

# 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—originally created for teachers to use in the classrooms—can easily be used at home to keep kids entertained and learning. They can be used by students in different grade levels and subjects.



### Using Halloween Fun Facts in the Classroom or at Home

Our Halloween handout includes many activities for students to do at school or with their parents/caregivers at home. Give students time to read and digest information in the handout before discussing it. Here are some ideas for using the fact sheet with students at different 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.** Check out this link <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B24124&tid=ACSDT1Y2018>.

*B24124&hidePreview=false* to find workers in other fields you may want to dress up as for Halloween. To guide younger students, teachers or parents/caregivers can ask what they want to be when they grow up—and they can look up different occupations. Older students can choose an occupation on their own and predict what the 2018 estimate will be.

## Elementary School Level

**Bar Graph Practice.** Teachers or an adult at home can access a table that lists formal wear and costume rental establishments by state at <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=532281%3A%20Formal%20wear%20and%20costume%20rental&g=0100000US.04000.001&tid=CBP2018.CB1800CBP&hidePreview=true> to obtain 2018 data for five states of their choice. Have students use the *Number of establishments* to create a bar graph. Then, assist them in creating a bar graph by arranging the numbers in numerical order (listing the largest number first) and then help to determine the y-axis. You can then discuss what the bar graph shows.

**A fun Treat.** Have a discussion with your student(s) about the total number of candy and nut stores in the United States from the “Sweet Stuff” section of the fun facts sheet. Share a list of places in your state that fall under the candy and nut stores category. Student(s) can then draw a picture of their favorite candy from the list of places in their state.

## Middle School Level

**Free Writing.** Discuss the “Spooky Places” section of the handout with your student(s) by explaining there are real places in the United States with spooky-sounding names. Teachers or an adult at home can share how the places in the fun facts have small populations. Using their imagination, student(s) can choose one of the places and write a paragraph describing it. Ask questions to give student(s) something to think about as they imagine the place of their choice. Here are a few suggested questions: What does the community look like? Are the people friendly? Is it a quiet place? What does the landscape look like there?

**Mapping the Neighborhood.** Teachers or an adult at home can discuss the “Trick-or-Treat” section of the handout with student(s)—and ask them to estimate how many occupied housing units are in their neighborhood or on their street. As a class or with an adult at home, student(s) can share their estimates and map out how many houses they plan to visit when they go trick-or-treating.

## High School Level

**Business Trends.** In 2017, there were 945 formal wear and costume rental establishments in the U.S. and in 2018 there were 892. Using the links below, have your student(s) locate the number of formal wear and costume rental establishments in their state from 2016 to 2018 identifying any trends they notice in the data.

*[2016 Number of establishments](#)*

*[2017 Number of establishments](#)*

*[2018 Number of establishments](#)*

**Business Proposal.** Have student(s) 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. Student(s) should include the following information in their plan:

- Name and location of business, and the days and hours of operation.
- Amount of funding needed to start and operate the business for 3 months. They should consider expenses like building rent, utilities, merchandise, office equipment, insurance, permits, and employee salaries.
- Potential competition such as nearby stores that rent or sell formal wear and costumes.
- Number of employees their business will have.
- Advertising strategies.

Student(s) can pretend that the teacher or an adult at home are county or state officials and present their business plan to the class or an adult at home to get funding.