____ e

6. _____ step

ANS: 1. BEARD, 2. DIAGNOSE, 3. HANDBAG, 4. EYEBROW, 5. ECLIPSE, 6. FOOTSTEP.