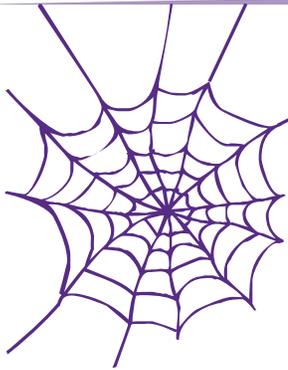


# Fun Facts: Halloween - October 31



## The Evolvement of Halloween

The annual holiday is celebrated each year on October 31st and originated with the Celtic festival of Samhain, a Gaelic festival acknowledging the end of harvest season and beginning of winter. Today, the tradition has evolved into a day filled with activities such as trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins, wearing costumes, and gatherings.

## Trick-or-Treaters



- **41 Million:** The estimated number of potential trick-or-treaters in 2017—children aged 5 to 14—across the United States.
- **About 121 million:** The latest number of homes or apartments where people live—many places for trick-or-treaters to visit.



## Spooky Places

- Scarville city, Iowa (Population - **70**)
- Slaughter Beach town, Delaware (Population - **234**)
- Tombstone city, Arizona (Population - **1,296**)
- Truth or Consequences city, New Mexico (Population - **5,948**)
- Kill Devil Hills town, North Carolina (Population - **7,117**)
- Sleepy Hollow village, New York (Population - **10,218**)
- Casper city, Wyoming (Population - **57,814**)



## Costume Fun!

**Approximately 1,000:** The number of formal wear and costume rental establishments in the United States.

Some common Halloween costumes for children could include:

Occupation	Number of Employees*
Actors	14,000
Dentists	95,000
Athletes, coaches, umpires and related works	122,000
Firefighters	265,000
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	760,000
Physicians and surgeons	763,000
Registered nurses	2,000,000

\*Full-time, Year-Round Employees Age 16 and Over

## Give Me Something Good to Eat

- **3,430:** Total number of candy and nut stores in the United States in 2016.
- **Over 40,000:** The number of people employed by U.S. manufacturing businesses that produced chocolate and cocoa products in 2016.
- **Nearly 20,000:** The number of people employed by U.S. manufacturing businesses that produced nonchocolate candy in 2016.



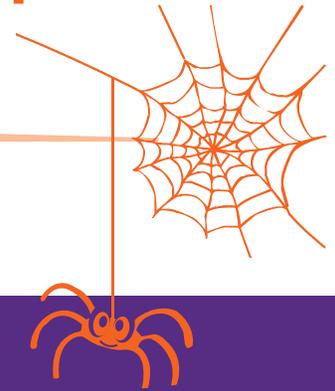
Sources: Data on this page come from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2017 Population Estimates, Current Population Survey/Housing Vacancy Survey (July 26, 2018), 2016 County Business Patterns, and 2016 Annual Survey of Manufactures.

# Fun Facts: Halloween - October 31

## TEACHING GUIDE

### About Fun Facts

Fun Facts are student-friendly handouts that tie statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau to holidays, anniversaries, and other observances. These fact sheets—which are designed to be used at varying grade levels and across different subjects—can be used at the end of class (if students finish their work early), during a lighter day (perhaps when a substitute teacher is present), or on/before a holiday (when there may be an opportunity for flexibility outside the curriculum).



### Using Halloween Fun Facts in the Classroom

Teachers should give students time to read and digest the information in the Halloween Fun Facts handout. Below is a list of ideas for using the fact sheet with students at any and all grade levels:

#### Any Grade Level

**Discussion:** Potential discussion questions include:

- Did the “Spooky Places” section surprise you? Based on the population totals, what can you conclude about these places?
- Can you name a candy store in your state that may be included in the total number of candy and nut stores in the United States?

**Costume of Your Choice:** Adding to the chart in the “Costume Fun!” section of the Fun Facts, students could identify more occupations that make great costume ideas by visiting the following link: <[https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17\\_1YR/B24124](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/17_1YR/B24124)>. To guide younger students, teachers could ask students what they want to be when they grow up in order to look up different occupations. Older students could choose an occupation on their own and predict what the 2017 estimate will be.

## Elementary School Level

**Bar Graph Practice:** Teachers could access a table that lists formal wear and costume rental establishments by state at the following link: <<https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2016/00A1/0100000US|0100000US.04000/naics~532220>> to obtain data for five states of their choice. Using the total number of establishments column, the class can create a bar graph. Teachers can assist the class with creating their bar graphs by arranging the numbers in numerical order, listing the largest number first and then help to determine the y-axis. Teachers can then have a discussion about what the bar graph portrays.

**An Enjoyable Treat:** The class could discuss the total number of candy and nut stores in the United States. from the “Give Me Something Good to Eat” section of the Fun Facts. Teachers could share a list of places in their state that fall under the candy and nut stores category. Students could then draw a picture of their favorite candy from the list of places in their state.

## Middle School Level

**Free Writing:** Teachers could discuss the “Spooky Places” section of the Fun Facts with students by explaining that there are real places in the United States with spooky names. Teachers can share how the places in the fun facts have small populations. Using their imagination, students can choose one of the places and write a paragraph describing it. Teachers can ask questions to give students something to think about as they imagine the place of their choice. Here are a few questions: What does the community look like? Are the people friendly? Is it a quiet place? What does the landscape look like?

**Mapping Out the Neighborhood:** Teachers can discuss the “Trick-or-Treaters” section of the Fun Facts with the students. Then, have the students estimate how many occupied housing units are in their neighborhood or on their street. As a class, students can share their estimations and map out how many houses they plan to visit when they go trick-or-treating.

## High School Level

**Business Trends:** In 2015, there were 1,026 formal wear and costume rental establishments and in 2016 there were 991. Using the following link: <<https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/BP/2016/00A1/0100000US|0100000US.04000/naics~532220>> have students compare the number of formal wear and costume rental establishments in the United States from 2005 to 2016 identifying any trends they notice in the data.

**Business Proposal:** Have students work in groups to develop a business plan for a local formal wear and costume rental store in their community. The plan will be used to get funding to start the business. Students should include the following information in their plan:

- Name and location of the business, and the days and hours of operation.
- How much funding is needed to start and operate the business for 3 months? Consider expenses like building rent, utilities, merchandise, office equipment, insurance, permits, and employee salaries.
- What is your competition? (Other nearby stores that rent or sell formal wear and costumes.)
- How many employees the business will have?
- How it will be advertised once the establishment is approved?

Students can pretend that the teacher and the other groups are county or state officials and present their business plan to the class to get funding.