



# Jack O'Lanterns



# The Story Of "Stingy Jack"

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# Jack O'Lanterns

People have been making Jack O'Lanterns at Halloween for centuries. This originated from an Irish myth about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack."

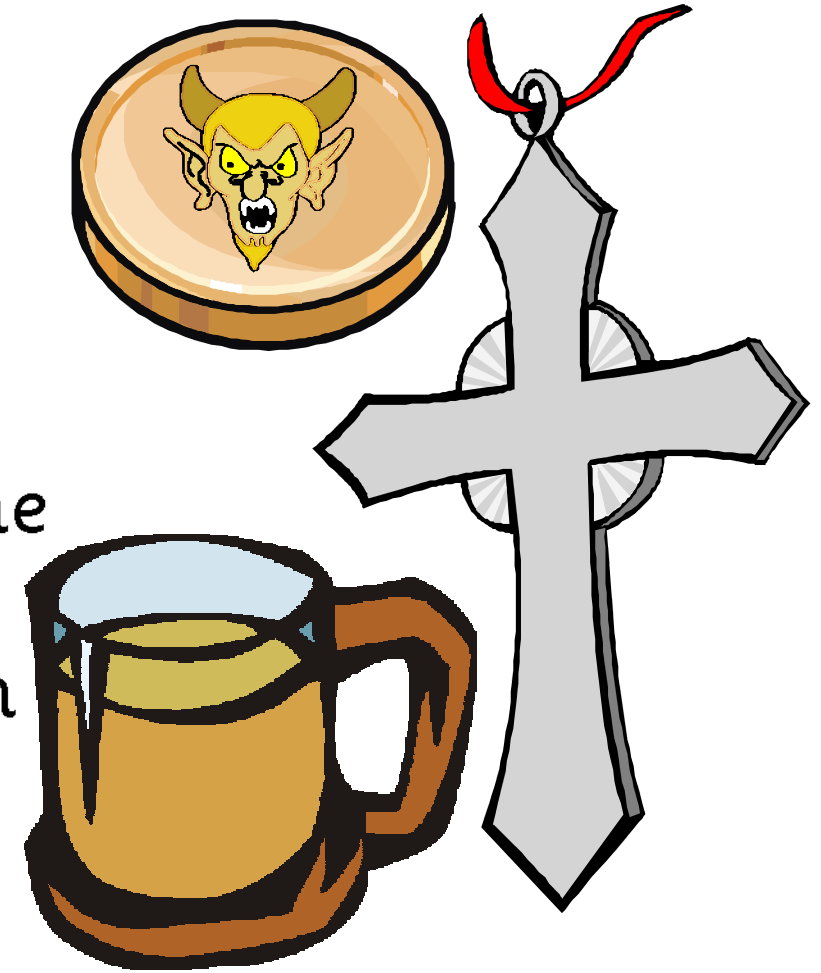


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# The Legend of "Stingy Jack"

Many years ago Stingy Jack invited the Devil to have a drink with him. Stingy Jack didn't want to pay for his drink so he tricked the Devil into turning himself into a coin that Jack could use to buy their drinks. Once the Devil turned into a coin Jack decided to keep the money! He put the coin in his pocket next to a silver cross. This stopped the Devil changing back into his true form.



# A Deal With The Devil

Jack eventually freed the devil but he made him promise not to bother Jack for one year, and that, if Jack died before the year was out, the devil would not take his soul.

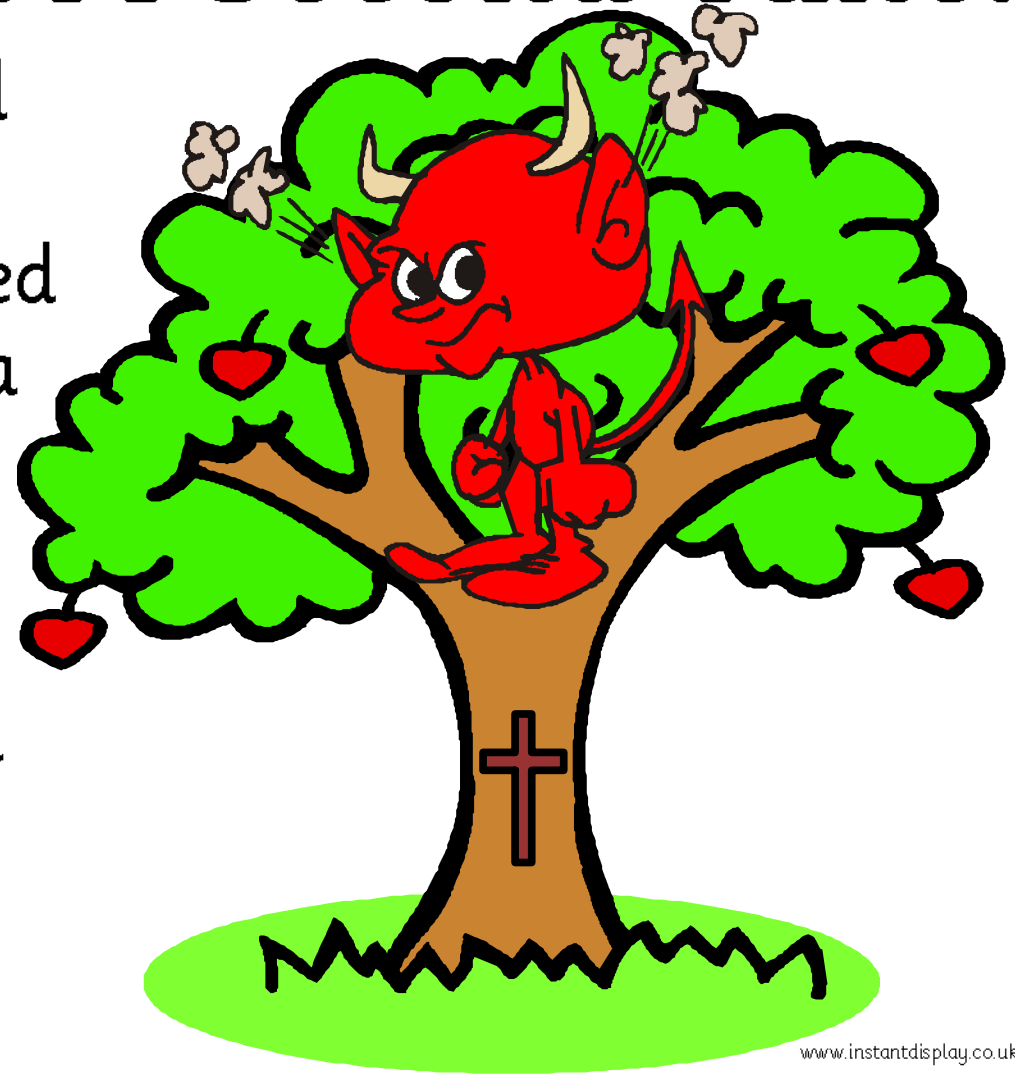


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# Tricking The Devil A Second Time!

The next year the devil appeared and was once again tricked by Stingy Jack. This time Jack asked the devil to climb a tree to pick a piece of fruit. While he was up the tree Jack carved a cross into the tree's bark, so the devil couldn't come down again. Jack made the Devil promise not to bother him for another 10 years before he would let him down.



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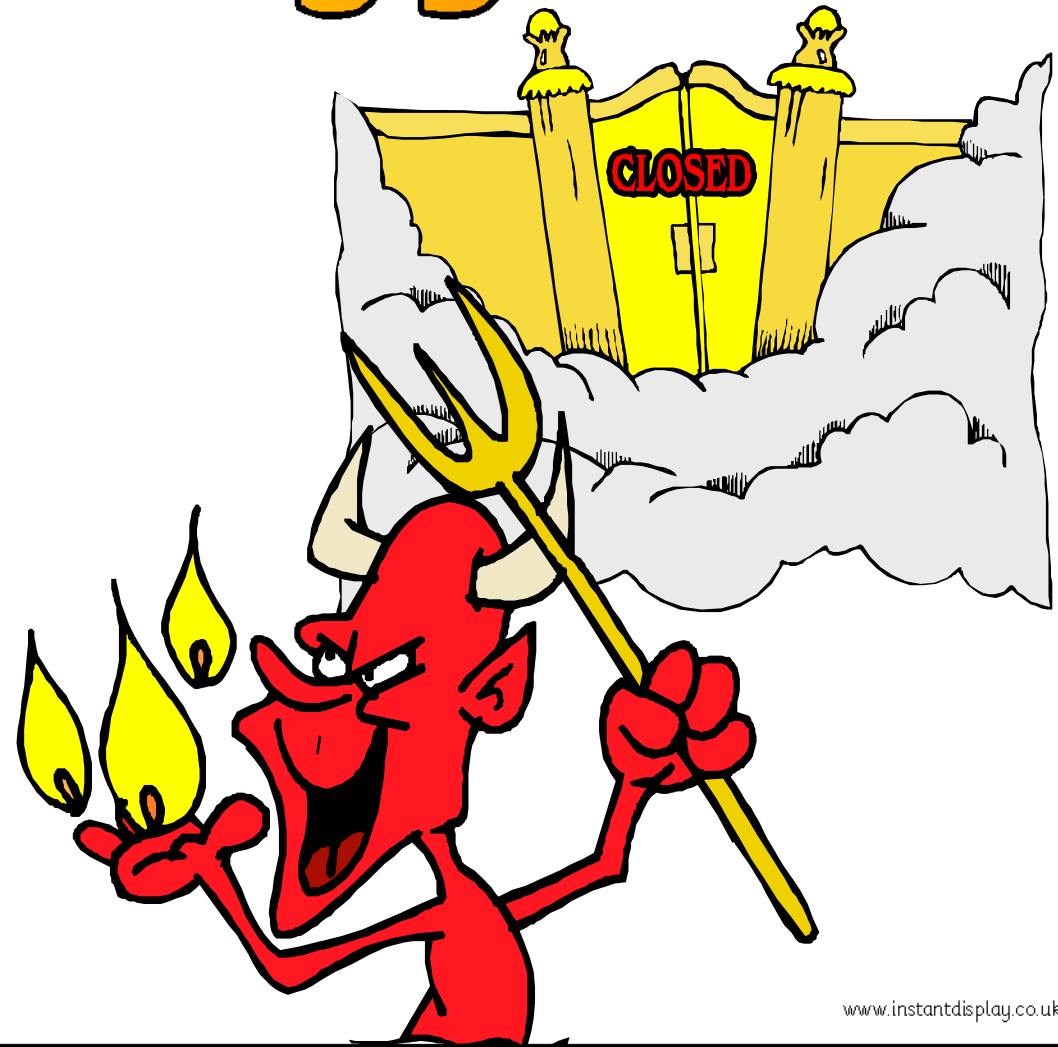


# Death Of Stingy Jack

Soon after his second trick Stingy Jack died.

God wouldn't allow Jack into heaven and the Devil refused to claim Jack's soul, because of the tricks he had played on him.

He sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way.

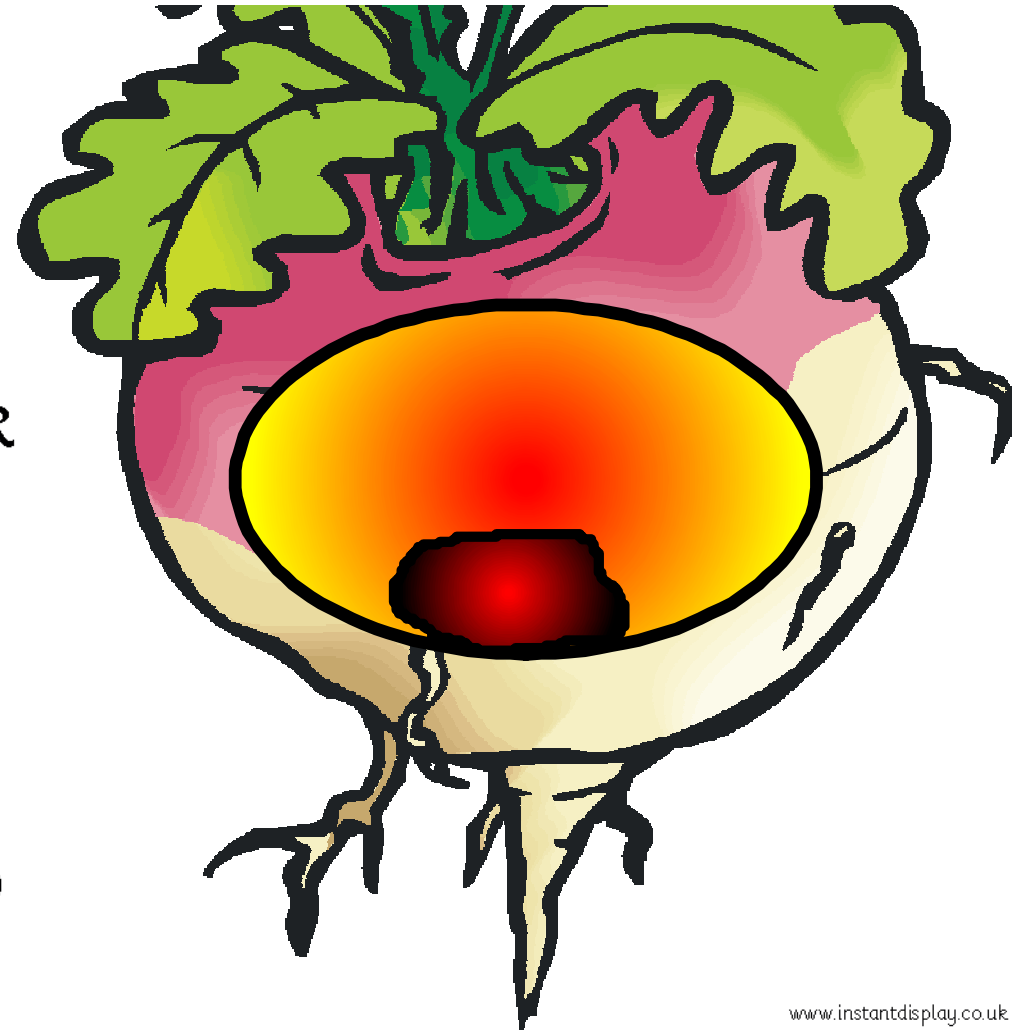


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# The First Jack O'Lantern

Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to talk about this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern." Lights were often seen roaming marshes at night and people thought it was Jack trying to lead travellers into danger.



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# Carving Jack O'Lanterns

In Ireland and Scotland, people began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips or potatoes and placing them into windows or near doors to frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. When people travelled from these countries to the United States they brought the Jack O'Lantern idea with them. They soon found that pumpkins make perfect Jack O'Lanterns.



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