

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Cultural Costumes

**Directions:** Read the passage below. Then, answer the questions that follow to compare how different cultures express creativity and meaning through their Halloween or autumn festival attire.

### A World of Halloween Attire

While children in the United States often dress as superheroes, witches, or movie characters for Halloween, people in other countries celebrate this spooky season in very different ways. In **Ireland**, where Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, traditional costumes often include ghostly or nature-inspired figures meant to scare away wandering spirits. People light bonfires and sometimes wear masks made from natural materials like straw or animal hides.

In **Mexico**, during **Día de los Muertos** (the Day of the Dead), families honor deceased loved ones with colorful face paint that resembles skulls, called *calaveras*. Instead of frightening costumes, the attire celebrates life and remembrance through bright colors, flowers, and intricate designs.

In **Japan**, the modern celebration of Halloween has become a showcase of creativity and craftsmanship. Costumes are elaborate and often inspired by anime, manga, or fantasy themes. Rather than focusing on fear, the emphasis is on artistic expression and fun gatherings.

Each culture uses costumes to express different values-fear and protection, love and memory, or creativity and imagination-all showing how people transform a single holiday into a reflection of their own traditions.

1. What purpose did costumes originally serve during the Celtic festival of Samhain in Ireland?
2. How do Mexican Día de los Muertos costumes differ from traditional Halloween costumes in the United States?
3. What do Japanese Halloween costumes emphasize most?
4. In what way do the three countries' costumes show different cultural values?
5. If you were designing a Halloween costume inspired by your culture, what symbols or themes might you include? Explain why.