

1 Who was Stingy Jack? What did he carry? Read to find out.

Halloween

The Legend of Stingy Jack

Long ago in Ireland, people used to tell the story of Stingy Jack. He was an unkind and nasty man whose ghost wandered the country during Samhain*, a festival that took place on 31st October every year. Stingy Jack carried a turnip with a light inside to see his way in the dark. To keep Stingy Jack away, the Irish carved their own turnip lanterns and put them outside their houses at Samhain. They called these turnip lanterns Jack o' Lanterns.

In the 1800s, many Irish people moved to America. They realised pumpkins were easier to carve than turnips, and so they started making their Jack o' Lanterns out of these. The idea became popular and now people all over the USA carve pumpkins on 31st October. Of course, Samhain isn't celebrated much in America these days, so instead Jack o' Lanterns have become a symbol for Halloween.

Make your own Jack o' Lantern

It's quite easy to make a Jack o' Lantern. All you need is a pumpkin, a knife and spoon, and a marker pen. First, ask an adult to cut the top off your pumpkin with the knife. Make sure they do it carefully because this will be the lid. Next, use your spoon to scrape all the seeds from the inside of the pumpkin. Then, draw your design on your pumpkin with the marker pen. You can draw a happy face, a scary face, a witch – your design can be as simple or as complicated as you like! Ask an adult to cut along the lines you drew with the knife. Push the cut pieces out – you can use them to make soup or pumpkin pie. Then put a candle inside your pumpkin and light it. Put the lid on and your Jack o' Lantern is finished!

*pronounced sow-win



2 Put the steps (a-h) in the correct order (1-8).



- a** Scrape all the seeds from inside the pumpkin with a spoon.
- b** Put a candle inside the pumpkin and light it.
- c** Ask an adult to cut along the lines of your design.
- d** Put the lid on your finished Jack o' Lantern.
- e** Push the pieces out of the pumpkin.
- f** Gather your supplies: a pumpkin, knife, spoon and marker pen.
- g** Ask an adult to cut the top off the pumpkin with a knife.
- h** Draw your design on the pumpkin with a marker pen.



3 Which of the steps can you see in the photos 1-5?

4 Now design your own Jack o' Lantern.