

## Halloween

“Hallows’ Eve” sounds like “Halloween,” and it should, because that’s where it came from: the eve, or vigil, of All Hallows, which is All Saints’. On All Souls’ Day (which is actually the day after All Saints’ Day) the poor begged for food and promised to pray for the dead in return. They called the little cakes they received “soul cakes” – not the biggest stretch from today’s trick-or-treat spoils. Masks and costumes? Maybe these disguises will confuse the evil spirits. Candy has displaced the true soul cake, the doughnut (the cake with the hole in the center making a circle, representing eternity). There are still cultures with people who visit a cemetery on All Hallows, not for spooky reasons, but for the same reason others do on Memorial Day, except that they have picnics, with the last flowers of the year.

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