



Festivals

Halloween

- Halloween is celebrated on 31 October in the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and many other countries around the world.
It is not a public holiday in the United Kingdom, however it is a very important celebration for children. The word Halloween originally came from *All Hallows' Eve*, which means the evening before the Day of the Holy Ones or All Saints' Day, 1 November. The tradition is that, on this night, spirits, ghosts and witches wander the earth. People used to make lanterns out of pumpkins and place them in the window to scare away these frightening creatures.
- Nowadays, on the night of Halloween, children get dressed up as witches, ghosts, vampires and other scary monsters, and have a fancy dress party. Items that are traditionally associated with Halloween are pumpkin lanterns, bats, spiders and black cats. Children often play a traditional game called apple bobbing. In this game, you have to bite an apple that is floating in water or hanging on a string. Typical party food would be cakes and pizza decorated with horrible faces.
- At Halloween, children love to play *Trick or Treat*. They knock on neighbours' doors and ask *Trick or Treat?* If the neighbour chooses a treat, he/she must offer the children sweets, chocolate or fruit. If not, the children will play a naughty trick, like using a water pistol! It's always a good idea to have treats ready for visitors at Halloween!

Halloween worksheet 1

- The figure 3 in the smaller game on the worksheet is an example. Go through the example with the class before pupils play in groups. Pupils decide on an odd number and write it in the middle square. They start counting that number round from the word *Start*, only counting the text sections and not counting *Start/Finish*. Each time they land on a text section, they cross it out. They continue to do this, counting the crossed-out words as well, until they have only one section left on each side. They then use these four elements to write a Halloween sentence.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Play this at a whole-class level and help the pupils elaborate the sentence into a longer text.

Halloween worksheet 2

- Pupils colour the four pictures then cut out the long strips. They glue or staple the strips together down the black strip, making sure that the dividing lines coincide. They then cut along the horizontal lines of the pictures stopping before the black strip. By turning the different pages of the book, they invent new Halloween characters. They invent a name for their characters. You could also ask them to write sentences to describe them.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Pupil A folds the pages to make up a character without showing Pupil B. He/She describes it, and Pupil B must make up the same character. They swap roles.

Christmas

- Christmas Day is celebrated in countries around the world on 25 December, to commemorate the birth of Jesus. In the weeks before Christmas, people decorate a Christmas tree with ornaments. They usually put a star on the top to remind them of the story of the birth of Jesus, and the visit of the Three Wise Men. People also like to send each other Christmas cards with typical Christmas scenes and a Christmas message. Younger children write a letter to Father Christmas, or Santa Claus as he is sometimes called, to tell him what they would like for Christmas.
- On Christmas Eve, 24 December, they hang a Christmas stocking at the end of their bed or by the fireplace, if they have one. Traditionally Father Christmas arrives in his sleigh pulled by reindeer. He flies through the air, lands on the roofs of children's houses and delivers the presents by climbing down the chimneys with a huge sack of presents!
- On Christmas Day, families come together to eat a traditional midday meal. This consists of roast turkey, with vegetables. Dessert is a rich fruit pudding served with a brandy sauce that is set alight! The table is decorated with candles and brightly coloured crackers. Everyone pulls the crackers, which make a loud bang. Children love to look inside the crackers to find a colourful paper Christmas hat, a small toy and a Christmas joke.

Christmas worksheet 1

- It is best to photocopy this worksheet onto coloured card. Pupils follow the instructions to make a Christmas card.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** In groups, Pupil A says e.g. *Under the Christmas tree, there was a red present.* Pupil B says, *Under the Christmas tree, there was a red present and a yellow present.* The game continues until one pupil cannot remember the order of the colours. If they manage to say all the colours they know, they can make it more challenging by combining colours, e.g. *a red and yellow present.*

Christmas worksheet 2

- Pupils look at the two pictures and write sentences about the differences.
- Key:** **A** angel/fairy **B** star, **A** snowing/day **B** night, **A** three stockings **B** four stockings, **A** Father Christmas, **A** biscuits **B** cake, **A** three presents **B** four presents, **A** milk and one glass **B** water and two glasses, **A** two crackers **B** three crackers.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** In groups, Pupil A says e.g. *In A, we can see three presents under the tree but ...* and Pupil B completes the sentence. He/She then begins another sentence for Pupil C to continue. This continues until all the pupils have started and finished a sentence.

Easter

- Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus in the Christian religion. Easter Sunday always falls in spring. However, the date is fixed according to the lunar calendar and therefore differs slightly every year. In the weeks before Easter, people send Easter cards to friends and family, and they buy chocolate Easter eggs and Easter bunnies for their children. Many children like to boil real eggs and then paint them with bright colours. Children often have egg-rolling competitions or hold Easter egg hunts with the colourful eggs. Easter baskets are associated with Easter. People fill them with Easter eggs and spring flowers to decorate their houses.
- In the United Kingdom, people like to eat hot cross buns, a type of sweet bread with dried fruit in it. These buns are marked with the Christian symbol of the cross and are traditionally eaten during Lent (the 40 days leading up to Easter). In the Middle Ages, the bakers sold these buns in the streets.
- Easter is an important church festival and Good Friday and Easter Monday are public holidays.

Easter worksheet 1

- Pupils read the text, then decorate the egg using whichever technique they wish (paint, collage, crayons, etc.). Encourage them to be as creative as possible.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Divide the class into two teams and ask them to prepare a treasure hunt with the eggs. On the back of each egg, they write their name (so that they can take it home afterwards) and an instruction to find the next egg, e.g. *Look by the door*. In one lesson, one team hides the eggs and the pupils in the other team take it in turns to find each egg. In another lesson, the roles can be swapped.
Ask another teacher to stay with the pupils who will be looking for the eggs, or use break time to hide the eggs so that the teams can't see where they are being hidden.

Easter worksheet 2

- Pupils complete the biscuit recipe. They can mount the chick on card and use it as a biscuit cutter.
- Key:** 2 butter, 3 bowl, 4 sugar, 5 flour, 6 rolling pin, 7 biscuit cutter, 8 baking tray, 9 oven.
- **Optional follow-up activity:** Ask pupils to find a typical Easter recipe from their country. Help them to translate it into English.



Halloween worksheet 1



Make and play a game.

Start Finish	midnight	middle-of- the-night	winter	a stormy night	↷
shouted, 'Aaagh!'				a haunted house	
shouted, 'Help!'				a tunnel	
laughed				a castle	
ran away				a cave	
↶	a witch	a monster	a vampire	a ghost	↷

It was a stormy night. I was in a castle.
I saw a vampire. I shouted, 'Aaagh!'

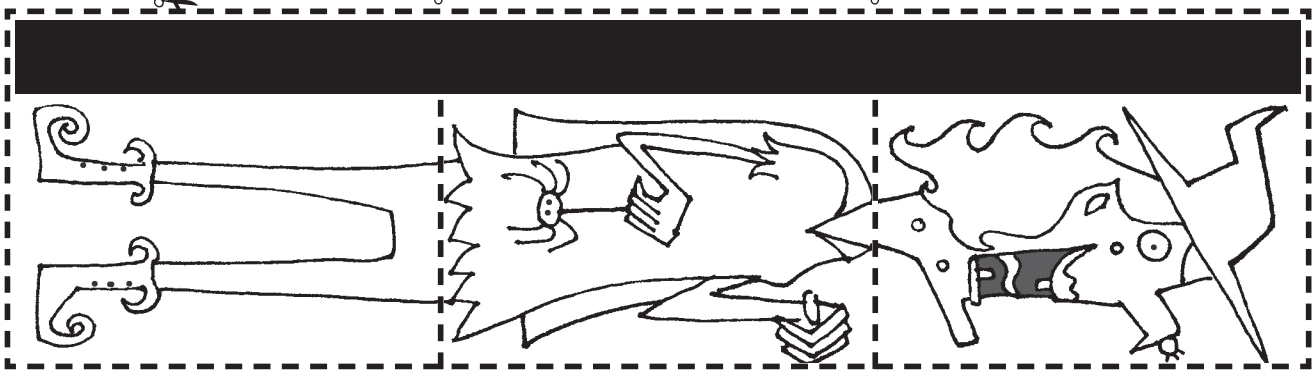
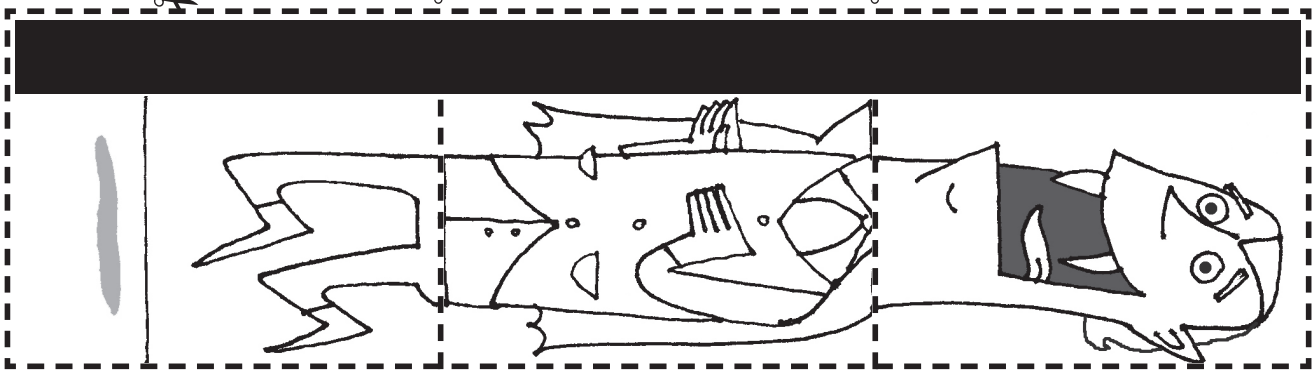
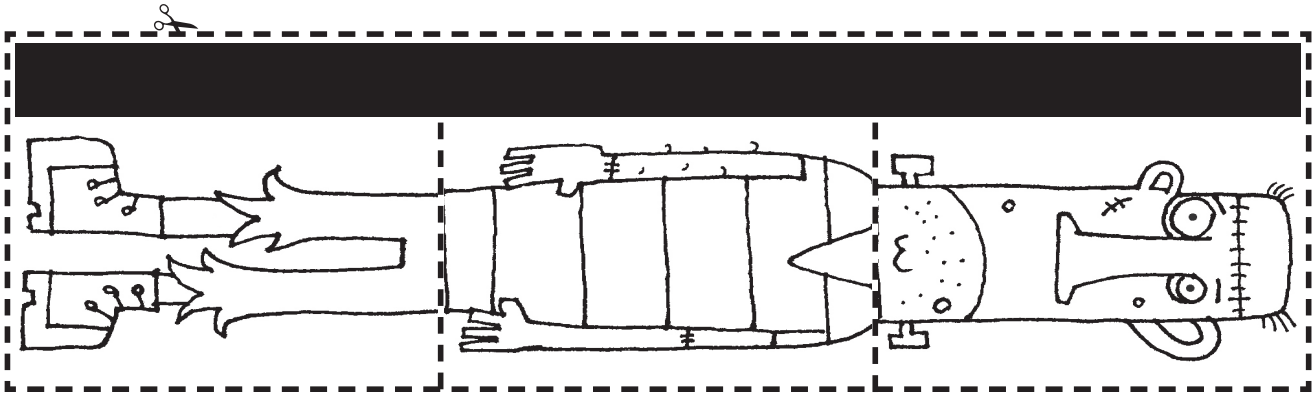
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↶	a witch	a monster	a vampire	a ghost	↷



Halloween worksheet 2



Make a book. Invent a new character.





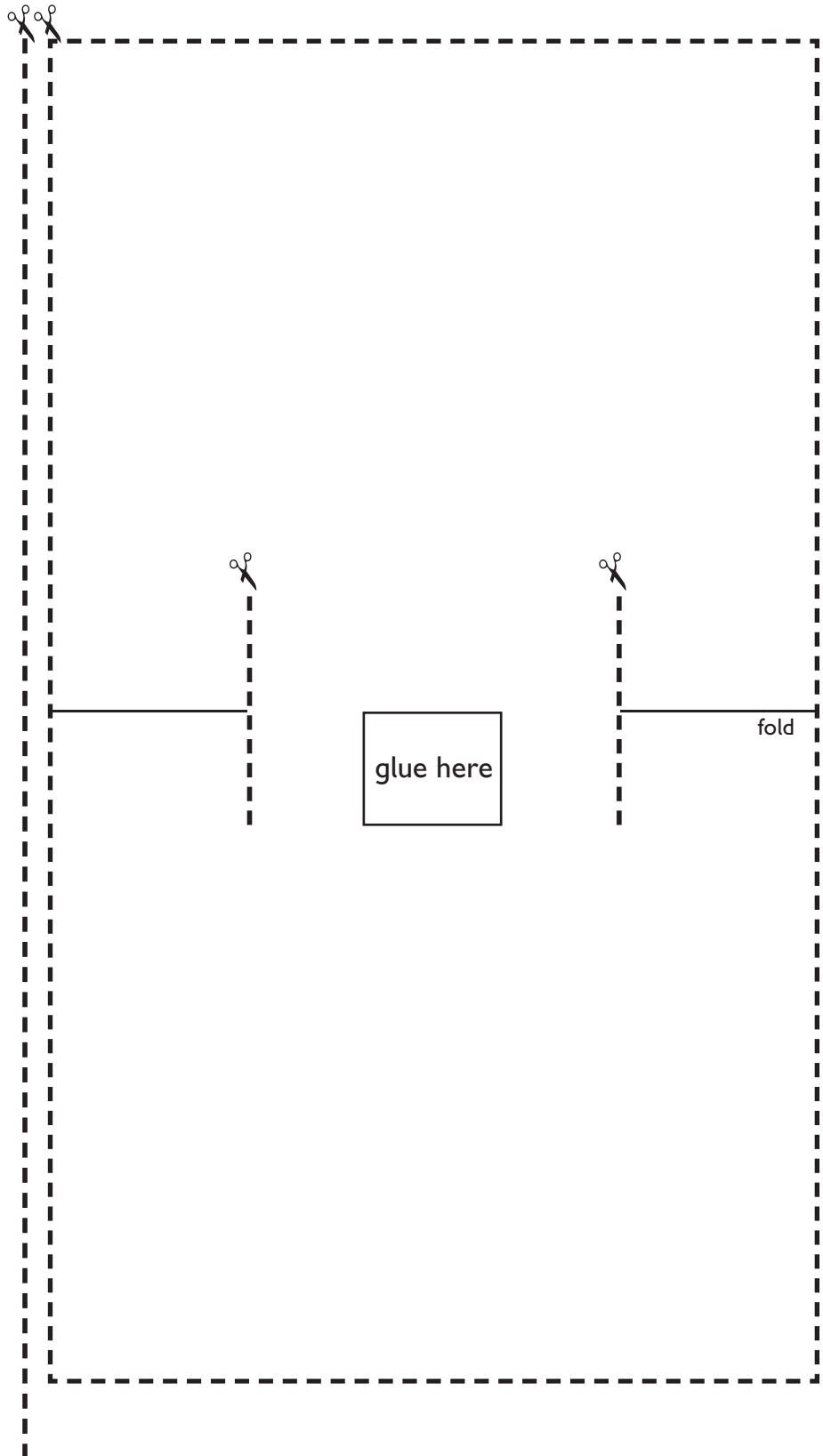
Christmas worksheet 1



Make a card.



- Colour and decorate the tree.
- Cut it out.
- Cut along the dotted lines.
- Fold along the solid line.
- Push the centre section forward.
- Glue the tree to the card.
- Close it.
- Write 'Happy Christmas' on the front.

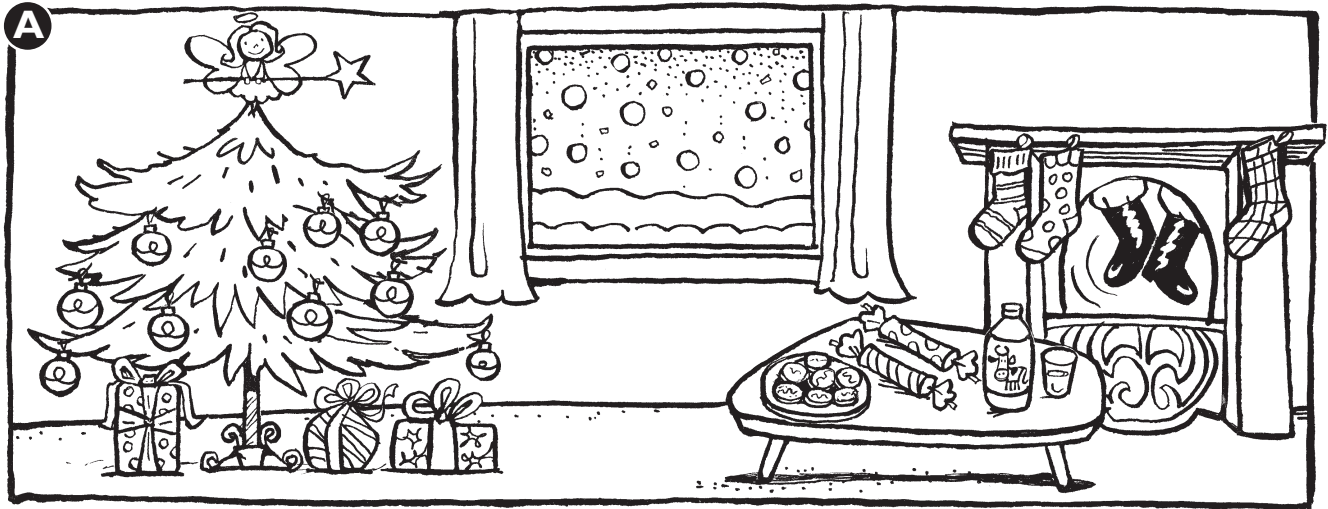




Christmas worksheet 2



Spot the differences.



In A, there are baubles on the tree. In B, there are candles.

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Easter worksheet 1





Read about eggs. Decorate the egg.

Eggs are a symbol of the universe and of rebirth. The Romans, in their spring festivals, gave each other eggs, which they decorated. Christians associate eggs with the resurrection so they give each other eggs at Easter. In medieval times, rich people decorated eggs with gold to give as presents but other people decorated them by boiling them with plants, leaves or insects. This changed the colour.

The ostrich lays the biggest eggs. They are 15 cm long and weigh 1.4 kg. The hummingbird lays the smallest eggs. They are 1 cm long and weigh 0.35g.

In the United Kingdom, people eat an average of 170 eggs per year: 140 as eggs and 30 as an ingredient of other food.

Put an egg in water.
A fresh egg *sinks* to the bottom and lies on its side. 
A very old egg *floats* at the top. 

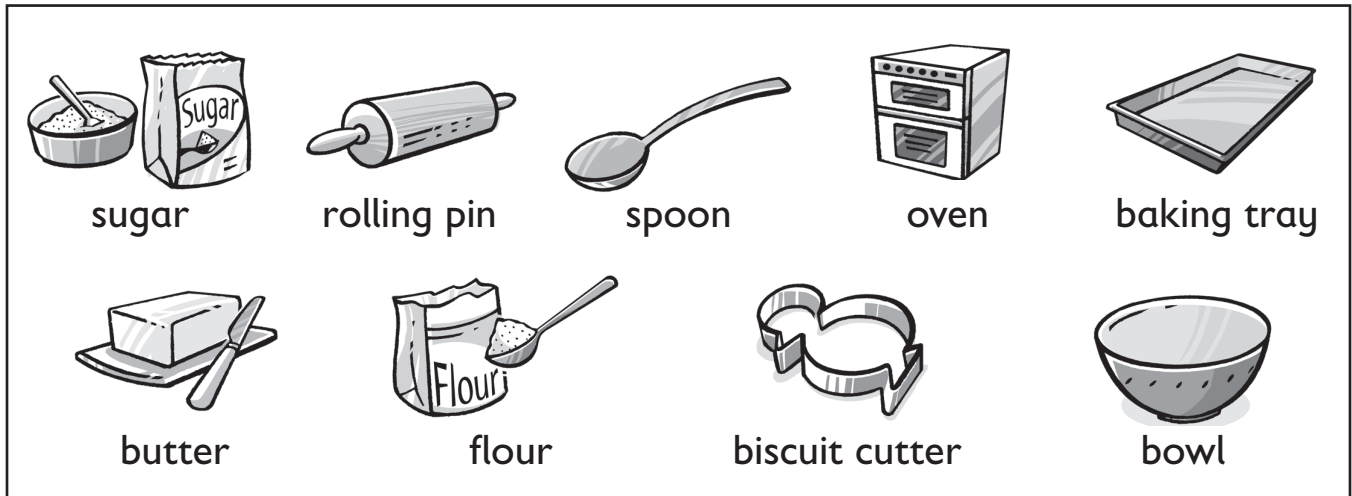
The emu lays dark green eggs that then turn black!



Easter worksheet 2



Complete the recipe with these words.

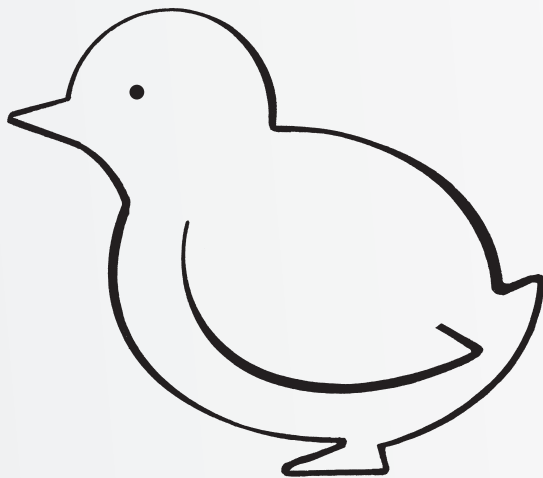


Ingredients

125 g butter

50 g sugar

175 g flour



Use a wooden ¹ spoon to make the
² soft in a ³

Add the ⁴ Mix.

Add the ⁵ Knead.

Use a ⁶

to roll out the dough.

Use the ⁷

to make the shapes. Put them on

a ⁸

Bake in the ⁹ at 150°C
for 25 minutes. Cool.



Put the chick onto card to make a biscuit cutter.
Make Easter biscuits.