



National  
Trust

# Autumn adventures

Part three of three





**Half-term**

**happiness**

Welcome to part three of our autumn adventures. Half-term's around the corner, so why not start making plans to get out there and enjoy everything autumn has to offer.

Whether you're at home or at one of the places we look after, we've got lots of activities for you to try out, in a season where everything changes.



# The story of **Jack-o'-lanterns**

## **When did it begin?**

The carving of Jack-o'-lanterns is believed to have started in Ireland in the 19th century, although carving vegetables into lanterns is a tradition that's over 700 years old.

## **Who's Jack?**

Jack-o'-lanterns are named after a figure from Irish folklore called Stingy Jack. It became a Halloween tradition after people moving from Ireland brought it to America.

## **What do the faces mean?**

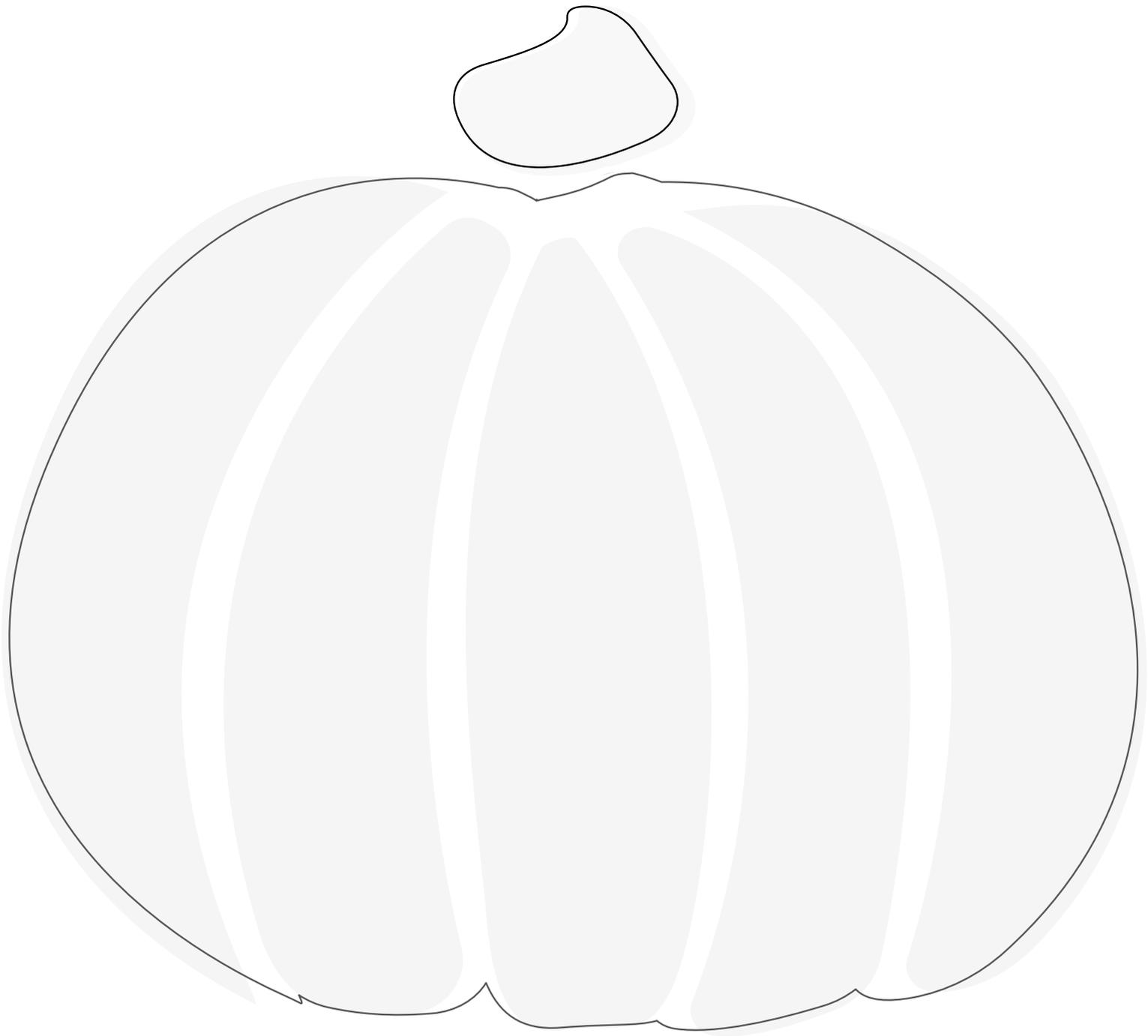
The faces in the lanterns were said to be the faces of spirits or supernatural beings, but were also believed to scare evil spirits away from the home.



## Activity 1

# Design your own

Now it's your turn. Draw a face below and make it as spooky or silly as you like. Could the eyes look like leaves? Could the nose look like stones? Could the ears look like animals? Get creative!



## Activity 2

# Bring autumn to life

Colouring pencils at the ready! There's a wonderful autumn scene below that needs your imagination for it to come to life. Make it as colourful and vibrant as you can.

### Top tip:

If you turn your colouring pencil on its side, you'll be able to draw in different textures and shades.



# Create an autumn collage

Why not capture the feeling of autumn in a collage? Here are a few tips to help you on your way.

## 1. Think about a theme

What do you want to create? Something that's educational for other people – like a guide to different trees – or something that's just fun and artistic? Think it through and make a plan.



## 2. Find your leaves

The fun begins! Go hunting for leaves that you like. It's better if they're not torn, don't have any holes in and are nice and dry. Tuck them away and keep them flat on the way home.



## 3. Get creative

Start laying out your leaves on the page and begin your collage. Have fun playing with shapes and colours. If your original plan doesn't work out, don't worry! Just go with it.



## 4. Stick them down

Once you're happy with your collage, ask an adult to help you stick down your leaves into the position you're happy with. It doesn't matter if they go a bit wonky, it's all part of the fun.



## 5. Make it your own

When your leaves are down, you can make your collage even more exciting by colouring in around them, drawing a background or writing a story or poem around the leaves.



# Write your spooky nature story



Fill in the gaps and make this spooky woodland story your own ...

On a \_\_\_\_\_ night, I was \_\_\_\_\_ in the woods with \_\_\_\_\_.  
I heard \_\_\_\_\_ and saw \_\_\_\_\_ in the leaves. Out of the  
trees, a \_\_\_\_\_ came \_\_\_\_\_ towards me, making a  
noise that sounded like \_\_\_\_\_ and before I knew it,  
I was suddenly \_\_\_\_\_ in the sky, surrounded by birds  
the colour of \_\_\_\_\_.

**What happens next in your story?**



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