



Fun with Jack O'Lanterns

Where do Jack O'Lanterns come from? Many people think that the Jack O'Lantern has its origins in Gaelic countries like Ireland and the Scottish Highlands.

The Gaelic celebrated a holiday called Samhain, marking the end of the harvest season, over 2000 years ago. They believed that during Samhain, spirits would walk the earth. Another holiday, called All Saints' Day, or All Hallow's Eve, celebrated spirits and took place at the same time of the year. When these holidays merged, Halloween began!

So, when do carved pumpkins come in? People have been carving plants all over the world for 10,000 years! To ward off evil spirits, Gaelic people would carve lanterns with scary faces out of turnips during Halloween. When settlers came to America, they brought this tradition with them, and discovered a brand-new plant— pumpkins! They found that pumpkins were easier to carve, and that's how today's pumpkin Jack O'Lantern was created.

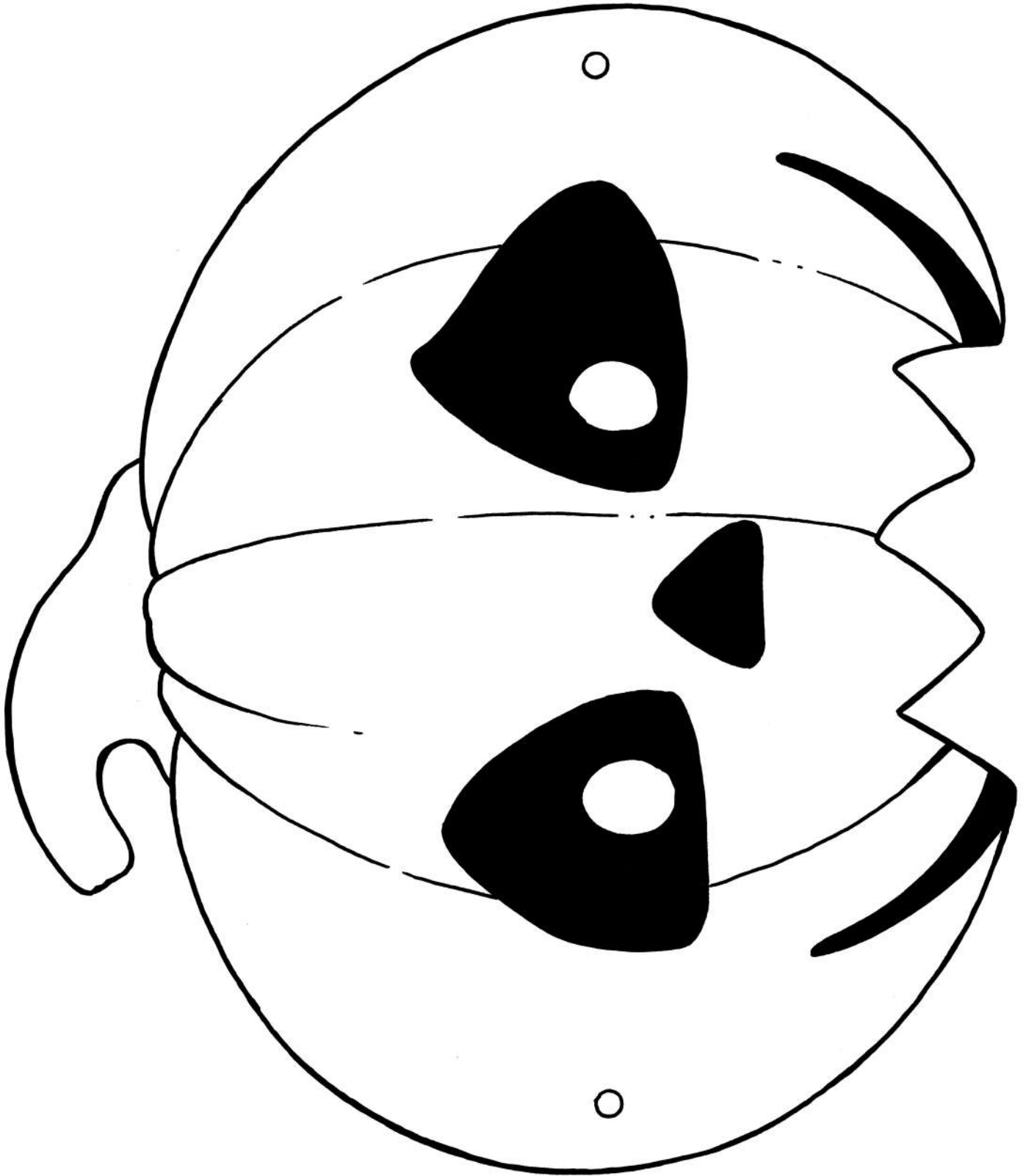
To get you into the festive Halloween mood, have a go at making a Halloween Mask – we have created a Jack O'Lantern mask and Devil Mask for you to dress up in. Choose between the full color version, or why not get the watercolors out and get creative with the black and white printables?!

Make use of our blank spooky activity sheet to write a Halloween pumpkin inspired poem or story!



Happy Halloween!

Jack O'Lantern Mask



1. Color in the mask. Use pens or watercolors.
2. Cut out mask. Ask for help from your caretaker to cut out holes for eyes and elastic band.
3. Add elastic band by putting a knot on one end, pulling it through the mask holes and adding another knot on other end to keep band in place.

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Write a poem!