

Haunted House Adventure Crafts

Introduction

This teacher's guide helps teach children about haunted houses and the importance of using your imagination. Children will use their creative imaginations to construct crafts and use them to create wonderful scary stories. They will also learn more about the history of Halloween and what some of the Halloween symbols mean.

National Standards:

This series supports the Language Arts curriculum. Go to www.enslowclassroom.com or www.enslow.com and click on the Curriculum Correlations tab. Click on your state, grade level, and curriculum standard to display how any book in this series backs up your state's specific curriculum standard.

Classroom Activities

Activities for teaching the five curriculum areas: Reading/Language Arts; Math, Science; Social Studies; and the Arts, can be found in this teacher's guide.

Guided Reading Level: n/a

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Teacher's Guide

Children are fascinated with the annual holiday of Halloween and all of the symbols and characters who go along with it. Halloween is always celebrated on October 31st and the term Halloween means "All Hallows Eve". Some activities that are celebrated or practiced during this time include trick or treating, wearing costumes, carving jack o'lanterns, bobbing for apples, haunted houses and telling scary stories.

Below are some facts associated with Halloween and haunted houses. Suggested websites to locate more information are noted below.

Lightening Candles- symbolized the practice of commemorating the souls in purgatory usually placed in carved turnips and later were adapted into the making of jack-o'-lanterns.

Orange and Black- symbolize darkness of night and color of fire, autumn leaves, and pumpkins.

Coffin- box used to display and contain remains of the deceased.

Haunted House- building inhabited by spirits of those presumed to have died there.

Vampire- mythical creatures who are said to feed on the blood of living things.

Frankenstein- monster created by a scientist

Ghost- universal symbol for departed spirits and occult visitation.

Tombstone- Christians may see it as a memorial to those who died, but others see it as a symbol of death- and as a place where the world of the living meets the world of the departed souls.

Skulls, Bones, and Skeletons- symbols of death, disease, and the shortness of earthly life.

Spider- To many earth-centered cultures the spider and its web symbolize the weaving of life and the way of nature, but in the context of Halloween, it points to dark, scary places haunted by ghosts.

Witch- the usual Halloween meaning and implication of a witch is an old woman with moles and straggly hair who casts evil spells on children and rides a broomstick

Suggested websites:

<http://www.crossroad.to/images/Halloween/Halloween-symbols.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>

Activities: The Five Curriculum Activities

Safety Warning:

Before any activity, make sure your students do not have any allergies to items used. Never use anything that is sharp or may cut students without supervising. Always have an adult supervising all activities to ensure the safety of the children

Reading/Language Arts activity:

Introduce the steps of the Writing Process: pre-write, outline, draft, revise, edit, and publish. Have children brainstorm their ideas for their scary story and put them into an outline. They will then write their first draft. Then break children off into pairs. They can peer edit each others work. Then go back and edit their draft. Finally they will publish their polished work.

Math activity:

Do a graphing activity on Halloween costumes. Make a tally chart to see how many students have ever been a monster, witch, cat, or princess. Then have them make a graph to represent the data. They can choose from bar graph or pictograph. What costume was worn the most? Which was worn the least? How many more monsters were there than witches?

Science activity: Study the human skeletal system. Teach children the importance of bones. How many bones do we have? How do bones move? What is the difference between human and animal bones?

Social Studies activity: Discuss Egypt's climate and note how Egypt's climate affects the mummification process. Have children write a paragraph on where in the world they may find other mummies and why.

Art activity: Show children a real full size skeleton. Then have them sketch a picture of the skeleton doing one of their favorite activities, such as playing soccer, reading, swimming.

Handout

Scary Story
Writing Prompt

WHO?
(Characters)

WHERE?
(setting)

WHAT?
(plot)
