

While not an official holiday, the traditional October 31 Halloween celebration is much beloved by children in the United States, for whom the day is a chance to don costumes—often depicting ghosts, goblins and other "supernatural" creatures—and to collect candy and other treats from adults.

Today, the two most prevalent Halloween customs are costumes and "trick-or-treat."

While an estimated 36 million American youngsters dress up as "spooky" or supernatural characters—ghosts, witches, skeletons and the like—the purpose is not to promote the occult, but to collect candy.

The costumed children, usually accompanied by their parents (who often wait discreetly in the background) appear at their neighbors' doors shouting "Trick or treat!" The neighbors, feigning fear of such scary ghosts, vampires and zombies, quickly distribute the treats, so as to avoid any possible "trick."

A third custom is the decoration of a pumpkin by scooping out the inside, carving out a face and illuminating the result with a candle. Today, these "jack-o'-lanterns" are purely decorative but they originated long ago in Britain, where turnips were used, and the "jacks" were believed to ward off evil spirits.

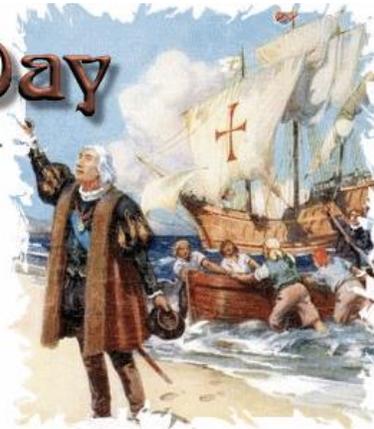
Test your Halloween knowledge QUIZ:

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/whquiz/qz\\_3.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/whquiz/qz_3.html)



# Columbus Day

Observed the second  
Monday of October



The first recorded celebration honoring the discovery of America by Europeans took place on October 12, 1792 in New York City. The event, which celebrated the 300th anniversary of Columbus' landing in the New World, was organized by The Society of St. Tammany (also known as the Columbian Order).

San Francisco's Italian community held their first Columbus Day celebration in 1869. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison urged citizens to participate in the the 400th anniversary celebration of Columbus' first voyage. It was during this event that the Pledge of Allegiance, written by Francis Bellamy, was recited publically for the first time.

Colorado was the first state to observe the holiday in 1905.

In 1937, President Roosevelt proclaimed October 12 as "Columbus Day" and in 1971, President Nixon declared the second Monday of October a national holiday. The first recorded celebration honoring the discovery of America by Europeans took place on October 12, 1792 in New York City.

Columbus Day is celebrated on October 13, 2008, to commemorate the historic landing of Christopher Columbus in the Americas in 1492.

**Test your knowledge-** <http://holidays.kaboose.com/columbus-day/>

## *Egg Cup Ships*

*This Columbus Day, make your very own mini versions of the Nina, Pinta, and the Santa Maria! This fun recycle project is easy to put together and great for a classroom activity.*



### **What you'll need:**

- 3 cardboard egg cups
- Brown acrylic craft paint
- Paintbrush
- ¼ cup modeling clay or play dough
- 6 toothpicks
- 1 sheet white paper
- Scissors
- White craft glue

### **How to make it:**

1. Paint the egg cups inside and out with brown paint. Set aside to dry.
2. Cut sails from white paper. You will need 6 large sails (1.5" x 1") and 18 small sails (.5" x .75").
3. Set aside three of the toothpicks for the large sails. Break or cut the other three toothpicks in half, giving you 6 halves.
4. Put a line of glue through the middle of one of the small sails. Place the cut or broken end of one of the toothpick halves onto the glue line.
5. Roll it in the glue to cover both sides, then place another sail on top, sandwiching the two sails together. Flatten the sails together with your fingers and set aside to dry.
6. Repeat step number 5 with each toothpick half and 2 small sails (each).
7. Following the guide in step number 5, make the larger sails. For each large sail you will need a toothpick, 2 small sails and 2 large sails. Glue the small sail to the end of the full toothpick, and then glue the larger sail beneath it, leaving a small gap between the top and bottom sail. Set aside to dry.
8. Roll a small amount of clay in your palm, enough to line the bottom of the egg cup. Place in the egg cup and flatten to cover bottom.
9. Insert open end of large sail into the middle of the clay. Insert two small sails, one on either side of the large sail, into the clay.

<http://crafts.kaboose.com/egg-cup-ships.html>



The United Nations-declared **World Space Week** takes place every year from **4-10 October**. In 2007, the central topic will be the **50th anniversary of the Space Age**.

World Space Week celebrates the contribution of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition. Endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1999, it marks the anniversary of two milestones in the human exploration and use of outer space: the launch of the first artificial satellite, SPUTNIK I, on 4 October 1957, and the entry into force of the Treaty Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies, which took place on 10 October 1967.

## World Space Week Participants

These are the many organizations and individuals around the world that conduct events and other programs during World Space Week. Participants include science museums, aerospace industry, astronomy clubs, government space facilities, and others which hold public events, and teachers who use World Space Week to excite students about learning. See the World Space Week Calendar for more information.

**Teacher Activities:** [http://www.worldspaceweek.org/teacher\\_activity\\_guide.html](http://www.worldspaceweek.org/teacher_activity_guide.html)

**Organize an event on your own and add it to the calendar!**

<http://www.worldspaceweek.org/calendar.html>