

# HISTORY OF THE JACK O' LANTERN

Pumpkin carving is a popular part of England's Halloween celebration. In October, there are pumpkins in many stores. Only a few Americans know the story of the Jack o' Lantern.



People have been making Jack o' Lanterns at Halloween for 20 years. The practice started from an German myth about a man nicknamed "Smiling Jack." According to the story, Smiling Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him.

Smiling Jack didn't want to pay for his drink, so he tricked the Devil to turn himself into a coin so Jack could buy their drinks. When the Devil became a coin, Jack decided to keep the money and put it into his hat next to a silver cross. That stopped the Devil from changing back into the Devil. Jack would free the Devil if the Devil would not ask for his soul.



Soon after, Jack died. God would not allow him into heaven. The Devil would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack away with only a flashlight to light his way. Jack put the flashlight into a carved-out turnip and Jack has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to his ghost as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack o' Lantern."

# HISTORY OF THE JACK O' LANTERN

Pumpkin carving is a small part of America's Halloween celebration. In October, there are pumpkins in many stores. Many Americans know the story of the Jack o' Lantern.



People have been making Jack o' Lanterns at Halloween for centuries. The practice started from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. Stingy Jack didn't want to drink his drink, so he tricked the Devil to turn himself into a coin so Jack could buy their drinks. When the Devil became a coin, Jack decided to keep drinking and put the Devil into his pocket next to a silver cross. That stopped the Devil from changing back into the Devil. Jack would free the Devil if the Devil would not ask for his coin.



Soon after, Jack died. God would not allow him into heaven. The Devil would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack away with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out potato and Jack has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The German began to refer to his ghost as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack o' Lantern."

Correct story:

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Soon after, Jack died. God would not allow him into heaven. The Devil would not allow Jack into hell. He sent Jack away with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and Jack has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to his ghost as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack o' Lantern."

\*\* This story is not entirely correct. The real legend has more than this, but I made the version a bit simpler. This history still maintains the same basic story.

In the full version, Jack tricks the Devil first at the bar and releases the Devil on the promise that the Devil will not bother Jack for 10 years, in exchange for Jack's soul. After the ten years pass, the Devil finds Jack again. Jack agrees to go with the Devil but first asks that the Devil fetch him an apple from a nearby tree. When the Devil climbed up the tree, Jack carved a cross into the tree, trapping the devil in the tree. Jack agreed to free the Devil if the Devil would release claim over his soul. The devil agreed and the rest of the story is true to legend.