

October

Cheesehead Chat



Hello again! It's finally fall! I don't know about you, but I love fall. It's a time where we can enjoy the weather cooling down along with watching leaves change colors. Speaking of fall, do you know which major holiday is in the fall? That's right, Halloween!

First, I want to talk a little bit about the history of Halloween. Halloween started as long as 2,000 years ago! It originated from a Celtic holiday called "Samhain". Halloween throughout the years has always been a day to celebrate the dead or scare away evil spirits. Now, Halloween is mainly seen as a holiday to dress up in fun costumes, have Halloween parties, and to eat a lot of candy.

Halloween isn't such a big holiday in Japan. Maybe in recent times, places like Tokyo or Osaka (places that attract many tourists) have different Halloween events or parties. Out in the countryside of Japan, however, Halloween isn't such a big event. Of course, there are some houses and stores that decorate with little knick-knacks or have some streamers, but that's about it.



Halloween yard decorations in the U.S.


In the U.S, however, Halloween is a really big holiday, celebrated by almost everyone in the U.S. Halloween is a time where many people decorate their houses with a bunch of decorations. Sometimes, people like to buy really scary decorations or even decorate their entire house and/or yard!



Spirit Halloween

There's a really famous shop called "Spirit Halloween" that only opens during the Halloween season (starting from August or September) until Halloween.





After Halloween is over, the store closes for the rest of the year. When I was younger, my family would decorate our house with a few decorations.

Even though decorations are fun, when people think of Halloween, the first thing that people think of are costumes. Almost every child in the U.S. dress up in costumes to go trick-or-treating. There are even some teenagers and adults who still like to dress up as well. I think that I mostly dressed up princesses for Halloween when I was younger. In my town, the elementary, middle, and high school were all right next to each other, so on Halloween, the elementary students would wear their Halloween costumes and parade around the middle school and high school; showing off their costumes.

Another big tradition during Halloween is "trick-or-treating". This is when children walk around neighborhoods, knocking on peoples' doors asking for candy. Do you know the famous phrase that these children say when asking for candy?

"Trick or treat!"

After they say this phrase, they are then given candy. Depending on the neighborhood and the house, some people give a lot of candy, and some people only give one or two pieces per person.

I have a lot of fond memories of Halloween. If you ever get the chance to go to the U.S. during Halloween, I really recommend that you wear a costume and go trick-or-treating. Trust me, you will have a lot of fun if you do.



American candy



Halloween costumes

Well, that's all for this week! By the way, if you come to the staff room (職員室) during the week of Halloween and say "Trick or treat", I might just have some candy to hand out 🍬🍬

-Brittny

This month's recommended song is:
Nightmare Before Christmas- This is Halloween

