

ELT activities for young learners

HALLOWEEN is just around the corner! Let's celebrate by decorating the class and playing spooky games and songs! Below you will find a set of fun activities to do with your students.

Activity 1 (5-7 years old)

You will need:

- Orange tissue paper for the pumpkin garland
- White tissue paper for the skull garland
- Black tissue paper for the bat garland
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Copies of Halloween templates 1 & 2

Instructions:

1. Distribute copies of the Halloween templates to your students. You can gather them in groups of 3-4 students and get each group to make a different type of garland.
2. Carefully cut out the templates, including the holes for the eyes, nose and mouth.
3. Fold the tissue paper like an accordion.
4. Take one of the Halloween templates you prepared, place it on top of the folded tissue paper and draw around it on each side of the tissue paper. Make sure the template goes to the edge of the tissue paper.
5. Remember to use the following colours for each template:
 - Orange: pumpkin template
 - White: skull template
 - Black: bat template
6. Cut out the shape from the tissue paper. Remember not to cut the sides!
7. And... abracadabra! Carefully open out the tissue paper to make a spooky garland!

Activity 2 (6-8 years old)

You will need:

- Paper and pencils
- Scissors
- Dice (1 per pair)

Instructions:



1. Have each student draw the different parts of the skeleton (indicated below) using a pencil and a piece of paper and get them to carefully cut out the body parts.
 2. Write the following rules in a list on the whiteboard:
 - 1 = head
 - 2 = leg, nose
 - 3 = arm
 - 4 = hand, neck
 - 5 = foot
 - 6 = body, eye
 3. When everyone is ready, demonstrate how to play the game: choose two students. Get them to sit at a desk facing each other. Each student mixes up the parts of their skeleton and places them face up on the desk.
 4. To determine who will start, each student rolls the dice. The student with the highest number begins.
 5. Students take turns to roll the dice. To start making your skeleton, you need to roll a 6 (for the body). The first student to roll a 6 takes the body and puts it in front of them.
 6. Students continue taking it in turns to roll the dice and add the different parts of the body to their skeleton depending on the number they get (e.g. if the student rolls a 2 next, they can add one leg).
- IMPORTANT!** You need to have a body before you can add any other body part (e.g. arms, legs, neck). You need to have a head before you can add facial features (e.g. eyes, nose, mouth).
7. The first student to create a complete skeleton is the winner!

Note: Time permitting, students change partners and play the game again in new pairs.

Activity 3 (8-12 years old)

Background information:

This is a traditional English song. It is often used in British primary schools to teach and practice the parts of the body. To hear the tune, search for "Dry Bones (Dem bones)" on YouTube.

Note: the lyrics are slightly different to the ones on the one below which have been adapted for the Primary classroom.

Instructions:

1. First teach or review these parts of the body: toe, foot, ankle, leg, knee, thigh, hip, back, neck, head
2. Get students to stand up. Practice each verse of the song until they become familiar with the words. Point to the different parts of the body as they are mentioned. Shake your entire body at the end of each verse and chorus.

SONG

"DRY BONES" (SKELETON DANCE!) SONG

Your toe bone's connected to your foot bone
 Your foot bone's connected to your ankle bone
 Your ankle bone's connected to your leg bone
 Let's shake those bones about!

CHORUS

Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Let's shake those bones about!

Your leg bone's connected to your knee bone
 Your knee bone's connected to your thigh bone
 Your thigh bone's connected to your hip bone
 Let's shake those bones about!

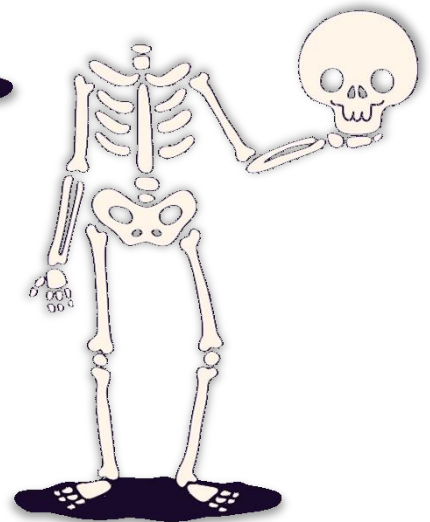
CHORUS

Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Let's shake those bones about!

Your hip bone's connected to your back bone
 Your back bone's connected to your neck bone
 Your neck bone's connected to your head bone
 Let's shake those bones about!

CHORUS

Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Them bones, them bones, them dry bones
 Let's shake those bones about!



Activity 4 (8-12 years old)

You will need:

- A copy of Template 3 per student

Instructions:

1. Distribute copies of the Halloween crossword (Template 3) to every student.

Note: if activity is too challenging, write the first letter of each of the words on the blackboard, and have students use a dictionary if they need it.

Answer Key:

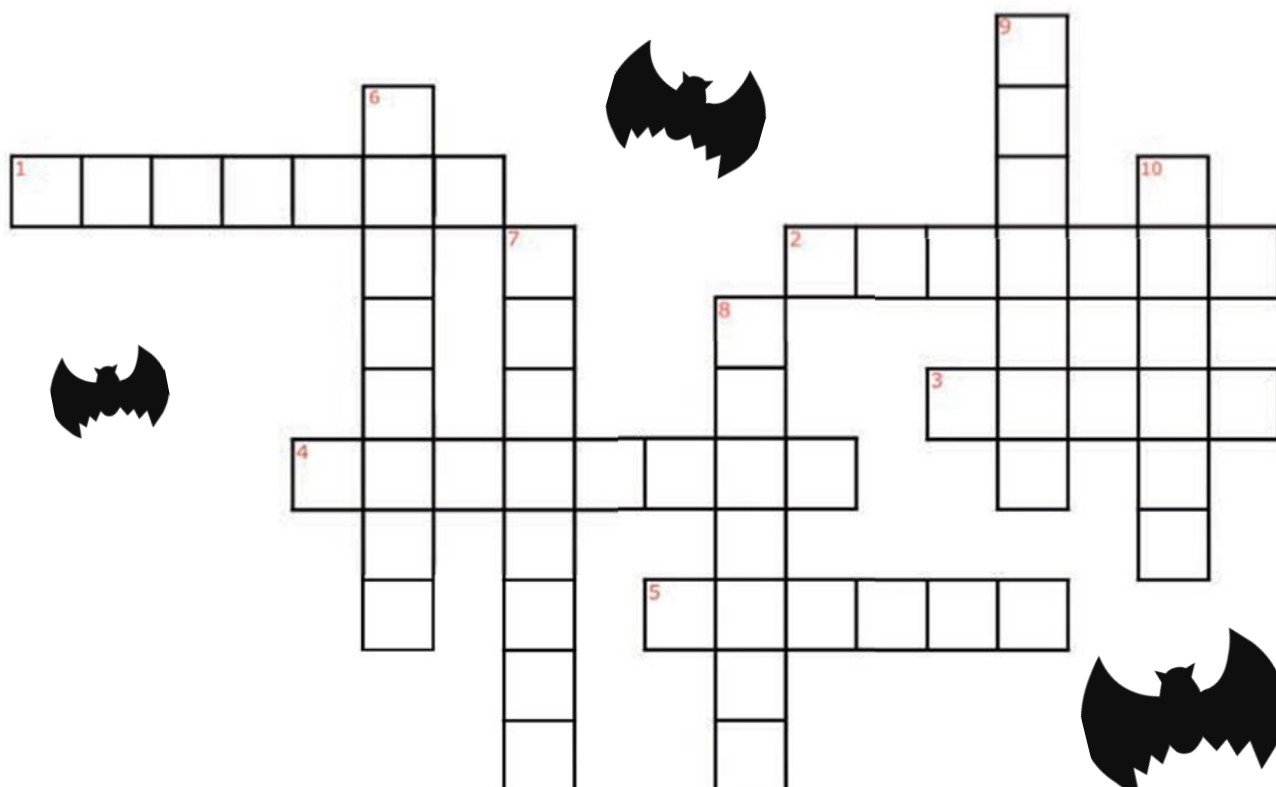
- 1 – October
- 2 – pumpkin
- 3 – treat
- 4 – costumes
- 5 – candle
- 6 – werewolf
- 7 – Scottish
- 8 – Ireland





HALLOWEEN CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword using the definitions below:



ACROSS

2. Halloween is celebrated in this month.
3. We use this vegetable to make a jack-o-lantern.
4. People can choose a trick or a
5. Children wear these on Halloween.
6. You put this inside a jack-o-lantern.

DOWN

7. This creature is half man, half wolf.
8. The word Halloween comes from this language.
9. Halloween probably originated in this country.
10. Dracula is the most famous one!
11. This is a male witch.

