

Halloween

Originating from the Celtic festival of Samhain, Halloween has changed much over the span of 2000 years. According to History.com, Samhain was celebrated on October 31, the day before the Celtic New Year on November 1. They believed the ghosts of the dead returned to earth, which allowed their priests to prophesize about the future. When the Roman Empire conquered Celtic lands, the celebration of Samhain merged with two Roman festivals celebrating the dead and fall harvest. The Catholic Church later established November 1st as All Saints Day (or All Hallows) to honor the dead with a church sanctioned holiday celebrated with bonfire, parades, and dressing up in costumes. The night before (October 31st) was All Hallows Eve, the traditional night of Samhain, and the name was eventually shortened to Halloween. For more information on the origin of Halloween and how the holiday made its way to America, check out "Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night" by Nicholas Rogers.

"Extreme Pumpkins" by Tom Nardone approaches the subject of Halloween with practical application. This book contains twenty pumpkin carving tutorials such as Crime Scene Pumpkin, Electrocutted Pumpkin, and Cannibal Pumpkin. Fun facts, tool kit guide, special effects instructions, and safety tips are a few of the other features of this book.

If gory pumpkins aren't your idea of the perfect Halloween decoration, then perhaps you would prefer "Witch Craft" compiled by Margaret McGuire and Alicia Kachmar. From chocolate marshmallow skulls to spider earrings, this book is full of step-by-step color photo instructions for Halloween crafts, decorations, snacks, and costumes. "Country Living's Happy Halloween" by Anna Christian, "Gooseberry Patch's Halloween" edited by Katherine Cobbs, and "Better Homes and Gardens' Halloween" edited by James D. Blume are three other Halloween craft books at Columbus Public Library that contain recipes, costumes, and decoration instructions.

"Creative Costumes & Halloween Décor" by Editors of Creative Publishing is another Halloween themed DIY costume and decoration project book. It includes ideas for Halloween parties and 30 decorating projects that use common household items. There are instructions for making wings, capes, skirts, and headwear, as well as face painting. This book is available as an ebook on Nebraska Overdrive Libraries. To download, access Overdrive by visiting our website www.columbusne.us/library and click the link labeled Nebraska OverDrive Libraries. To sign in, select Columbus Public Library and type your library card number. Detailed downloading instructions can also be found on our website, on the E-Materials page under Overdrive Audio and Ebooks.

You may have run out of time to make your own costume this year, but you can plan ahead for next year by checking out "Baby Costumes" by Bettine Roynon. It includes twenty four adorable costume ideas such as turtle, fairy, toadstool, and corn cob with step-by-step instructions and photos.

Stop by Columbus Public Library to check out these books or others like them and have a fun, safe, and happy Halloween! "Halloween: From Pagan Ritual to Party Night" by Nicholas

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