

## Eerie Etymologies Answer Key

1. *Wicce* and *wicca* meant "sorcerer" or "one who practices magic."
2. The word changed from meaning a wise person or healer to being associated with dark magic or evil.
3. *Phantom* originates from Greek.
4. It shifted from meaning "appearance" or "illusion" to meaning a ghostly or haunting spirit.
5. *Pepon* meant "large melon."
6. It evolved from Greek (*pepon*) → Latin (*peponem*) → French (*pompon*) → English (*pumpion*) → modern English (*pumpkin*).

### Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students explore **etymology**, connecting linguistic history with modern word meanings. Builds vocabulary depth and cultural literacy.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
  - Provide simplified root maps for visual learners showing word evolution.
  - Offer advanced learners extra words like *ghoul*, *specter*, or *cauldron* for independent research.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
  - Use a "Word Origins Hunt" where students trace the roots of their favorite Halloween term.
  - Have students act out how meanings evolved—for example, how a "wise healer" became the modern "witch."
- **Extension Ideas:**
  - Create a mini "Etymology Museum" where students present the stories behind spooky words.
  - Encourage short essays comparing how languages influence modern English, especially in seasonal vocabulary.