The Halloween Quiz for Kids

Twenty questions in four rounds for children of about seven to eleven: pumpkins and costumes, night-time animals, favourite characters, and Halloween around the world. Spooky, never scary.

4 rounds · 20 questions · about 25 min

How to run it

1. Print the host sheet for the grown-up running the quiz and one team answer sheet per team. The host sheet has the answers on it.
2. Teams of two or three work well, so nobody is left on their own with a question they do not know.
3. Read each question out loud twice. Younger children may need the options read out too — the online version shows them on screen.
4. Read the fun fact under the answer after each question: it is the part children remember.
5. One point per correct answer, twenty in total. Everybody who finishes gets a sweet — it is Halloween.

ROUND 1 — Pumpkins and costumes

1. What do we call a pumpkin with a carved face and a light inside?

Answer: A jack-o'-lantern

Worth adding: It is named after Stingy Jack, a character from an old Irish story who wandered the night carrying a lantern.

2. What do children say at the door when they go out in costume on Halloween?

- A Boo to you!
- B Happy holidays!
- **C Trick or treat!**
- D Knock knock!

Answer: C — Trick or treat!

3. Where do pumpkins grow?

- **A On the ground, on long vines**
- B In ponds
- C Under the ground, like potatoes
- D On trees

Answer: A — On the ground, on long vines

Worth adding: Pumpkin plants send out long creeping stems called vines, and the pumpkins sit on the ground while they grow.

4. Long ago, before pumpkins, what did children in Ireland and Scotland carve their Halloween lanterns from?

- A Apples
- B Watermelons
- C Potatoes
- **D Turnips**

Answer: D — Turnips

Worth adding: Turnips are small and very hard to carve. When families moved to America, they found pumpkins much easier.

5. What does a witch fly on in stories?

- A A magic carpet
- **B A broomstick**
- C A cloud
- D A bicycle

Answer: B — A broomstick

ROUND 2 — Night-time animals

6. Which animal hangs upside down to sleep?

- A An owl
- B A spider
- **C A bat**
- D A cat

Answer: C — A bat

Worth adding: Hanging upside down means a bat can drop straight into flight instead of having to take off from the ground.

7. How many legs does a spider have?

- A Six
- **B Eight**
- C Ten
- D Twelve

Answer: B — Eight

Worth adding: Eight — which is why spiders are not insects. Insects have six.

8. Bats find their way in the dark by making sounds and listening for the echoes. What is this called?

- A Hibernation
- B Migration
- C Camouflage
- **D Echolocation**

Answer: D — Echolocation

Worth adding: Most of the sounds are too high for people to hear. Bats are not blind, though — they can see too.

9. Which night-time bird can turn its head much further round than we can?

- A A parrot
- **B An owl**
- C A robin
- D A crow

Answer: B — An owl

Worth adding: About three-quarters of the way round. Its eyes cannot move in their sockets, so it turns its whole head instead.

10. What is a baby spider called?

- **A** **A spiderling**
- B A kit
- C A spiderlet
- D A webling

Answer: A — A spiderling

ROUND 3 — Favourite characters

11. Casper is a friendly what?

- A Pumpkin
- B Vampire
- **C** **Ghost**
- D Witch

Answer: C — Ghost

12. In Hotel Transylvania, who runs the hotel?

- **A** **Dracula**
- B A werewolf
- C Frankenstein
- D The Mummy

Answer: A — Dracula

Worth adding: He built it as a place where monsters could have a holiday away from humans.

13. In Monsters, Inc., what is the name of the big furry blue monster?

- A Mike
- **B** **Sulley**
- C Boo
- D Randall

Answer: B — Sulley

Worth adding: His full name is James P. Sullivan. Mike is his small green friend with one eye, and Boo is the little girl.

14. What kind of dog is Scooby-Doo?

- A A poodle
- B A beagle
- C A Labrador
- **D** **A Great Dane**

Answer: D — A Great Dane

Worth adding: One of the biggest dog breeds there is — and Scooby is still scared of everything.

15. In the Peanuts Halloween special, which dog dresses up as a flying ace?

- **A** **Snoopy**
- B Clifford
- C Pluto
- D Scooby-Doo

Answer: A — Snoopy

Worth adding: He pretends his kennel is an aeroplane, while Linus waits all night in the pumpkin patch for the Great Pumpkin.

ROUND 4 — Halloween around the world

16. On what date is Halloween?

- A 30 October
- **B** **31 October**
- C 1 November
- D 31 December

Answer: B — 31 October

Worth adding: The day after, 1 November, is All Saints' Day. Halloween means the evening before it.

17. Halloween started a very long time ago, with a festival held by which people?

- **A** **The Celts**
- B The Aztecs
- C The Vikings
- D The Egyptians

Answer: A — The Celts

Worth adding: The festival was called Samhain. It marked the end of summer and the start of the dark half of the year.

18. In Mexico, families remember loved ones who have died with colourful altars, flowers and sugar skulls. What is this celebration called?

- A Carnival
- **B** **The Day of the Dead**
- C The Festival of Lights
- D Midsummer

Answer: B — The Day of the Dead

Worth adding: It is a happy celebration, not a sad one: families share food, music and stories about the people they miss.

19. In Scotland, what do children in costume traditionally have to do at the door to earn a treat?

- **A** **Tell a joke, sing a song or say a poem**
- B Guess the owner's name
- C Sweep the doorstep
- D Bring their own pumpkin

Answer: A — Tell a joke, sing a song or say a poem

Worth adding: It is called guising, from the word disguise.

20. Which Halloween sweet is shaped like a kernel of corn and striped yellow, orange and white?

Answer: Candy corn

Worth adding: When it first went on sale, more than a hundred years ago, it was called Chicken Feed.