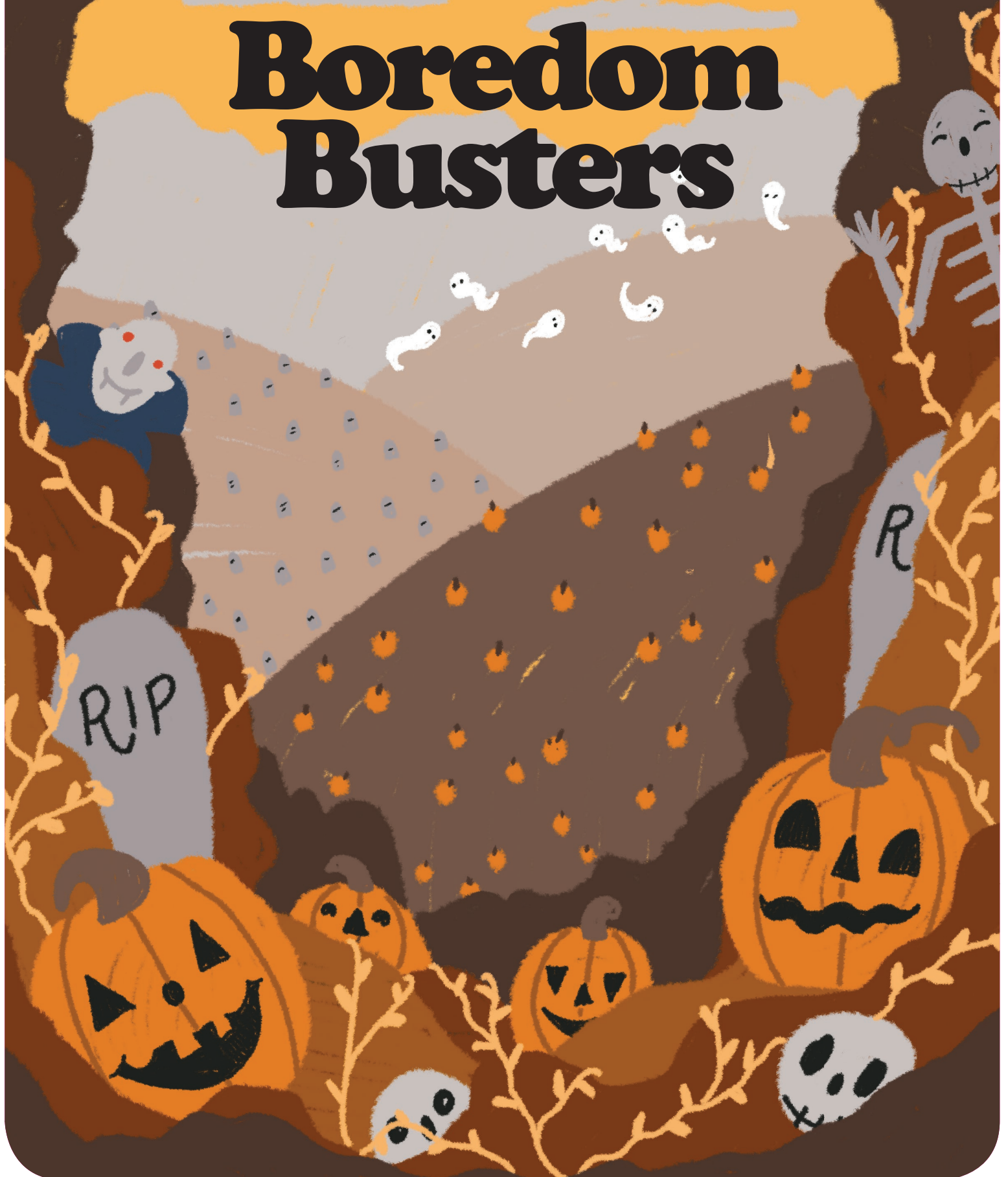


Issue 1

BUCKS COUNTY
FREE LIBRARY ESTABLISHED 1956

Fall 2019

Boredom Busters





This publication belongs to:

WELCOME TO BOREDOM BUSTERS!

**Welcome to the first edition of the
Boredom Busters magazine!**

Bucks County Free Library is proud to give you fun crafts, spooky stories, head-scratching puzzles, and creepy coloring pages. Enter the world of Maci Sparks, a young librarian trying to figure out who, or WHAT, is making a mess of the library every night. Spot the differences between the types of Halloween candy, and try to solve a kooky crossword puzzle! The literary based fun inside Boredom Busters will make you jump, laugh, and think as you flip through the magazine.

The following materials were created by a talented team of library employees. They hope you have as much fun with this magazine as they had making it for you!



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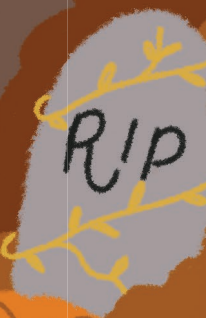
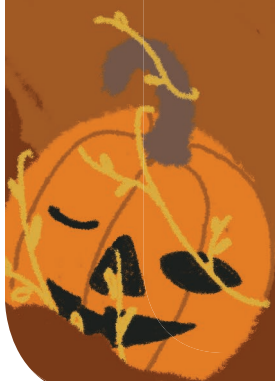
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COLLECT THEM ALL!

**Complete all of the activities in this issue of
Boredom Busters and bring it to any Bucks County Free
Library Branch to collect the *Hocus Pocus* Badge!**

Badge Squad is a program for children ages 5-14 who can complete
a set of themed challenges to earn badges they can display or wear.

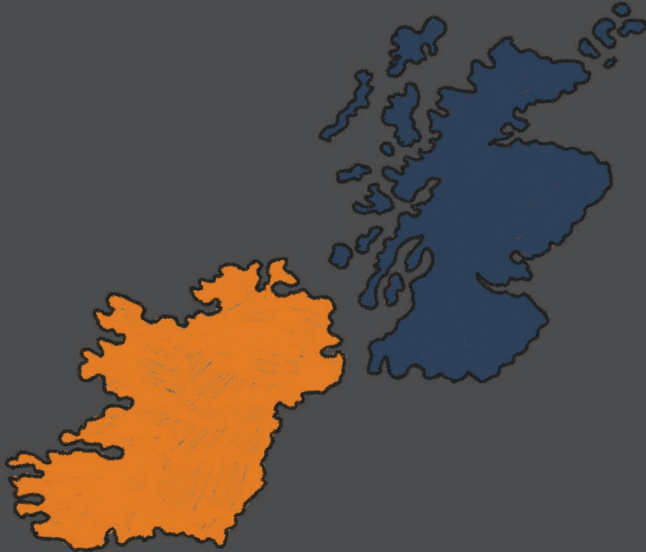
Children can work alone or together with friends and family!

Visit www.buckslib.org/badgesquad to learn more and search for
Badge Squad events on our calendar.

Halloween History

Every year, lots of children across the United States dress up in costumes and go Trick-Or-Treating. The tradition of Halloween has been passed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years, but the way it's celebrated has changed since it first started thousands of years ago.

So how did all of these traditions begin?



Halloween began 2000 years ago by the Celts in Ireland and Scotland. It was called Samhain!

They spent this day celebrating the harvest and the end of fall.



They dressed up in costumes to protect themselves from spirits.

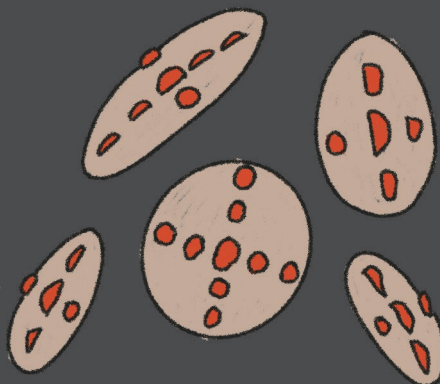
They carved Jack-O-Lanterns out of beets, potatoes, and turnips!





They would leave food at their front doors to prevent spirits from coming inside.

As time went on, people stopped fearing the spirits, and began celebrating them. People also started doing door to door asking for soul cakes.



Eventually, children began going door to door asking for candy!

Children began dressing up in silly costumes as the holiday focused more on fun.



Today, children dress up as their favorite characters from books and movies!

FAST FACTS



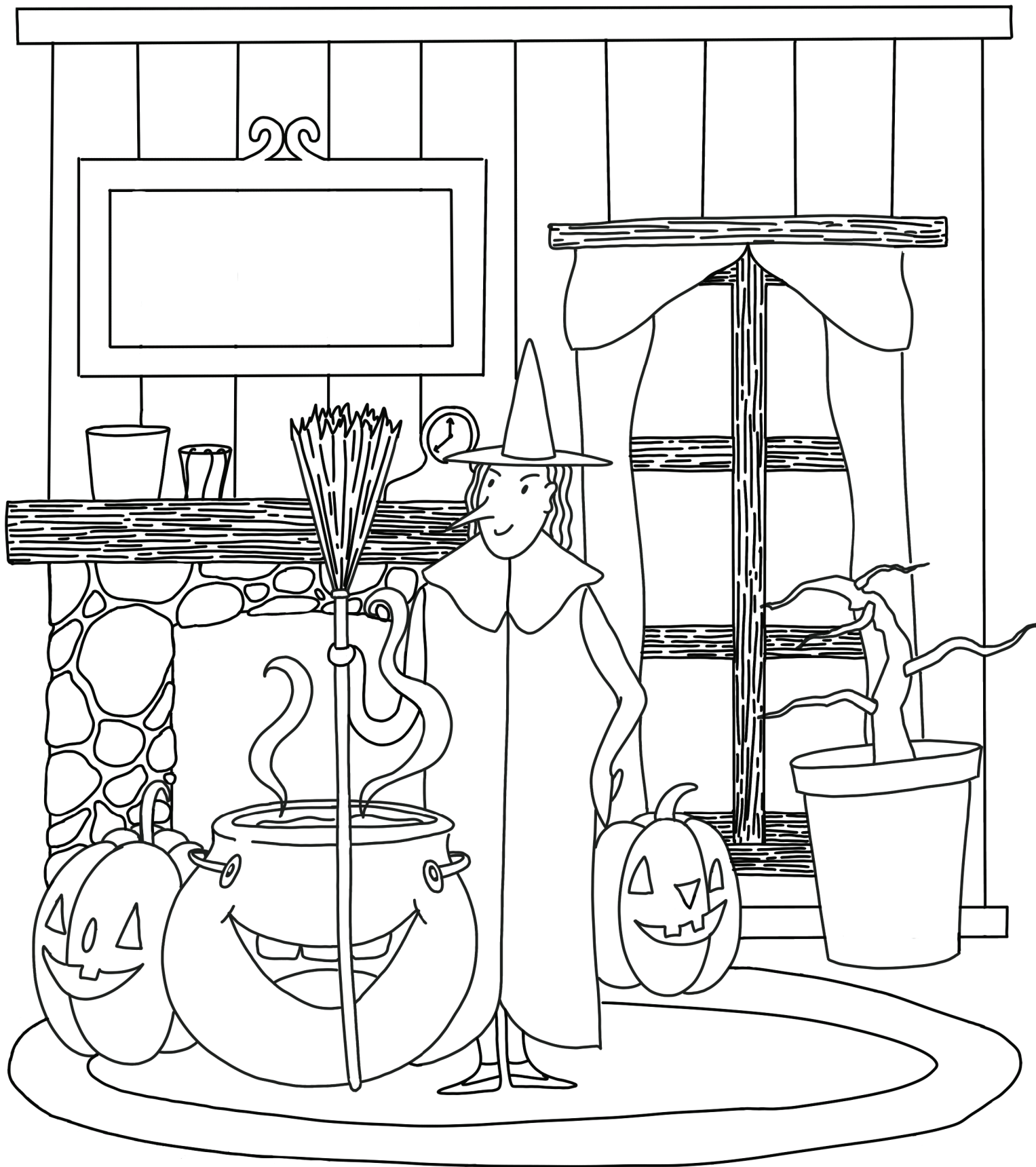
The colors of Halloween are black and orange. Orange represents the harvest, and black represents the crops



Pumpkins are the most popular pet costume in the United States!



90% of parents steal at least one piece of Trick-Or-Treat candy from their children's candy pile.





Wrinkled prunes, mushrooms, motor oil, too
Stir them in my witches' brew
I got magic, Alakazamakazoo
I got magic, Alakazamakazoo

Spooky Swab Skeleton

Skeletons have always been used as symbols for death. People dress up as them, use them to decorate their homes, and they are always in scary movies.

But did you know that skeletons are used all around the world to help people remember about loved ones who are no longer with them?

Get ready for some spine tingling fun, and make your own skeleton!

MATERIALS



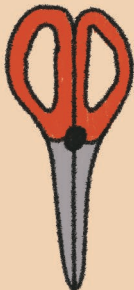
COTTON
SWABS



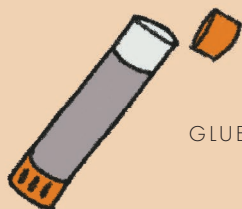
BLACK
PAPER



WHITE
PAPER



SCISSORS



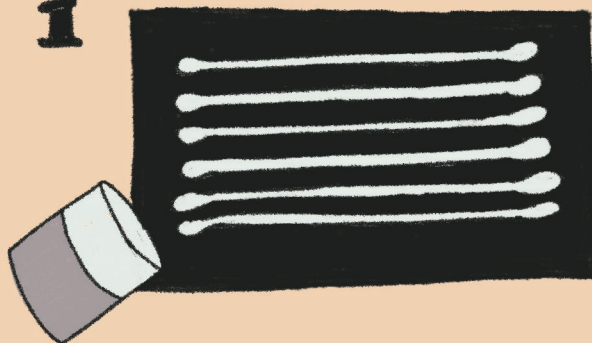
GLUE STICK



BLACK
MARKER

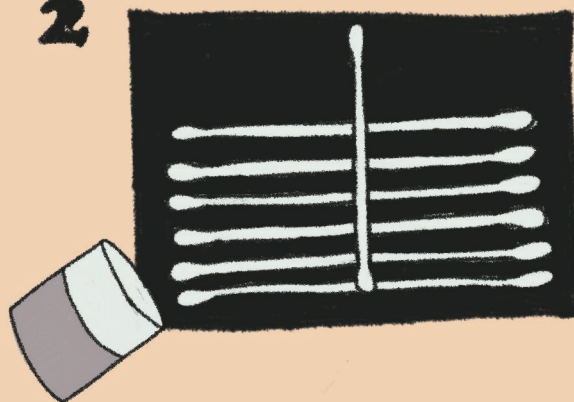
INSTRUCTIONS

1



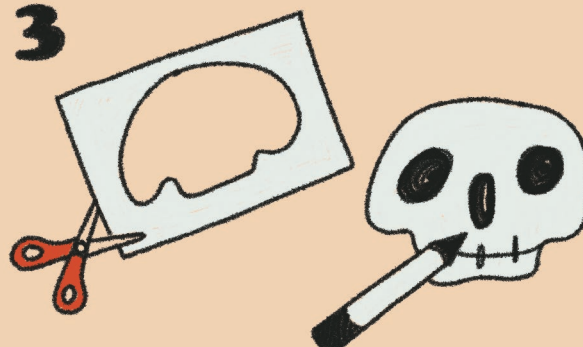
Begin gluing 6 cotton swabs on the black cardstock in order to make the skeleton's ribs.

2



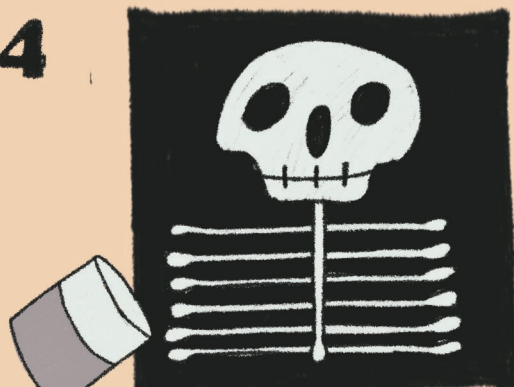
Glue 1 cotton swab perpendicular over the ribs to make the backbone. Make sure to line up the bottom of the cotton swab with the last rib to make sure that the skeleton will have a neck.

3



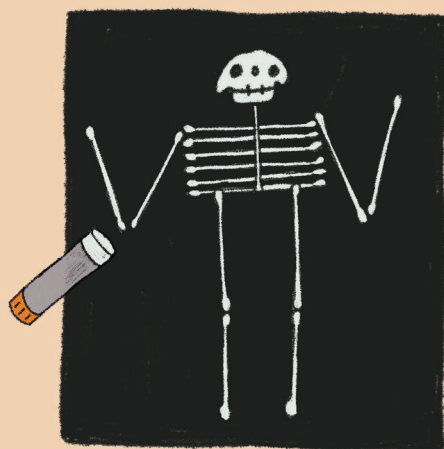
Draw a skull on the white paper with the black marker, and then cut it out.

4



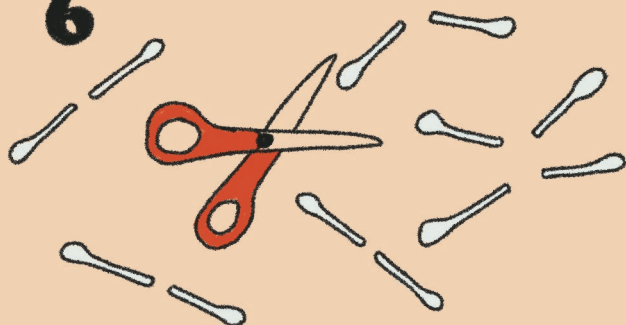
Glue the skull on the paper.
Make sure it is connected to
the top of the neck bone!

5



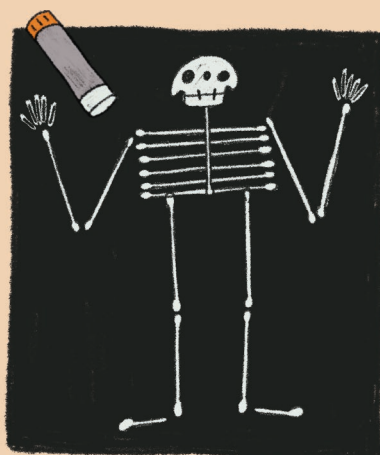
Glue 8 cotton swabs for the
arm and leg joints [2 cotton
swabs for each arm and leg].

6



Cut 6 cotton swabs in half.
These will make the 10 fingers
and 2 feet.

7



Glue them in place, and put
your skeleton on display!

FAST FACT

The adult human skeleton
has 206 bones, 54 of
which are located in
the hand.

KEEP IT GOING!

**Experiment by
drawing different
emotions on the
skeletons face, and
by changing its arm
and leg positions.**

**Take this craft to the
next level by gluing
cotton swabs
together to make a
skeleton sculpture.**

Halloween Jokes

**Halloween is one of the best times of year to be mischievous!
Have some fun telling some Halloween inspired jokes to your
friends, family, and even your teachers!**

What plant likes Halloween the most?
Bam-BOO!

What are ghosts favorite ride at the fair?
The scary-go-round!

Why didn't the skeleton like his
halloween candy?
They didn't have the stomach for it!

Why couldn't the ghost see its mom
and dad?
Because they were transparent!

Which ghost is the best dancer?
The Boogeyman!

Why do they put fences
around graveyards?
Because people are dying to get in!

What is a vampire's favorite fruit?
Neck-tarines!

Why do ghosts like to take the elevator
instead of the stairs?
It raises their spirits!

What do you call a tired skeleton?
The Grim Sleeper!

What is a ghost's favorite dessert?
Boo-berry Pie!

What did the ghost say when the
skeleton lied to him?
I can see right through you!

Why don't ghosts like the rain?
It dampens their spirits!

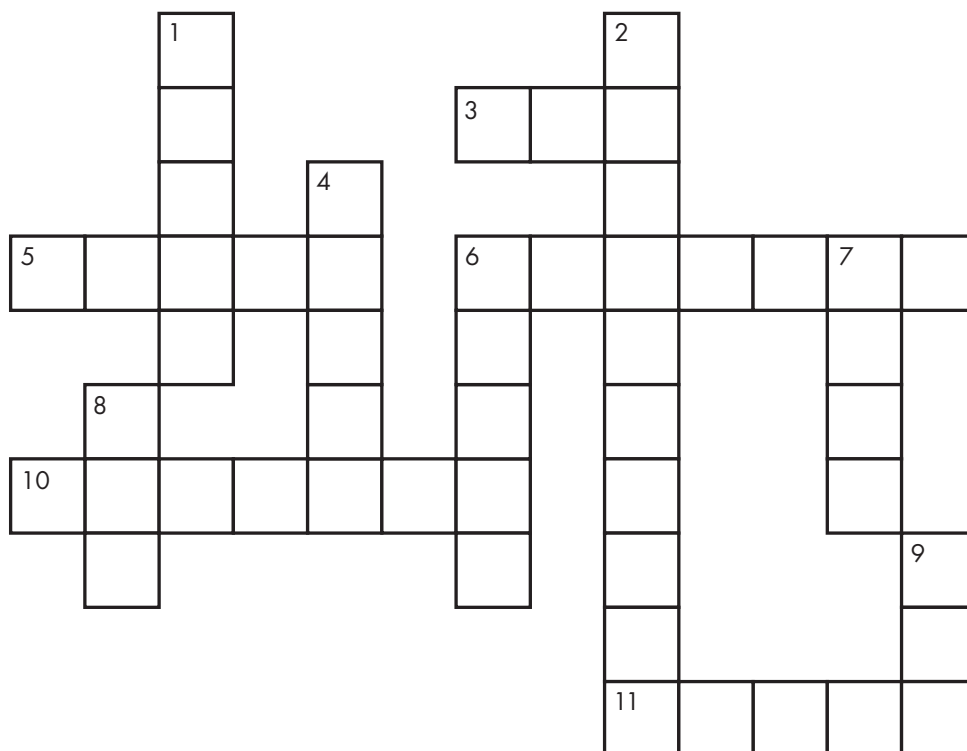
What is a goblin's favorite cheese?
Monster-ella!

Why do vampires need mouthwash?
They have bat breath!

Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?
They didn't have the guts!

What did the ghost ask the man at the
coffee shop?
Scream and sugar?

Kooky Crossword



ACROSS

3. You hear this feathered friend hooting from above.
5. She has a cauldron where she makes potions.
6. Put on a disguise to trick the spirits.
10. You go to this type of house to get scared!
11. Instead of a treat you receive a ...

DOWN

1. A celebration with costumes, dancing, and candy!
2. Take this with you during Trick-or-Treat so you can see at night.
4. You can see right through me, and Caspar is my cousin.
6. A delicious treat.
7. This lights up the night sky during Trick-Or-Treat!
8. I'm a witch's best friend!
9. What you say when you're scared!



Will Travel

In a small town in Bucks County, there is an old stone building. It has been home to many businesses over the past hundred years. When it was built (in the 1900's), it was meant to be a bank. It was the first bank in the town.

The owner of the bank lived down the street. Every day he would walk to and from work at the same time. He was a very strict man, and had very strong opinions. He did great things for the town. A lot of people didn't like him though because he could be mean.

Over time, other banks opened up in the town. Eventually the old stone building became home to other businesses. Almost fifty years ago, a lady decided to turn it into a travel agency. Weird and spooky things started happening immediately! Doors would slam shut. The lady would see shadows walking through doorways. There were unexpected cold spots. It was so scary that no one that worked for the travel agency would want to be in the building by themselves.

Sometimes when people went in the storage closet that used to be the bank safe, they would feel a cold breeze behind them. Then, their hair would be pulled! When they turned around, no one would be there!

The lady liked to bring her dog to work with her. But sometimes the dog would be scared when he went to work! He would bark at nothing. He didn't want to be alone either.

After many years, the lady decided to hire a psychic. The psychic told her that the building

was haunted by a strict old man. She said that he didn't like the women wearing pants to work or the dog in the office. The psychic told the lady that the man's name started with the letter J.

The travel agency booked vacations for people all over the world. But they specialized in vacations to New Zealand. Over time, the lady became friends with several Maori people. Maori are the native indigenous people of New Zealand. One of them, a shaman, decided to come visit her. He walked into the travel agency and froze in his tracks. He looked at the lady and said, "Do you know that this building is haunted?"

She nodded, and said, "What do you see?" The shaman said, "There is an old man here. Every morning he walks in from down the street, and in the evening he leaves and goes home. He's very strict and kind of mean. He doesn't like the women wearing pants in the office. He doesn't like the dog in the office. His name is Joseph."

It's been many years since the shaman and the psychic visited. Since then, the ghost seems very content to keep going to work every day. Now the people who work at the travel office know that when something scary seems to happen, it's just Joseph.



Candy Corn Patterns

Whenever candy corn hits the shelves of stores, people immediately know what time of year it is. Finish each pattern by placing a piece of candy corn turned the correct way on each line. Once you're sure the pattern is correct, redraw the candy corn, and color all of the pieces in!

						_____	_____
						_____	_____
						_____	_____
						_____	_____
						_____	_____
						_____	_____
						_____	_____

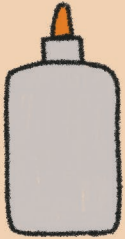
Pine Cone Pals

Ghosts, vampires, zombies, werewolves, and mummies are just a few monsters that people think of at this time of year. Although these monsters are terrifying, there are others out there that are just as scary. Create your own beast that will have everyone running away in fear!

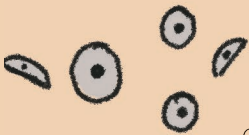
MATERIALS



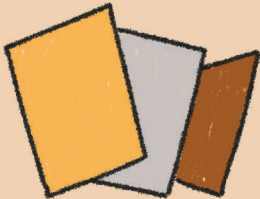
PINE
CONES



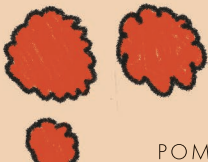
GLUE



GOOGLY
EYES



CRAFT FOAM
OR FELT



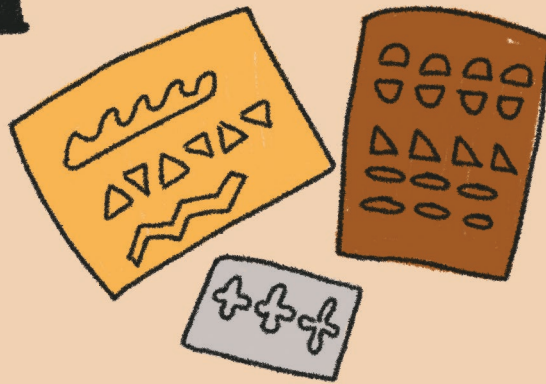
POM POMS



SCISSORS

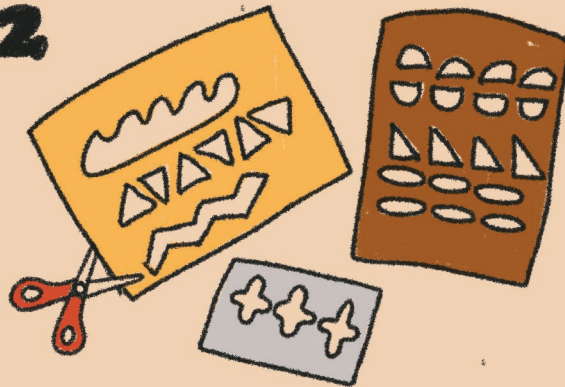
INSTRUCTIONS

1



Use the marker to draw different shapes onto the craft foam or felt.

2



Cut the shapes out of the craft foam or felt.

3



Glue the foam or felt, googly eyes, and pom poms to the pine cone. Try gluing the pieces in on and between the folds of the pine cone. Layer pieces to make it really fun!

KEEP IT GOING!

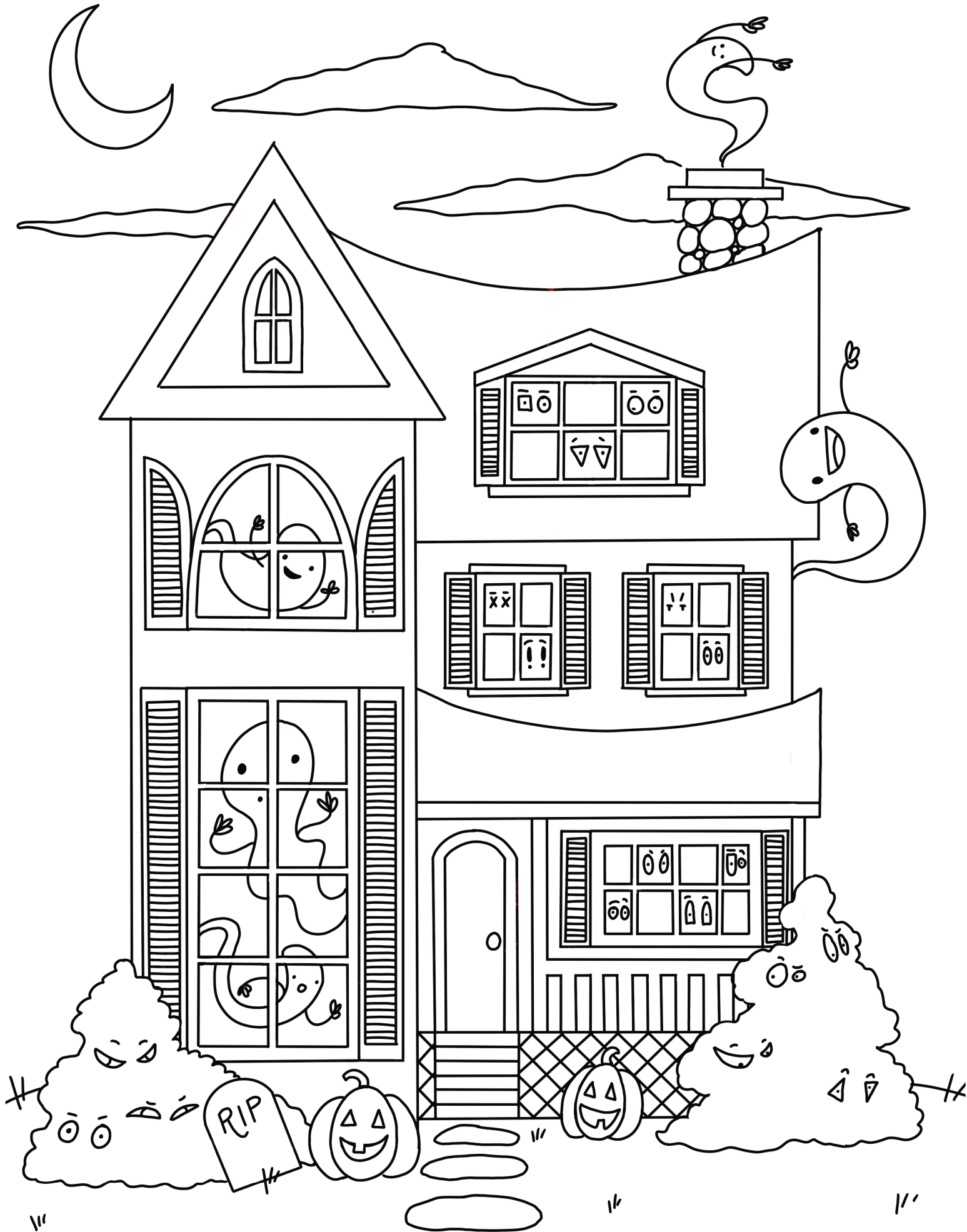
Make a whole herd of scary monsters. Make it a challenge by creating each one different than the last. Take this craft to the next level by creating different types of monsters with random objects found around the house and outside.



Spot the Difference

Your best friend and you dropped all of your Halloween candy! Quickly spot all 12 differences so you don't accidentally take from your friends candy pile!



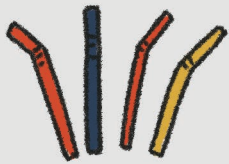




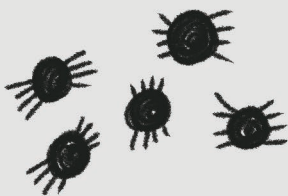
Spider Racing

Spiders are creepy and crawly. Their eight eyes and ability to wrap their webs wherever they want strikes fear into many. This makes them the perfect Halloween fright! Their eight legs also makes them incredibly fast, which means they're great at racing! Try racing your friends and family to see who is the spider racing champion!

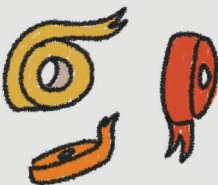
MATERIALS



STRAWS

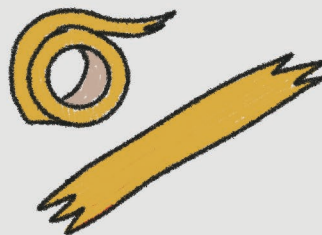


PLASTIC SPIDERS



TAPE

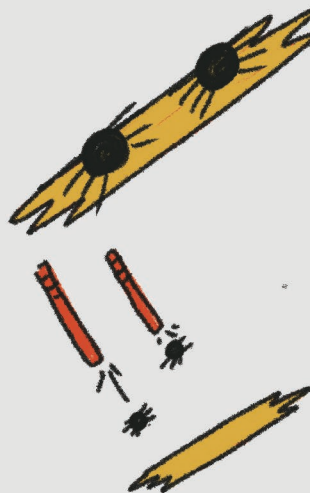
INSTRUCTIONS



1. Place a strip of tape on a table, the floor, or on a sheet of paper to create the starting line, and another piece of tape on the other end to create the finish line.

2. Place each spider at the starting line.

3. Blow into the straw to push the spider towards the finish line.





Jack-O-Lantern Banner

Today, Jack-O-Lanterns light up the night with their silly faces. But that's not what they were always used for. They used to be placed on window sills and in doorways to scare away the spirits. People carved angry faces into them to show the spirits they weren't joking around. Help keep the spirits away by creating your own Jack-O-Lantern banner! When you're finished, hang it on your wall, in your window, or above your doorway to keep the spirits out!

MATERIALS



ORANGE
CONSTRUCTION PAPER



BLACK
CONSTRUCTION PAPER



GLUE STICK



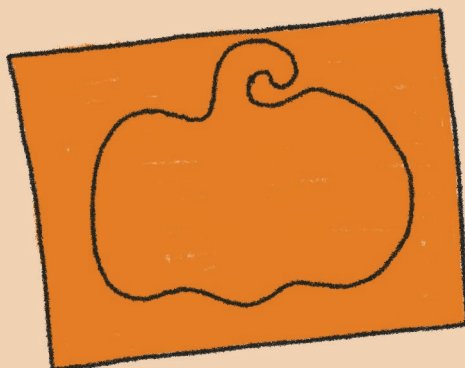
SCISSORS



STRING

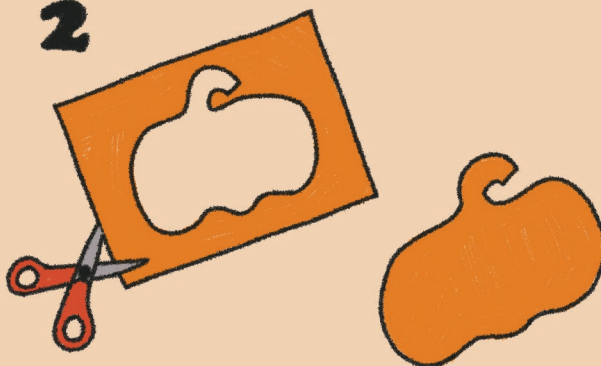
INSTRUCTIONS

1



Draw a pumpkin on an orange sheet of paper. If you don't have orange paper, color an orange pumpkin on white paper.

2



Cut the pumpkin out.

3



Cut out triangles, circles, ovals, and half circles to make the eyes, nose, and mouth of the Jack-O-Lantern.

4



Glue the shapes onto the pumpkin.

5



Repeat steps 1-4 to create a whole pumpkin patch worth of Jack-O-Lanterns!

6



Tie the string around each Jack-O-Lantern's stems to create a banner.

7



Hang your creation in a window, doorway, or on a wall!

FAST FACT

Pumpkins are thought to have first originated in Mexico around 7,000 years ago!

KEEP IT GOING!

Make each Jack-O-Lantern have a different emotion by playing with different shapes for their eyes and mouths.



“That’s Not a Squirrel”

Maci Sparks was excited and nervous. She was starting her first day as a children’s librarian. It was crazy how she got the job so fast. She applied to work at the library in her town. She thought she would be interviewed by the library director, but instead she was hired right away!

Maci Sparks was excited and nervous. She was starting her first day as a children’s librarian. It was crazy how she got the job so fast. She applied to work at the library in her town. She thought she would be interviewed by the library director, but instead she was hired right away!

It turned out that the director’s mom had fallen and hurt her leg. The director needed to fly all the way to Iowa to take care of her. She told Maci she would be the new children’s librarian, but she’d have to take care of the whole library by herself for two weeks! Maci was nervous because she’d be responsible for everything.

Maci walked into the library and looked around. She loved libraries so much, but this one was a little messy. There were books on all of the carts. All of the return bins were full of books. She had storytime in one hour and a lot of work to do!

This is too much work for one person to do, Maci thought. It was time to bring in some help. Maci found a bunch of teenagers hanging out in the library. She asked if they would want to volunteer. They said yes!

Maci told the teenagers that they needed to put the books on the shelves where they belonged. They didn’t have to be perfect. There were so many books to put away that if every single one was put in the perfect spot, it would take forever!

By the end of the day, the library looked a lot better! The books weren’t perfect, but people could find them. They weren’t sitting on carts in piles anymore.

The next morning, Maci walked into the library. She stopped in shock. There were books all over the floor! What could have happened? Was there an earthquake over night?

Maci put the books on a cart. When the teen volunteers came in after school they could put them away.

The day flew by. Storytime was a lot of fun. Maci signed five people up for library cards. The teen volunteers shelved all of the books that had fallen off the shelves. They also shelved all the books that had been returned. A lot of books were checked out! Maci turned off the lights and locked the library.



Oh no! When Maci walked in she saw that books were all over the floor again. And this time, a bear puppet from the children’s area was sitting on Maci’s desk! What was going on?

Maci called the library director and told her what had happened. The director told Maci that she could look at the cameras in the library. She said that she thought it was probably a squirrel making a mess. The director’s mom was starting to feel better but she couldn’t come back to the library yet.

Maci looked at the cameras on her computer. 9:00, nothing. 10:00, nothing. 11:00, nothing. 12:00, nothing...wait! Something was moving. Suddenly, all the books flew off the shelves!



Then, the bear puppet floated into view. It was hovering in mid-air! No one was holding it, but it was floating three feet off the ground! It floated over to Maci's desk and slowly came to a stop on top of her desk.

That's not a squirrel, thought Maci.

The teen volunteers helped clean up again. By the end of the day the library looked great. The books weren't all in the perfect spot, but because they were out on the shelves people were checking them out! A lot of people signed up for library cards, and a lot of people checked out books.

Maci was a little scared. Once the library was closed, she turned off the lights and ran out the door.



Not again! The books were all over the floor. The bear was back on Maci's desk. And this time, there was a book sitting on Maci's desk too. It was an old book that looked like it was written on a typewriter. The pages were yellow and it smelled musty. It was open to the middle. The page said "Mrs. Bear's Rules for Shelving." It had a lot of rules written down on how to shelf books perfectly.

Oh man! Now Maci knew what was going on. It had to be the ghost of Mrs. Bear! And she wasn't happy that the books weren't being shelved right. Maci asked all the teen volunteers to come talk with her. She kept the bear puppet at her desk, so Mrs. Bear could listen too.

She told the volunteers how much she appreciated their help. She told them how even though the books weren't perfect, it was more important that they were off the carts and on the shelves. That made it so people could find them and check them out! A lot more books were checked out this week than before. And the most important thing was that people were coming to the library. They got library cards, came to storytime, and found good books to read.

The teens were really happy! The new librarian really liked their work.

The library looked really good by the end of the day, and all the books were on the shelves.



The next morning, Maci walked into the library. There were no books on the floor! The bear puppet had moved though. It wasn't in the children's area anymore. Now it was on a table, next to a bunch of books. The books were all about how great libraries are!

"I guess Mrs. Bear likes the library better now too," thought Maci. Having a library ghost wasn't too bad after all. It was better than squirrels!



HAPPY HOOPLA-WEEN!

Looking for audiobooks and read alongs?

Try Hoopla!

Hoopla has special "Read Along" books in the collection with audio narration and highlights each word being read. And lots of audiobooks too! Find great selections from *Disney*, the *Muppets*, *Star Wars*, as well as titles by authors Doreen Cronin, Mo Willems, and more!



BUCKS COUNTY
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For a list of upcoming story times at your local branch, please visit buckslib.org/storytimes/