

XCentric Ideas



Trick or Treat

Recipes from the Internet
All photos my own

This photo, Carla, my youngest sister, dressed up for Halloween

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History of Halloween

*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.

*During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each other's fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

*By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. 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 Alhallowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead.

*It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils.

*Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.





Trick or Treat

The American tradition of "trick-or-treating" probably dates back to the early All Souls' Day parades in England. During the festivities, poor citizens would beg for food and families would give them pastries called "soul cakes" in return for their promise to pray for the family's dead relatives.

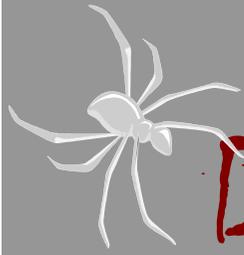
The distribution of soul cakes was encouraged by the church as a way to replace the ancient practice of leaving food and wine for roaming spirits. The practice, which was referred to as "going a-souling" was eventually taken up by children who would visit the houses in their neighborhood and be given ale, food, and money.

The tradition of dressing in costume for Halloween has both European and Celtic roots. Hundreds of years ago, winter was an uncertain and frightening time. Food supplies often ran low and, for the many people afraid of the dark, the short days of winter were full of constant worry. On Halloween, when it was believed that ghosts came back to the earthly world, people thought that they would encounter ghosts if they left their homes. To avoid being recognized by these ghosts, people would wear masks when they left their homes after dark so that the ghosts would mistake them for fellow spirits. On Halloween, to keep ghosts away from their houses, people would place bowls of food outside their homes to appease the ghosts and prevent them from attempting to enter.



Dead Man's fingers





Dead Man's Finger Sandwiches

These ghoulish sandwiches look terrific!

Thin sliced white bread, crusts removed

Soft margarine

Cream cheese or peanut butter

Almonds (sliced or whole ones)

Strawberry jam or tomato ketchup (optional)



Gently flatten the slices of bread with a rolling pin to make them more pliable. Spread with a little margarine and either some cream cheese or peanut butter. Roll up the sandwiches and make three indentations with a blunt knife to form the finger joints.

Stick an almond on to each tip with a little cream cheese or peanut butter to form the nails and add some tomato ketchup or strawberry jam for the blood!

Tombstone Sandwiches



Tombstone sandwiches

Hot dog rolls
Chicken mayo / Tuna mayo filling
Tomato Sauce
Toothpick
Lettuce leaves

Take hot dog rolls, fill with chicken mayo/egg mayo.

Halve each roll. Dip the rounded side of the roll into crushed nuts/crushed crisps for a 'pebble' look. Dip a toothpick in tomato sauce and write RIP on each halved roll.

Arrange leaves on tray. Place the halved rolls upright.



Bats' Wings





Bat's Wings

Chicken wings

Barbeque/bake/fry chicken wings with herbs or a marinade.

Serve them as Bat's Wings.



Eyeball Shooter Jellies



Eyeball Shooter Jellies

1 pkg lime jello powder
Canned or fresh lychees
Glacé cherries, halved
Small raisins

Stuff a halved cherry (with cut side up) into the lychee without breaking it.
Put a raisin inside the red part of 'eyeball'.
Prepare lime green jello according to directions.

To suspend 'eyeball' in jello, pour jello half way up in a square shot glass, large enough to hold the lychee with room around the edge and let set.
Place the 'eyeball' on the set jello and pour remaining jello into shot glass.

Cover and let set.

Worm Dirt Dessert



Worm dirt dessert



450 ml cold milk

1 package instant chocolate pudding

1 - 1/2 cups crushed chocolate sandwich cookies (Oreos, Romany Creams)

20 jelly worms

Whisk together milk and instant pudding for two minutes, until pudding is completely dissolved pour into serving glasses. Refrigerate.

When set, crush the chocolate cookies on top.

Top with jelly worms.

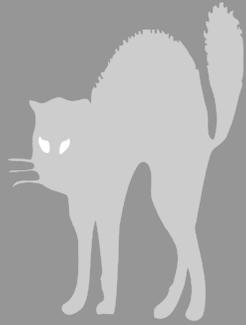
Chill until ready to serve.

(or if you're lazy or can't find the pudding, use chocolate mousse instead. Just spoon into glasses, crush cookies on top and decorate with worms.)

Worm Ice cubes



Worm Ice Cubes



Ice cube holders

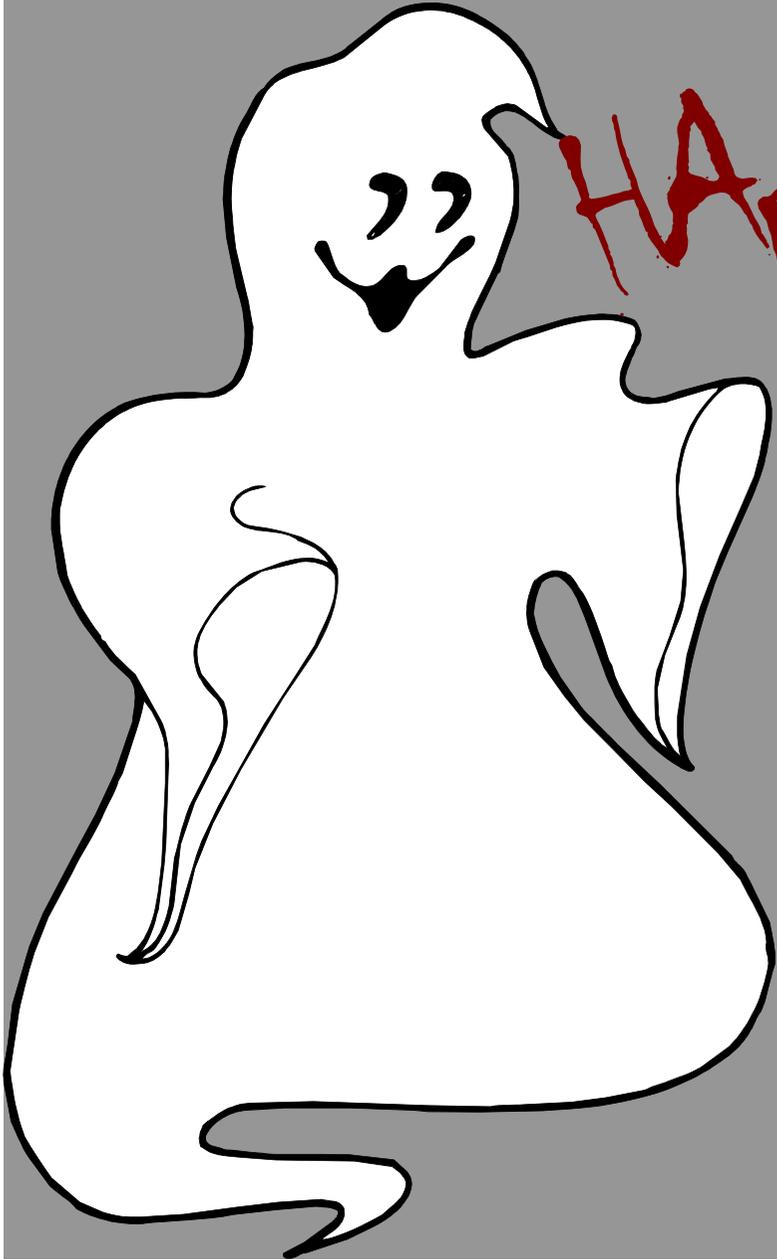
Sour worms / Jelly worms

Juice

Pour the juice into the ice cube holders. Add the worms.

When frozen, add the cubes to your drink.





HAPPY
HALLOWEEN

