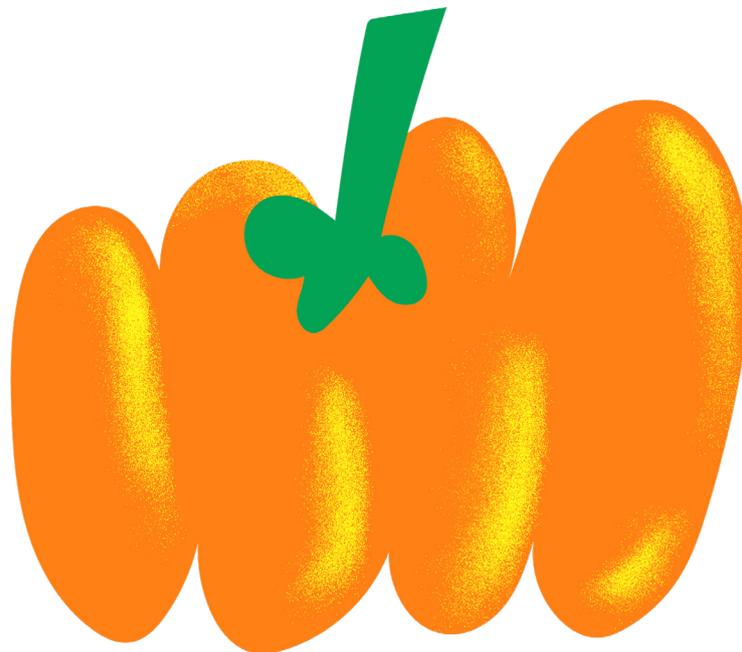


# Ghost Pumpkins

Year 3 – Humanities and Social Sciences



## **(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK065)**

Celebrations and commemorations in places around the world (for example, Chinese New Year in countries of the Asia region, Bastille Day in France, Independence Day in the USA), including those that are observed in Australia (for example, Christmas Day, Diwali, Easter, Hanukkah, the Moon Festival and Ramadan)

## **(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSI061)**

Present ideas, findings and conclusions in texts and models that incorporate digital and non-digital representations and discipline-specific terms

## **(HASS; Yr 3, ACHASSK064)**

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems

# Ghost Pumpkins

**Exploring seasonal festivals that traditionally occur in autumn**

Halloween is often thought of as pure Americana but this lesson shows that the festival's history and cultural significance goes beyond just spooks and candy. This is a great lesson to do around Halloween as a way to highlight how the seasons vary between hemispheres.

**Equipment:**

A computer, tablet or whiteboard to research sources

Art materials

**Duration:**

30-45 minutes

**Location:**

The classroom

**Notes:**

## ? Exploring seasons

- 👁 Watch **The One with the Granita**
- 🎧 Bonus track **Nomcast Episode 3**



- Ask students to tell you what happens during/at Halloween, and what they already know about its origins. Collect students' ideas on what Halloween is about and WHY it is celebrated.
- Discuss: what time of year or **season** was Halloween traditionally celebrated? Some students may say autumn and others may say spring. Explain that both answers make sense because the festival was originally a northern hemisphere autumn festival. But it's been transplanted around the world, and in Australia this means it is in spring.
- Discuss the differences between seasons in the northern and southern hemispheres.
- What vegetables do students associate with autumn festivals? With Halloween? (Try suggesting the colour orange if they need help getting started. Also prompt for autumn vegetables such as pumpkin, squash, corn, beans, dark leafy greens, and autumn fruit.)
- Ask students to consider symbols such as pumpkins and falling leaves. Does it make sense to use these symbols during our spring? What do they think?
- Which other festivals are celebrated during the northern hemisphere spring that we celebrate in our autumn? What might this mean?
- All Hallows Eve is the evening before All Saints Day (November 1st). All of the Saints in the canon are celebrated on this day. In the Christian tradition November 2nd, All Souls Day, is held to honour the souls of people who have died.

The name for Halloween comes from the phrase 'All Hallows' Evening'

("allhallowseen" which becomes "hallow-eeen" if you say it fast enough!)

All Hallows' Eve originated as a Celtic festival and was celebrated across Ireland, Scotland and parts of Britain.

The first day of the Celtic new year was November 1st during Samhain, a festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter. The Celts believed that on their new year's eve the boundaries between the living and the dead weakened, and the spirits of the ancestors could walk in the living world. Samhain was celebrated with huge bonfires and rituals designed to honour the dead and protect the living.

The Romans conquered Britain and added elements of their own autumn festival, Pomona, to existing local traditions.

With the growth of Christianity, November 1st became All Saints' Day, or Hallowmas. The night before, the 'eve' of Hallows, is Hallows' Eve.

Image by Steve Erspamer.



- In Mexico, the Day of the Dead Festival (or 'Día de los Muertos' as it's called in Spanish) is held over two days, from October 31st to November 2nd) to show love and respect for deceased family members. The theme is death but the celebrations are colourful and joyous.
- Discuss other experiences students have had celebrating their ancestors. Many cultures have special ways, places, foods and rituals they use to pay tribute to those who have passed away.
- Discuss why autumn might be the time of year when you acknowledge that humans are a part of the cycle of life. Explore ideas around 'the wheel of the year', when plants die back / become dormant in autumn and shoot into growth again in spring.

## Seasonal celebrations

Watch **The One with the Welcome**



? Discuss what Aunties Dale and Di mean when they talk about six seasons – why might this be? How does Australia’s climate differ from other parts of the world?

- Students research an autumn festival or autumn ritual from any culture of interest, including countries of Asia or local Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander cultures.
- They create a poster/presentation showing the name of the festival, what happens, where it happens and, if relevant, the types of foods found at the festival.

### Some autumn festivals from around the world:

Festival	Region
Day of the Dead / Dia de los Muertos	Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador
Diwali / The Festival of Light	India
Guy Fawkes Night	Britain
Harvest Festival, Harvest Sunday	Many cultures, many different names for these festivals
Moon Festival	China, Vietnam
Takayama Matsuri	Japan
Thanksgiving	North America
Yi Peng / Loi Krathong	Thailand, Laos

### Resources

- ◇ How did Halloween get started? <https://www.bu.edu/today/2013/how-did-halloween-get-started/>
- ◇ What does Hallowmass mean? <http://www.dictionary.com/e/hallowmass-all-saints/>
- ◇ Autumn festivals around the world: <http://www.torontosun.com/2012/09/26/mid-autumn-festivals-around-the-world>
- ◇ Autumn traditions and celebrations from around the world: <http://www.commgap.com/autumn-traditions-and-celebrations-from-around-the-world/>
- ◇ Autumn Celebrations Around the World: <http://all-that-is-interesting.com/autumn-celebrations>
- ◇ Japan’s Wara Art Festival after the harvest: <http://mymodernmet.com/rice-straw-sculptures-japan-wara-art-festival/>
- ◇ About Takayama Matsuri: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takayama\\_Festival](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Takayama_Festival)
- ◇ Information about the Day of the Dead Festival: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/north-america/mexico/top-ten-day-of-dead-mexico/>

