

The History of Jack-O'-Lanterns

7 In the United Kingdom, millions of pumpkins
17 are sold each year in the run up to Halloween.
24 Traditionally, strange faces are carved into the
33 front of a pumpkin but where did this idea
36 first come from?
43 Some people believe that the tradition of
50 carving pumpkins comes from an Irish myth
59 about a man named Jack. The tale says that
68 Jack tried to trick the devil and was punished
78 by being made to stay on Earth for eternity. To
86 make sure that Jack didn't visit them, people
93 would carve scary faces into pumpkins and
100 put them outside of their houses. Interestingly,
106 the first jack-o'-lanterns weren't carved out
113 of pumpkins. Instead, they were made from
116 turnips or potatoes.



Questions



1. ...made to stay on Earth for eternity. What does **for eternity** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ for a short amount of time
- ☐ for 10 days
- ☐ for 10 months
- ☐ forever



2. Fill in the missing words.

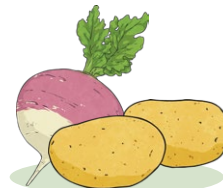
In the United Kingdom, _____ of pumpkins
are sold in the run up to _____.

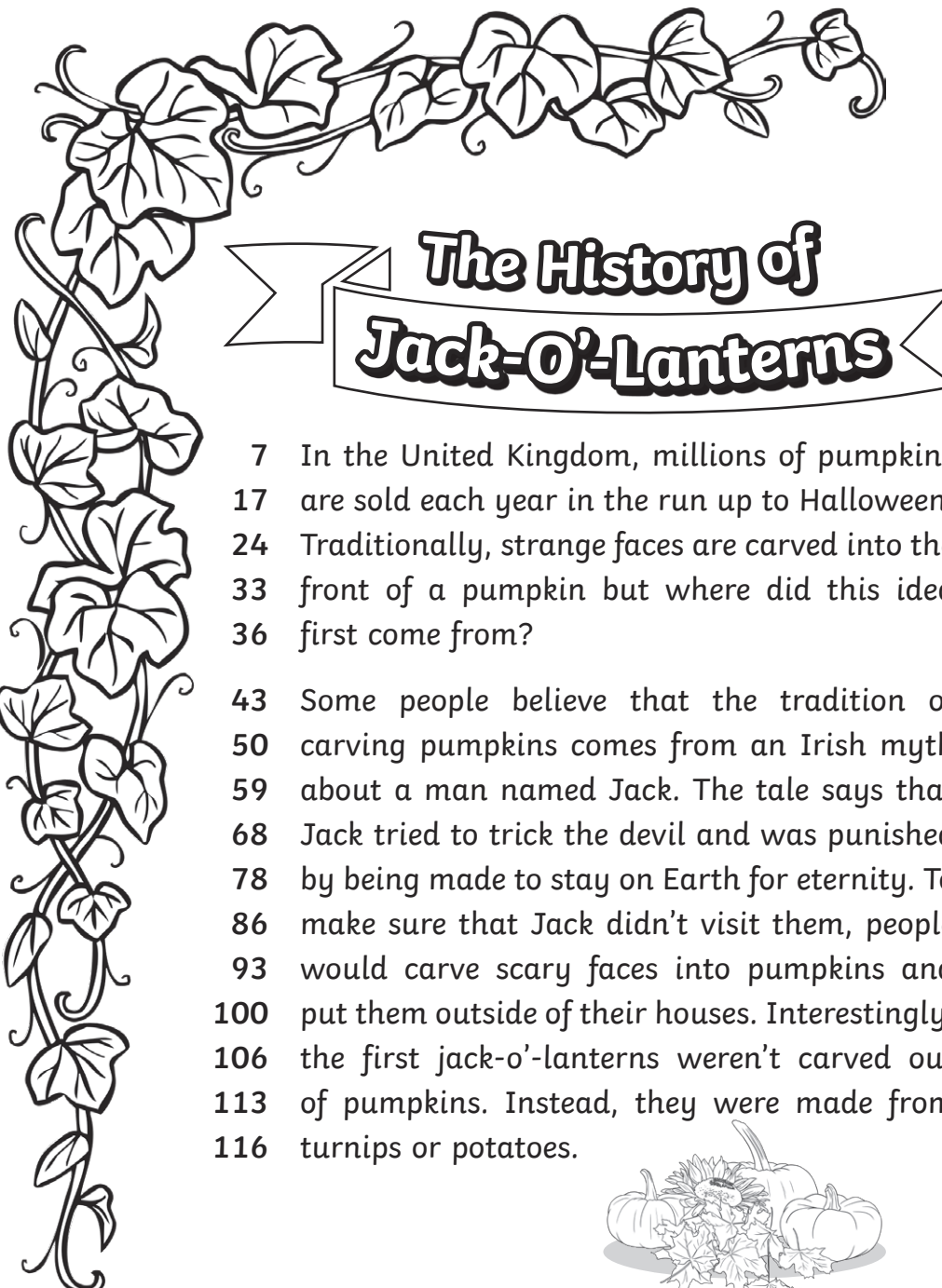


3. Summarise what this text is about in 20 words or fewer.



4. Explain what was different about the first carved jack-o'-lanterns compared to today's jack-o'-lanterns.





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Answers



1. ...made to stay on Earth for eternity. What does **for eternity** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ for a short amount of time
- ☐ for 10 days
- ☐ for 10 months
- ☒ **forever**



2. Fill in the missing words.

In the United Kingdom, **millions** of pumpkins are sold in the run up to **Halloween**.



3. Summarise what this text is about in 20 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This text is about the history of why people carve faces into pumpkins at Halloween.



4. Explain what was different about the first carved jack-o'-lanterns compared to today's jack-o'-lanterns.

Pupils' own responses, such as: The first jack-o'-lanterns were made of turnips and potatoes but today's jack-o'-lanterns are usually made of pumpkins.

