



(H)ISTORY TIME

MOLLY BOWN HOUSE MUSEUM

THE ORIGINS OF HALLOWEEN

Halloween gets many of its traditions from the Celtic festival of **SAMHAIN**, celebrated by druids in ancient Ireland on October 31. This festival celebrated the end of the harvest season and the start of the dark half of the year- Fall and Winter. Bonfires were lit and faces were carved into turnips or other vegetables and called Jack o'lanterns.

Pumpkins come from North America and in the 1800s, Americans began using them as a symbol of Halloween.

LEGEND OF STINGY JACK

Stingy Jack was known as the town drunk and a trickster. Because of his misdeeds in life after his death he was doomed to wander the darkness alone for all eternity. The Devil felt sorry for him in that final moment, and tossed Jack a single burning ember to help light his way.

Jack found a turnip, hollowed it out, and placed the ember inside, creating a makeshift lantern to guide him through the netherworld.

To this day, they say he still wanders, but he goes by a different name.- Jack of the Lantern.

TURNIP JACK O' LANTERNS

MATERIALS:

- White or purple and white yarn
- green yarn
- cardboard turnip cutout
- black construction paper
- glue

1. Using the template attached, cut a turnip shape from cardboard or other heavy paper.
2. Holding the white yarn at the top with one hand, wrap the yarn around the cut out until the whole thing is covered in white yarn.
3. Tie the yarn back on itself to secure.
4. Wrap green yarn around your hand nine (9) times to make a loop. Cut the yarn. Take the loop and pull it through a piece of the white yarn on the turnip near the center of the top. Pull the loop through itself to secure. Cut the loop ends to make a tassel.
5. Cut a jack o' lantern face from black construction paper and glue onto the turnip.

