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### National Geographic Readers: Halloween

By: Laura Marsh

From visiting the pumpkin patch, to bobbing for apples, to picking out a costume, Halloween is a magical time.

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| lawie of contents        |
|--------------------------|
| Halloween Fun! 4         |
| Trick-or-Treat 8         |
| Costumes                 |
| Pumpkin Picking          |
| Jack-o'-lanterns 14      |
| Painting Pumpkins 16     |
| 6 Halloween Fun Facts 18 |
| A Spooky Home 20         |
| Pet Parade               |
| First Halloweens 24      |
| Halloween Today 26       |
| Day of the Dead 28       |
| What in the World?30     |
| Picture Clossary 32      |



Costumes, candy, trick-or-treating, parties, games, and lots of eating.

Halloween just can't be beat—it's a holiday that's one big treat!



## Trick-or-Treat

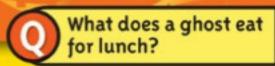
What's the best part about Halloween? Most kids would say trick-or-treating!

Going door-to-door for candy is lots of fun.







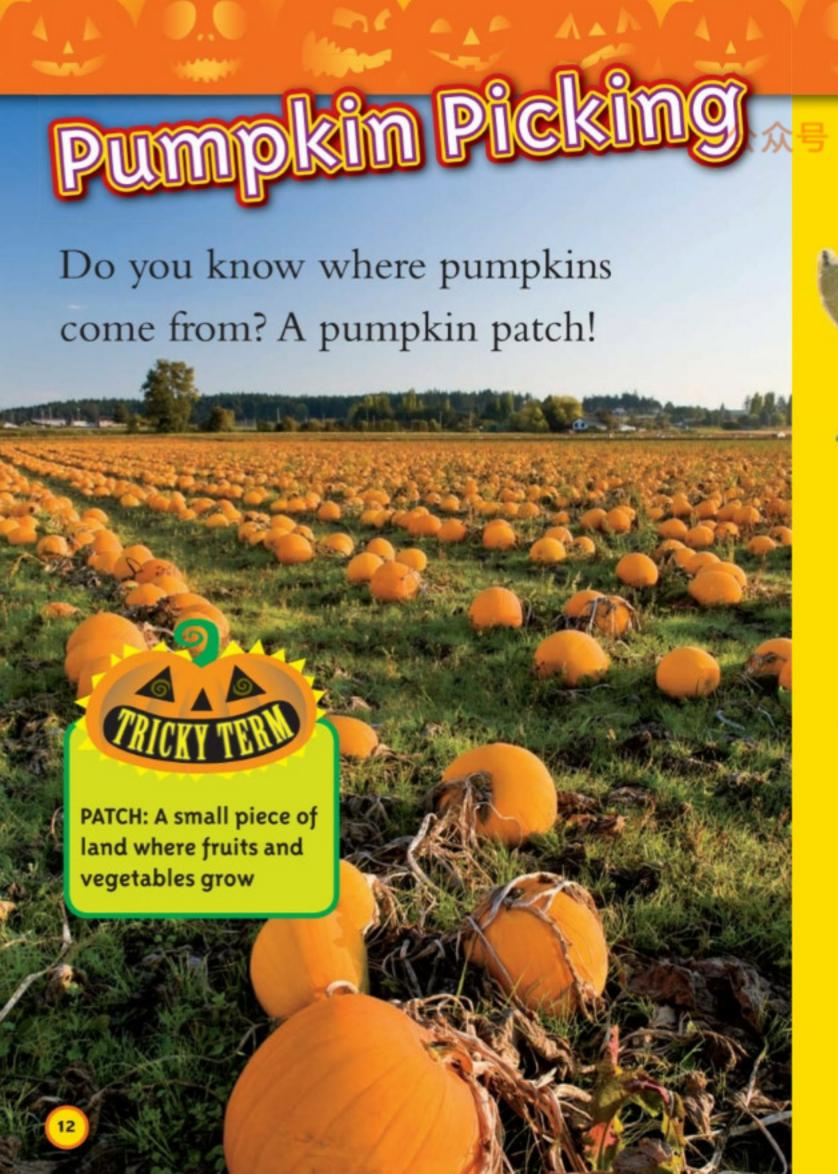


seeds

vine

A boo-logna sandwich!





A pumpkin grows from a seed. First a vine grows from the seed. Next the vine grows fruit pumpkin fruit, that is!



Pumpkins can be **BIG** or small, round and WIDE, or TALL and skinny.



You can make a jack-o'-lantern! Draw a funny face on a pumpkin. Ask an adult to carve it for you. Then place a light inside



We carve pumpkins in America. But jack-o'-lanterns started in Ireland. People there carved turnips, beets, or potatoes.





What does a skeleton

order at a restaurant?

Spareribs!

You can paint monsters, a pirate, or even a puppy.



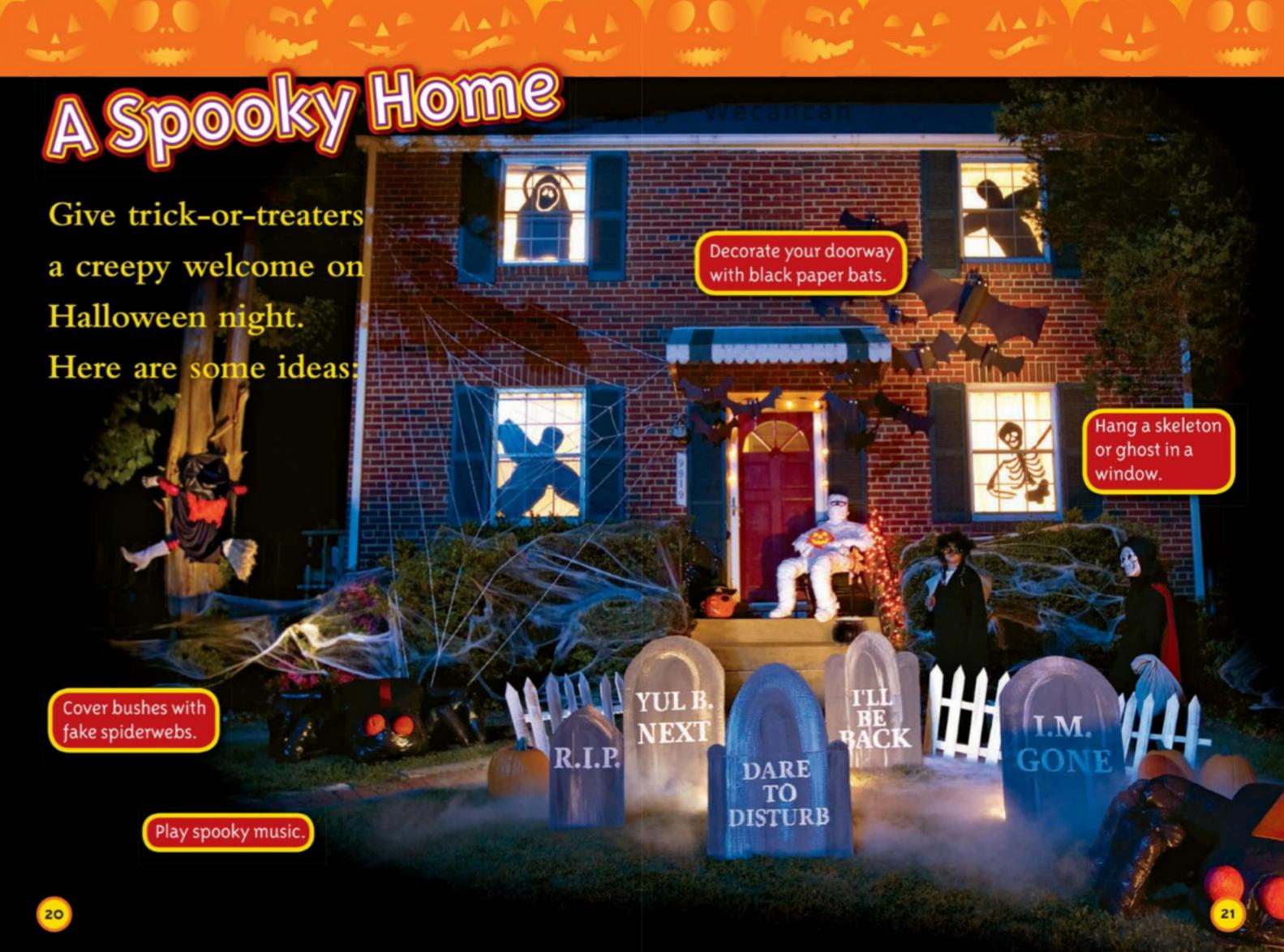
### costumes

What will you be for Halloween? Will you be silly or scary, something real or make-believe?

You can be almost anything. How about . . .







## Pet Parade

Why should people have all the fun? Pets can dress up, too!



Check out these funny pet costumes.







Spelling!





Halloween traditions started in ancient times. People dressed in costumes. They lit fires. They be lieved this would scare away ghosts.

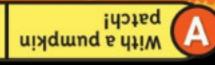
October 31 was later called All Hallows'E ve. That's how we got the name Halloween.



Halloween is a mix of these traditions and many others.
They come from Europe,
North America, and
South America. But
most of all, Halloween

is a day for fun!







## the Dead

Instead of Halloween, some people around the world celebrate the Day of the Dead. It's similar to Halloween. But it's different, too.

Families honor loved ones who have died. They make special food. They decorate graves. Sometimes children dress in skeleton costumes.

They also eat skull-shaped candy.





# What im the World?

These pictures show close-up views of Halloween objects. Use the hints to figure out what's in the pictures. Answers are on page 31.



HINT: A chewy, sweet treat on a stick



**HINT:** A pumpkin grows from one of these.

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WORD BANK

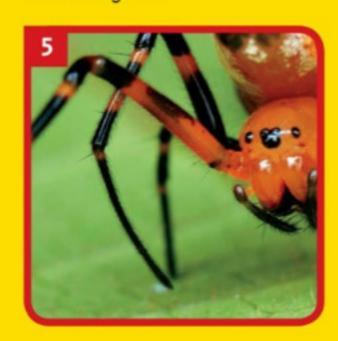
jack-o'-lantern seeds spider pumpkin candy apple bat



HINT: A candle inside makes it glow.



HINT: It sleeps upside down.



HINT: It spins a web.



HINT: Most are orange, but they can be other colors, too.

Answers: 1. candy apple, 2. seeds, 3. Jack-o'-lantern, 4. bat, 5. spider, 6. pumpkin

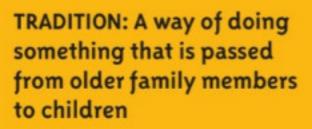




ANCIENT: From a long time ago, very old

HONOR: To show respect for someone or something







PATCH: A small piece of land where fruits and vegetables grow