

The Celts and the Origins of Halloween

The Celts were people who lived in ancient Britain and Ireland from about 1000 BC and celebrated a festival called 'Samhain'. Samhain was celebrated on 1 November because it marked the end of summer and harvest time, associated with food and life, and the beginning of winter, which they associated with death. During Samhain, it was believed that ghosts returned to earth for a day. People lit large fires, wore special clothes made of animal skin, and hoped to be safe from ghosts and the winter. This old tradition influenced Halloween as we know it today, with customs like pumpkin lanterns, costumes, trick-or-treating and a lot of parties.

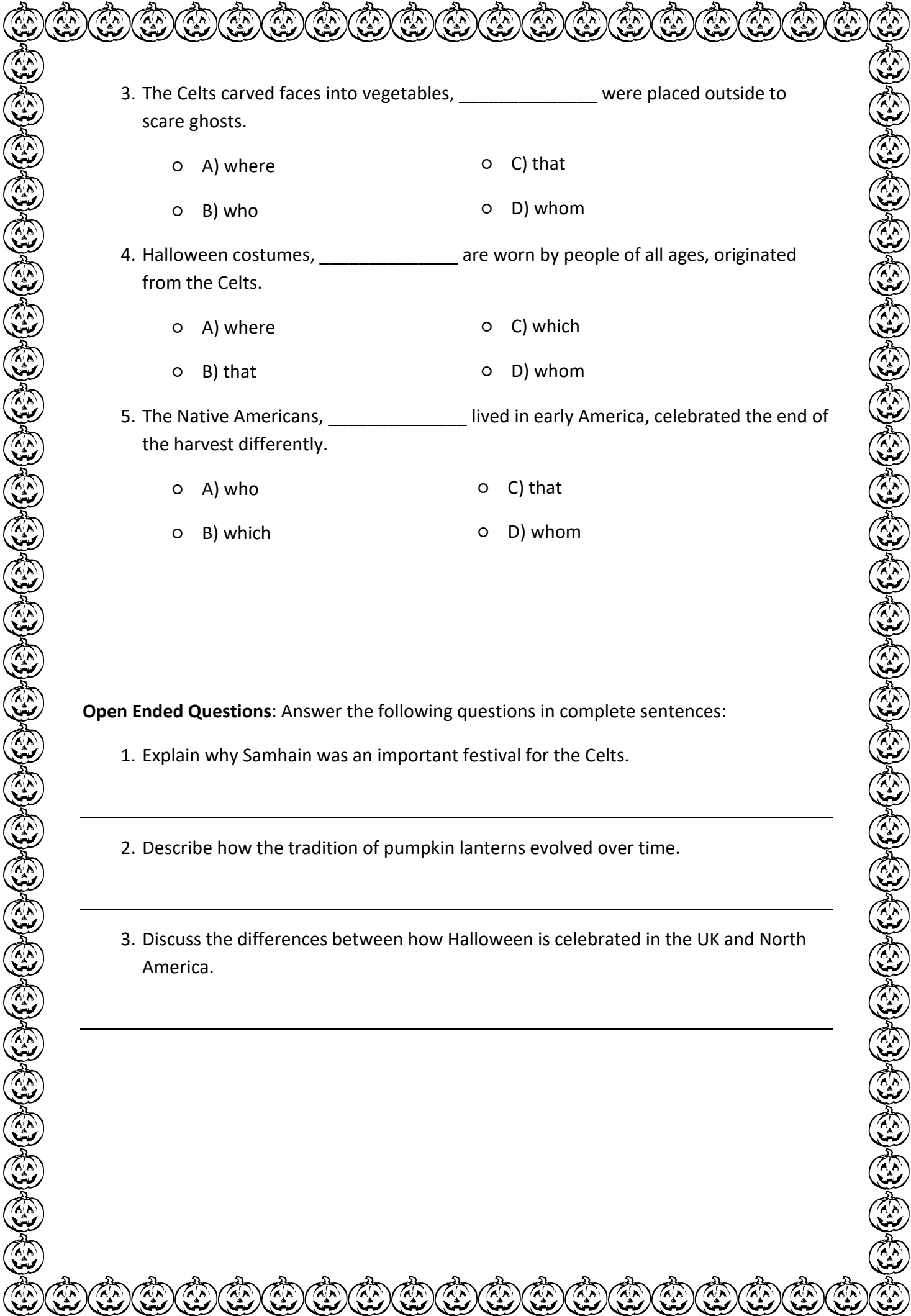
Fill in the Blank: Fill in the blank with the correct words.

1. The Celts, _____ lived in ancient Britain and Ireland, celebrated the ancient tradition of Samhain.
2. Samhain was a festival _____ marked the end of summer.
3. The tradition of carving pumpkin lanterns, _____ originated with the Celts, is very popular today in both America and Great Britain.
4. People, _____ wanted to protect themselves from ghosts, wore scary costumes.
5. Trick-or-treating, _____ became popular in America, started with the Celts.

Word bank: who, which

Multiple Choice Questions: Choose the correct answer from the choices for each question.

1. The festival _____ celebrated the end of summer and the beginning of winter.
 - A) who
 - B) where
 - C) which
 - D) whom
2. People _____ came from Ireland brought Halloween traditions to America.
 - A) that
 - B) which
 - C) whom
 - D) who

A decorative border of pumpkins with carved faces surrounds the entire page.

3. The Celts carved faces into vegetables, _____ were placed outside to scare ghosts.

- A) where
- B) who
- C) that
- D) whom

4. Halloween costumes, _____ are worn by people of all ages, originated from the Celts.

- A) where
- B) that
- C) which
- D) whom

5. The Native Americans, _____ lived in early America, celebrated the end of the harvest differently.

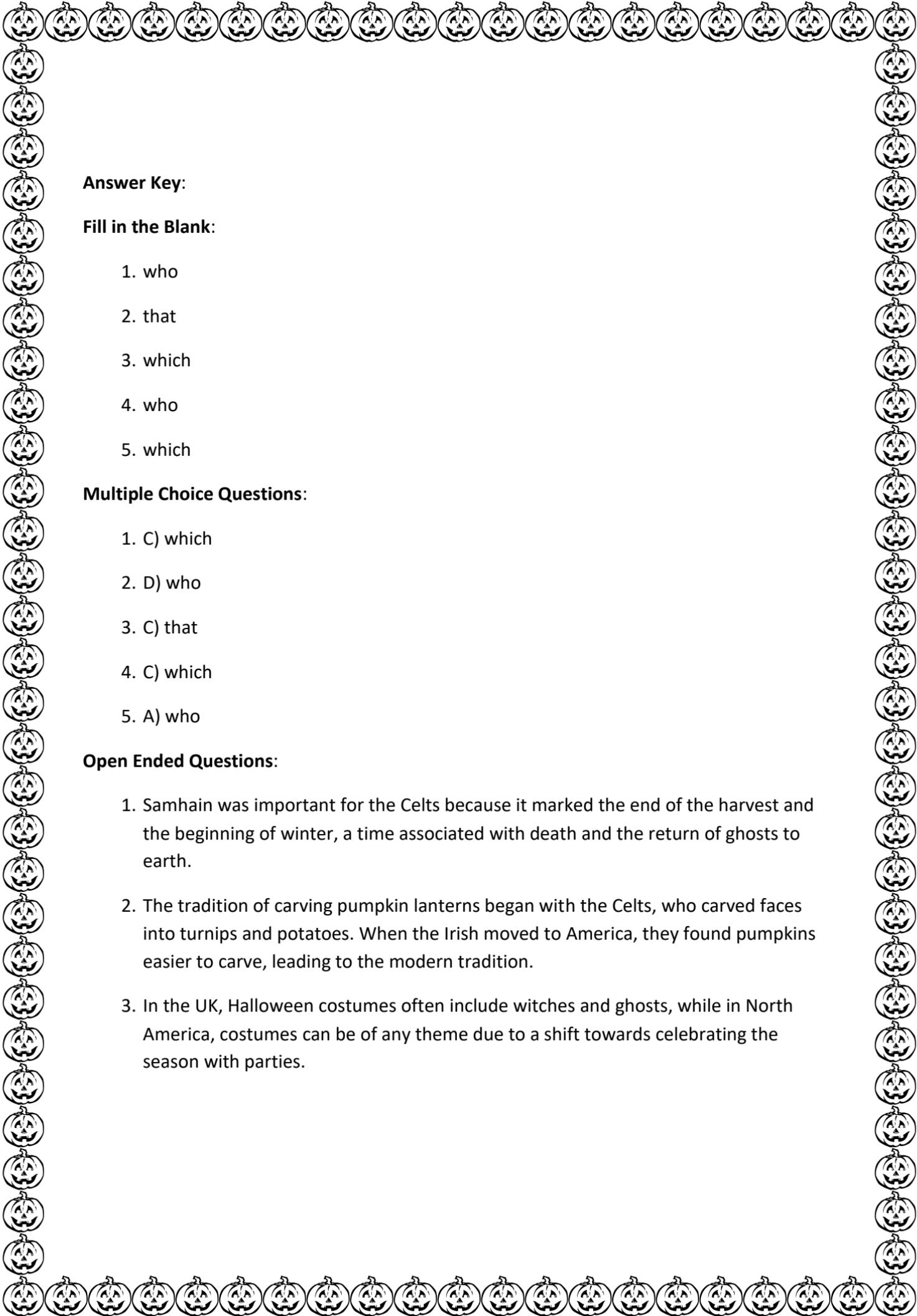
- A) who
- B) which
- C) that
- D) whom

Open Ended Questions: Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Explain why Samhain was an important festival for the Celts.

2. Describe how the tradition of pumpkin lanterns evolved over time.

3. Discuss the differences between how Halloween is celebrated in the UK and North America.

A decorative border of small, identical pumpkin icons with carved faces, arranged in a rectangular frame around the text.

Answer Key:

Fill in the Blank:

1. who
2. that
3. which
4. who
5. which

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. C) which
2. D) who
3. C) that
4. C) which
5. A) who

Open Ended Questions:

1. Samhain was important for the Celts because it marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter, a time associated with death and the return of ghosts to earth.
2. The tradition of carving pumpkin lanterns began with the Celts, who carved faces into turnips and potatoes. When the Irish moved to America, they found pumpkins easier to carve, leading to the modern tradition.
3. In the UK, Halloween costumes often include witches and ghosts, while in North America, costumes can be of any theme due to a shift towards celebrating the season with parties.