Halloween Trivia Showdown

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Halloween is observed on which date?

A. October 31
B. October 30
C. November 1
D. November 5

Correct answer: A. October 31
Halloween is the evening before All Saints' Day on November 1.

2. Botanically, a pumpkin is classified as what?

A. A leaf
B. A root
C. A fruit
D. A stem

Correct answer: C. A fruit
Pumpkins develop from a flower's ovary and contain seeds.

3. What does Cinderella's fairy godmother turn into a coach?

A. A turnip
B. A pumpkin
C. An apple
D. A cabbage

Correct answer: B. A pumpkin
The pumpkin coach is a recognizable element of the Cinderella story.

4. Which Halloween-associated animal is the only mammal capable of sustained powered flight?

A. Colugo
B. Flying squirrel
C. Sugar glider
D. Bat

Correct answer: D. Bat
The other animals glide; bats actively fly using their wings.

5. Which cartoon ghost is famously described as friendly?

A. Popeye
B. Casper
C. Felix
D. Garfield

Correct answer: B. Casper
Casper is known for friendliness rather than frightening people.

6. Before pumpkins became common, Irish jack-o'-lanterns were often carved from which vegetable?

A. Turnips
B. Cucumbers
C. Peppers
D. Lettuce

Correct answer: A. Turnips
Turnip lanterns preceded the pumpkin-carving tradition popularized in North America.

7. Who wrote the 1818 novel Frankenstein?

A. Ann Radcliffe
B. Bram Stoker
C. Jane Austen
D. Mary Shelley

Correct answer: D. Mary Shelley
Shelley's novel concerns Victor Frankenstein and the being he creates.

8. In Mary Shelley's Frankenstein, 'Frankenstein' is primarily the surname of whom?

A. The ship's captain
B. The scientist's creation
C. The scientist
D. The murdered servant

Correct answer: C. The scientist
Victor Frankenstein creates the unnamed being often mistakenly called Frankenstein.

9. The word 'werewolf' refers to a person who transforms into which animal?

A. Wolf
B. Bat
C. Bear
D. Raven

Correct answer: A. Wolf
Werewolf traditions concern humans taking a wolf's form.

10. Halloween has historical connections to which ancient Celtic festival?
    A. Dionysia
    B. Saturnalia
    C. Lupercalia
    D. Samhain
    Correct answer: D. Samhain
    Samhain marked a seasonal boundary; Halloween also developed through Christian and later cultural traditions.

11. In The Nightmare Before Christmas, Jack Skellington is known by which title?
    A. The Goblin Prince
    B. The Ice King
    C. The Pumpkin King
    D. The Candy Duke
    Correct answer: C. The Pumpkin King
    Jack leads Halloween Town as the Pumpkin King.

12. The Headless Horseman appears in which Washington Irving story?
    A. Rip Van Winkle
    B. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
    C. The Gold-Bug
    D. The Raven
    Correct answer: B. The Legend of Sleepy Hollow
    Irving's tale follows schoolmaster Ichabod Crane and the legendary rider.

13. Which character is the vampire hunter in Bram Stoker's Dracula?
    A. Dorian Gray
    B. Victor Frankenstein
    C. Ichabod Crane
    D. Abraham Van Helsing
    Correct answer: D. Abraham Van Helsing
    Van Helsing leads the effort to understand and defeat Dracula.

14. 'Halloween' is a contraction of which expression?
    A. All Hallows' Eve
    B. Hollow Evening
    C. Harvest Moon Evening
    D. Hall of Winter
    Correct answer: A. All Hallows' Eve
    Hallows means saints; the name refers to the eve of All Saints' Day.

15. In Robert Louis Stevenson's novella, what is Dr. Jekyll's first name?

A. Gabriel
B. Edward
C. Henry
D. Richard

Correct answer: C. Henry
Henry Jekyll's alternate persona is Edward Hyde; Gabriel Utterson and Richard Enfield are other characters.