

Kids Holiday Crafts Magazine

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Ghoulish Halloween Fun

Halloween poems
and stories

'Dead'ly jokes

Trick or treat
safety tips

Spooktacular
craft ideas

Coloring pages

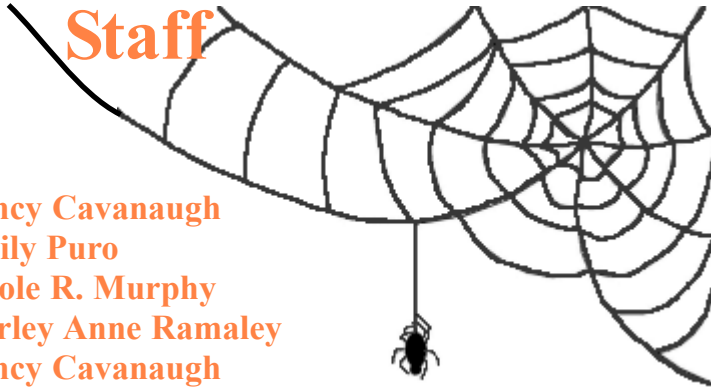
Quick and easy
costumes

Pumpkin picking
and carving tips

And much more!



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How to Pick the Perfect Pumpkin and Carve It

Choose a pumpkin that's not damaged and is evenly firm. Check it all over for nicks, cuts, pits or soft spots that can lead to rotting and discoloration.

Make sure the stem is attached. Infections can invade easily and cause rot. Many rot organisms love sugar, and pumpkins are full of it.

Store it carefully, especially if you pick it from the vine yourself. Cure a fresh-picked pumpkin by keeping it in a dry place. Don't handle or disturb it. Curing toughens the rind, making it less prone to rot.

Use a sharp, clean knife to cut open the pumpkin. Then clean out the pulp and rinse the cavity. Use a paring knife to carve the jack-o'-lantern features.

If you plan to preserve your pumpkin, decorate it with non-toxic paints, markers or stickers. The cut flesh will dry out quickly and can

rot more easily, making it unfit for canning or freezing.

Don't waste the flesh.

Pumpkin is rich in vitamin A and potassium. One-half cup of cooked pumpkin provides more than the recommended daily allowance of vitamin A. And one cup of cooked pumpkin contains only 81 calories. It's low in fat and sodium, too.



From the University of Georgia
Cooperative Extension Service
www.ces.uga.edu

Halloween Baby

By Michele Tennant

When Mom had the baby,
I got magical powers.
I've been invisible for hours and hours.

So I practice my magic,
Cause when I'm a wizard
I'll turn my sister into a lizard.

But wait, Grandma sees me,
As I dance and I twitch,
And Gram dances with me. She must be a witch.

Then together we dance,
To keep sister away.
"You know," Grandma whispers. "You'll love her someday."

So I won't transform her,
At least not just yet.
Who knows, maybe later, she'll make a nice pet.

Jokes for the Dead

Q. What do you call a zombie laying in the middle of the road?

A. A speed bump.

Q: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: He didn't have the guts.

Q. What was the witch's favorite class?

A. Spelling.

Q. What do the birds sing on Halloween?

A. Twick or Tweak.

Q. Why do cemeteries have fences around them?

A. Because people are dying to get in.



Fall Window Decorations

By Melissa Markham

What you need:

Clear contact paper Scotch tape
Autumn leaves Pen
Scissors



What to do:

1. Collect leaves. Choose a variety of bright colors. Maple and oak leaves, which are crisp in texture, retain their color longer than poplar or sassafras leaves.

2. Cut two same-sized pieces of contact paper (can be any shape and size, but 8 1/2"x11" is recommended). Peel the paper backing off of one piece of contact paper and lay it on a flat surface with the sticky side up. Do this step for each child.

3. Let the children place their leaves on the contact paper in whatever way they choose. When they are done, peel the backing off the second piece of contact paper and lay it over the leaves, sticky side down. They can use their hands or a book to iron out any bubbles in the contact paper.

4. Use a pen to draw a line around the outer shapes of the leaves, leaving about 1/4" of contact paper around the outside of the leaves. Let the children cut off the excess paper by following the line you (or they) have drawn.

5. Tape the decorations in the window so that the sun can shine through. The leaf color will remain pretty up to two weeks.

More to Do:

Use either The National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees: Eastern Region or Trees: Trees Identified by Leaf, Bark and Seed (Fandex Family Field Guides) to identify the leaves you have picked and to learn more about them.

Jack-O-Lantern

(sung to London Bridge)

Jack-o-lantern smiling bright,
Smiling bright, smiling bright
Witches flying in the night,
It is Halloween!

Ghosts and goblins, cats and bats,
Cats and bats, cats and bats.
Witches with their funny hats,
It is Halloween!

Spooky Fun 'Facts'

Ghosts don't have shadows and leave no footprints.

Wearing garlic around your neck will keep vampires away!

If you throw a key at a ghost, the ghost will disappear.

If a candle flame turns blue, it means a ghost is in the house.

Some people believe that cat bones make you invisible.

Trick or Treat Puzzle

By Suzanne Miles

Can you find these words relating to Halloween?

PUMPKIN CAT GHOST
COSTUME WITCH CANDY

A C H T W C S
N A N S I E P
P T S I T M U
C O S T C U M
H I T P H T P
G H O S T S K
C A N D Y O I
C A S T Y C N

Leaf Song

By Keely James

At the end of the day before the sun goes down,
we go and listen to the leaves.

Just Luka and me.

The wind pushes against us, ruffling our hair.
Wind chimes swing wildly.

We walk faster past garages,
windows and doorways.

Leaves rattle sideways tripping
over our toes. A robin clings to the
top of a swaying branch.

We stop under a tree. This is the
perfect spot.

I whisper to Luka, "If you are
patient and very, very still, so still
you are hardly breathing, you can
hear the leaves sing."

We wait and we listen, trying hard not to
breathe.

In-between the bird song and gentle insect
scuttles, the leaves take up a rustle and pass it
on. One by one, cluster by cluster, branch by
branch, until a soft song ripples through the
tree.

The wind swirls whisking leaves to whirling
delight. Leaf song echoes the galloping wind,
soaring into the sky. Rising, roaring a crescen-

do of harmony. Fading to a murmur, a gasp.
Silence.

A few weary leaves twist, sigh, and spin to
the ground. Luka and I catch them as they fall,
russet, golden and crunchy.

Swirly, Whirly, Twirly.

We chase them. This way, that
way. We fall over each other,
laughing. Then throw the
leaves- Up! Up! Up! Until we
are covered in autumn.

A scruffy cat slinks from
under a bridge, stops, stares,
then mooches on by.

The light is fading. Time to
go.

We jiggle as we walk. Back past the dented
garage door. Past the soggy tennis ball aban-
doned on a sunnier day. Up the steps, through
the leaves, to our front door.

Luka and I stop to watch the sun go down.
The wind has died. A faint aroma of wood
smoke hangs in the air.

I squeeze Luka's hand. He squeezes back.

Tomorrow we will listen to the leaves again.

Just Luka and me.



Quick and Easy Costumes Ideas

Everyone loves getting dressed up for Halloween, either for trick or treating or for costume parties. Here are a few quick, easy and cheap costumes you can make at home.

American Tourist: For the guys, loud Hawaiian shirts and Bermuda shorts with socks that go to your knees. For the girls throw on a bright loud dress, flats, big sun hat, straw bag. Don't forget to have a camera, sunglasses and maps hanging out.

Mummy: Wrap yourself in white bandages

(rolls of gauze) Use splotches of green paint for "mold". Use white make-up on face with "age lines" drawn on. The stiff-legged gait works perfectly.

Butterfly: Put on black sweats and black shoes. Use a piece of poster board and paint then cut them out in an appropriate wing shape. Punch two holes toward the edges of the wings. Put black ribbon through them and tie around waist. Attach pipe cleaners and pompoms to a plastic head band.

Leaf Rubbings

By Melissa Markham

What you need:

Brown construction
(black or gray will
also work)
Scotch tape

Scissors
Crayons
White paper
Leaves

What to do:

1. Collect enough leaves for everyone to have two or three. Look for leaves with smooth edges (like oak, poplar, sassafras, dogwood, birch) since the children will be cutting out these shapes later.

2. Tape leaves, top side down, on a sheet of white paper. This helps to hold them in place.

3. Turn the paper over, so that the leaves are now underneath. Let the children pick out the



crayon colors they would like their leaves to be.

Show them how to rub over the leaf with the crayon. If the crayon paper is gone, they can just lay the crayon flat on the paper and color back and forth over the leaf. If the paper is still on, they can use the tip of the crayon by laying it flat against the paper and moving the crayon back and forth. Make sure they rub hard enough so that the outer edges of the leaves are plainly visible.

4. Carefully peel leaves from the paper so that the paper doesn't tear. Discard the leaves. You can stop at this point, and they can take their leaf rubbings home to mom and dad.

5. Optional: Let the children cut out the leaf rubbings by following the outlines of the leaves.

Fun and Creative Stroller Costumes

Dress up your toddler's stroller so he can trick-or-treat with the big kids. Make any kind of vehicle... a fire truck, a police car, a train. The possibilities are endless!

What you need:

Large cardboard box
Matte knife
Red spray paint
Yellow and white poster board
Tacky glue
Broad tip marker
Firefighter's hat

What to do:

1. Cut the top flaps off a large cardboard box. Cut a large opening in the bottom (which is now the top) to fit over the top of the stroller.

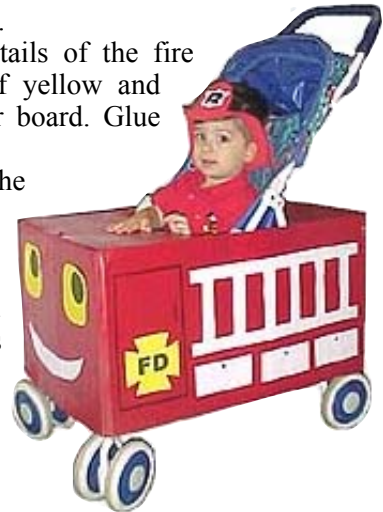
Turn upside down.

2. Spray paint all five sides of the box. Let dry.

3. Cut details of the fire truck out of yellow and white poster board. Glue to box.

4. Slide the box down over the stroller.

5. Make a Firefighter's Hat to finish the costume.



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Tips for Safe Trick or Treating

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Many communities officially designate a "Beggars' Night" and assign specific hours for trick-or-treat activities.

Motorists

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween.

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

Parents

Before children start out on their "trick or treat" rounds, parents should:

- Make sure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow. Know the names of older children's companions.
- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses or apartment buildings that are well-lit and never to enter a stranger's home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety

rules.

- Pin a slip of paper with the child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.

Costume Design

- Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- Costumes should be loose so warm clothes can be worn underneath.
- Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.)
- If children are allowed out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of retro reflective tape should be used to make children visible.

Face Design

- Masks can obstruct a child's vision. Use facial make-up instead.
- When buying special Halloween makeup, check for packages containing ingredients that are labeled "Made with U.S. Approved Color Additives," "Laboratory Tested," "Meets Federal Standards for Cosmetics," or "Non-Toxic." Follow manufacturer's instruction for



application.

- If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

Accessories

• Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.

• Bags or sacks carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with retro-reflective tape if children are allowed out after dark.

• Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

On the way

Children should understand and follow these rules:

- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.

• Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.

- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

Treats

To ensure safe trick-or-treat, parents are urged to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

From the National Safety Council
(www.nsc.org)

Trick or Treat Bucket

Our little buckets are great for trick or treating especially with glow in the dark tape added.

What you need:

- Halloween Woodsies or Halloween Foamies
- Plastic bucket
- 5mm wiggle eyes
- Glow-in-the-Dark tape
- Satin cord
- White, black and orange paint (optional)
- Yellow and orange pony beads
- Alphabet beads - colored
- Scissors
- Kid's Choice glue, low temp glue gun, or tacky glue

What to do:

1. Paint Halloween woodsies or foamies. Let dry.
2. Glue on wiggle eyes.

3. Run glow-in-the-dark tape all around the bucket at the top and the bottom.

4. Glue woodsies to bucket.

5. Cut two 12" lengths of black satin cord. Tie one on each side of the handle. String alphabet beads on one cord, spelling out the trick-or-treaters name. Tie end. String pony beads on the other three cords. Tie off.



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Pumpkin Antenna Buddy

By Nancy Cavanaugh

What you need :

2" styrofoam ball
Orange acrylic paint
Paint brush
Paint markers - yellow, black and green
Pencil
Jar
Pen

What to do:

1. Stick a pen inside the styrofoam ball. This will help you hold onto the ball while you are

painting it and will leave a hole so that it can be put on the car antenna.

2. Paint the ball with orange paint. Let dry.

3. Use the pencil to sketch the design on the ball then use the black paint marker to draw the outlines on the ball. Let dry.

4. Use the yellow paint marker to color in the drawn areas on the ball. Let dry.

5. Use the green paint marker to draw leaves and vines on the top. Let dry completely.

6. Remove the pen and place the pumpkin on the car antenna.

The Ghost Who Wasn't Scary

By Suzanne Miles

"BOO," Pretzel the ghost said as he stood in his kitchen.

"What are you doing?" his brother asked.

"Practicing my 'BOO!' for Halloween," Pretzel answered.

"That sounds dumb. It won't scary anyone," his brother laughed.

Pretzel went outside.

"I have to scare people, it's Halloween," he said sadly.

A witch walked down the street. Her cat Chloe trotted after her.

"Will you help me?" he asked. "I can't scare anyone."

"I'll try," answered Susie. "Try to scare me."

"BOO," Pretzel said.

Susie giggled, "I see what you mean. Try saying it like this. BOO!"

"BOO!" said Pretzel.

"Better, but it's still not scary," she said. "Maybe you should hold it longer."

"BOOO! It's no use," Pretzel said. "I'll never scare anyone. Everyone can say it better than me."

He decided to give it another try. He let out a long, 'BOOO!', added a moan and flew into the air with a whoosh.

Chloe meowed and raced away. Susie's mouth hung open in her surprise.

This time Pretzel giggled. He was proud of himself. While trick or treating that night Pretzel scared everyone.





Print me out and color me!



Print me out and color me!



Print me out and color me!

Meet the Writers

Melissa Markham is a stay home mom, homeschooler, and writer. She lives in Virginia with her husband, 17 year old step son, 6 year old son, and 3 year old daughter.

She has been published in Weeonesmagazine.com, Focus on the Family Clubhouse, Lighthouse Magazine, Story Art, Boys Quest, The Writer, The Willamette Writer, FellowScript, and The Working Writer. She is currently working on several fiction and nonfiction picture book manuscripts.

Michele Tennant is a long time Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators member with a poem published in the August issue of *Boy's Quest* another under contract with *Ladybug Magazine* and a fictional legend in *October's Cricket Magazine*.

Additional samples of her writing and artwork can be found at www.micheletennant.com.

Keely James is a writer, editorial assistant, and education professional with over ten years

teaching experience.

Originally from the UK, she now live in California, where she works from home, writing and playing with her three year old.

Suzanne Miles has a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education with a concentration in art.

She has taken children's writing courses with Barbara Seuling and is currently enrolled in the writing course at The Institute of Children's Literature.

She is a member of The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

Nancy Cavanaugh is a stay at home mum, writer, crafter and website designer. She lives in northern New Jersey with her 7 year old daughter, boyfriend, Owen, and their pets - a kitten, frog and snail.

When she isn't taking care of the house and family, she has four websites that she maintains and is the editor for the Crafty Family section at Busy Parents Online (www.busyparentsonline.com).

Pumpkin Trivia and Fun Facts

• In 1584, after the French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons". The name was translated to English as "pompions", which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin".

• Pumpkins are fruits. A pumpkin is a type of squash.

• Dave Stelts of Leetonia, Ohio, in 2000, got the record for largest pumpkin at a whopping 1,140 pounds.

• 99% of pumpkins are sold for decorations.

• Howard Dill of Ontario, Canada, is known as the Pumpkin King.

• Championship pumpkins today are over 800 pounds. These pumpkins grow 10 to 15 pounds per day!

• Pumpkin halves were used as guides for haircuts in colonial New Haven, Connecticut, giving rise to the nickname 'pumpkinhead.'

• The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.

• In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

• Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.

• Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.

• Pumpkin flowers are edible.

• Native Americans used pumpkin seeds for food and medicine.

