Муниципальное общеобразовательное автономное учреждение средняя общеобразовательная школа № 6 городского округа город Нефтекамск Республики Башкортостан

**Halloween and Ivan Kupala’s holiday.**

**Similarity and differences**

**(Сравнение праздников**

**Хэллоуин и Ивана Купала)**

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**Introduction**

Recently, there has been a lot of controversy: should we celebrate Halloween in Russia? There are different opinions: some, mainly young people, are sure that this is a fun holiday that can fill with enthusiasm. But there are people who think that you shouldn't treat Halloween as a holiday. The motivation is that this holiday is "not ours", and therefore it is not for us to celebrate. In addition, many are sure that the holiday on which people try to look like evil spirits is very creepy and terrible. One way or another, many have now forgotten about the holiday of Ivan Kupala. And in fact, this is the notorious Halloween. That is why I decided to compare these holidays. More and more people, especially in cities, celebrate Halloween and fewer and fewer people know about the holiday of Ivan Kupala. These are mainly people who live in distant villages or people who are fascinated by the history of their people. I decided to compare these holidays and draw some conclusions about the meaning and influence of these holidays, apparently,

the holding of which has long been just the observance of traditions and a fun pastime.

**Purpose of the research:** to investigate the similarities and differences between the holidays of Ivan Kupala and Halloween.

I set myself the following tasks:

1. Explore the history of the holidays of Ivan Kupala and Halloween.
2. Study the traditions and beliefs of these holidays.
3. Compare the holiday of Ivan Kupala and Halloween.
4. Analyze the popularity of both holidays.
5. Find out: is it possible to replace a foreign holiday with our Slavic one.

**Hypothesis:** Perhaps these holidays have different origins, but the same traditions.

Research methods: analysis and synthesis, comparison, generalization, questioning.

**Object of research:** the holidays of Halloween and Ivan Kupala.

**Subject of research:** history, traditions of the holidays of Ivan Kupala and Halloween.

**The problem** is that not everyone knows the history of the origin of the holidays of Ivan Kupala and Halloween, what is the historical load, the origins of these holidays.

My work is devoted to the study of the similarities and differences in the stories and traditions of the holidays of Ivan Kupala and Halloween.

**History of the holiday of Ivan Kupala**

For many centuries this day was the main summer holiday of the Eastern Slavs. July 7 (June 24, old style) is the day of the summer solstice, when the Slavic peoples traditionally performed numerous agricultural folk rituals designed to ensure harvest, health, and prosperity.

Ivan Kupala was one of the most revered, most important, most riotous holidays of the year, the entire population took part in it, and the tradition required everyone to be actively involved in all rituals, actions, special behavior, mandatory implementation and observance of a number of rules, prohibitions, customs. Midsummer's day is filled with rituals associated with water. In the morning on Midsummer's Day, swimming is a popular custom, and only in some regions did the peasants consider such bathing dangerous, since on Midsummer's Day the waterman himself is considered the birthday man, who hates when people climb into his kingdom, and takes revenge on them by drowning everyone careless. On the day of Ivan Kupala, the people connected their ideas about the incredible riches of nature. People expected not only a rich harvest, but also even greater generosity - success in their search for hidden treasures. This is how many legends were born. The most common of them tells that on the day of Ivan Kupala, many plants acquire a special healing power. The main place was occupied by a fern, which supposedly blooms with a wonderful fiery color that night, thus indicating a treasure buried in this place. "There is fern grass. It grows in forests near swamps, in wet places, in meadows. And it blooms on the eve of Midsummer's Day at midnight, fades in one hour, and blooms like fire burns."

**Traditions of the holiday of Ivan Kupala**

On the night of Ivan Kupala, bonfires were lit "light" - high, up to 10 m to disperse the darkness and help the forces of good, and "smoky" - small, through which they jumped, fumigation of which had a certain meaning and "practical" application. It is these bonfires, which are considered cleansing, that are the main feature of the Kupala night. They always danced and jumped around them: whoever jumps higher and more successful, he will be happier. In some places, they even chased cattle through the Kupala fire to protect them from pestilence.

One of the fairly common Kupala rituals is pouring water over everything that is oncoming and transverse. The village guys dress in old, dirty linen and go with buckets and jugs to the river, where they fill them with the dirtiest, muddy water, or even just liquid mud, and walk through the village, dousing everyone and everyone and making an exception only for old people and youngsters ... But, of course, the girls are doused most willingly: the guys even break into houses, pull and carry the girls out into the street by force, and here they douse them with water and mud from head to toe.

On this night, the girls wondered on wreaths, letting them along the river - where they hit the shore, there the betrothed lives. And, of course, everyone, without exception, tried to find the fern flower. On Midsummer's day, in the morning, they collected healing dew, as well as herbs, which just gained full strength and were charged with the energy of the luminaries. There was also a traditional game of burners.

**History of the holiday of Halloween**

Halloween is a holiday of vampires, witches, ghosts and other evil spirits, which until recently was widely celebrated only in the United States, is now gaining more and more popularity in Europe and gradually covers the countries of the former USSR.

For thousands of years in October, different peoples have celebrated various holidays and festivals. Halloween is one of the oldest holidays in the world. Its history goes back millennia, ranging from the Celtic Samhain Festival, the Roman Day of Pomona (the goddess of plants) and the Christian All Saints Day. It strangely combines the Celtic tradition of honoring evil spirits and the Christian tradition of worshiping all saints.

Legend has it that on this night Samhain opens the gates to the past and the future. This is the time when a person can realize his place in eternity. What the Druids said was an important guide to life for the long winter. Around the 8th century, Christianity became the dominant religion where the Druids used to perform rituals. The Christian Church made November 1 "All Saints Day". This is a holiday for those saints who do not have their own special day. On this day, it was supposed to glorify the saints and martyrs.

Since then, in the celebration of Halloween, pagan mysticism coexists with Christianity. In 1000, the church declared November 2 "All Souls Day". On this day, it was not supposed to commemorate the saints, but the simple dead. The commemoration was held in the likeness of the Samhain festival - with large bonfires, processions and dressing up in costumes of angels and devils.

**Traditions of the holiday of Halloween**

Traditionally, Halloween is celebrated around the fire, with songs and dances, as well as with scary stories and legends about spirits, sorcerers, witches and all kinds of other evil spirits. People visit neighboring houses on Halloween night, which symbolizes the dead in search of food. Demons and goblins' masks represent evil spirits that seek to do something evil.

On the eve of October 31, you need to drive away all the evil spirits that go out into the white light that night: brownies knock on windows and doors, witches fly on a broomstick across the sky, devils scare everyone. Superstitious people are scared to go outside on such a night. For this, a special flashlight is being prepared. It is usually made from pumpkin, but it can also be made from turnip or large melon.

Girls on this night are engaged in fortune-telling: they throw pebbles and nuts into the fire and watch what drawing the fire will leave on their surface. The future is determined by it.

On Halloween, they raided these creatures, expelling them from the attic of houses, lighting torches on the roofs and using rattles.

To ward off all evil spirits from their home, they used to bury the bones of dead animals under their doorstep, and on Halloween they exhibited a stuffed animal of a dead animal near the house. This is where the tradition of hanging improvised skeletons on the doors and windows of houses came from, however, for some reason now, not animal skeletons are used, but people.

Before sunset, before Halloween, you should walk three times with lighted torches and in carnival costumes around the house, then the dwelling will be protected from the penetration of evil spirits.

**Comparison and analysis of the popularity**

**of the two holidays**

I must say that in Russia there are two holidays that are to some extent associated with evil spirits: the holiday of Ivan Kupala and Halloween. And they, being similar, are the opposite of each other. So, these holidays have similarities and differences. The similarities lie in the fact that both holidays are associated with fire. It is traditional to illuminate the darkness on this day with the help of live fire. In addition, fortune-telling is a traditional occupation for girls on both holidays. The most important similarity of the holidays is that on them otherworldly forces reach their maximum. These holidays have enough differences. For example, the traditional costumes of the holidays differ sharply. The time of the holidays is also different. If the holiday of Ivan Kupala means the completion of planting work, then Halloween heralds the completion of all harvesting work.

From the results of the survey, it can be seen that the overseas holiday is more common among students. More than half of the students have not even heard of the existence of the holiday of Ivan Kupala.

**Than the holidays are alike.**

1. In Britain bonfires are lit on Halloween.

The main feature of the Kupala night is also cleansing bonfires

1. In both holidays, all evil spirits are present. On the night of Ivan Kupala, you cannot sleep, because witches, werewolves, mermaids, snakes, sorcerers, water, goblin are especially active.
2. Halloween is an ancient holiday of the change from the light part of the year to the dark one, on the very night when the border between the world of people and the world of spirits and magic becomes thinner. And Kupala is the summer solstice, when the light and creative beginnings also begin to lose strength, and in the same way at night all supernatural beings wander openly.

**How the holidays are different.**

1. To protect themselves from witches, people put a lantern (pumpkin) on the windowsill - Halloween;

the threshold and windowsills are covered with nettles - Ivan Kupala.

1. Halloween - people dress up in costumes of evil spirits.

The Ivan Kupala holiday does not require any special clothing.

1. When children ask for candy for Halloween and do not receive it, they often do not carry out their threats, and, having received a gift, are removed

The Ivan Kupala holiday does not require money.

**Conclusion**

Having studied many sources of information, I realized that the holidays are very similar. My hypothesis is confirmed. Both are very funny and mystical.

Unfortunately, most of our peers have not even heard of such a holiday, but they know about Halloween, some even tried to depict the movements of ghosts. Would you like to take part in the Kupala holiday? The answer pleased me. Most would take part in the holiday.

Then why is Halloween being celebrated? Most likely because this holiday entered Russia quite recently and immediately attracted young people. But in order to have fun on Ivan Kupala, you need to study the ancient traditions of your country.

Thus, recently, interest in the traditions of the holiday of Ivan Kupala has been growing. In many cities and villages of Russia, they began to celebrate it on a large scale. It seems to me that this revival is facilitated by the emergence of a foreign holiday Halloween in our country. The people looked back into their history and saw that we also have a similar holiday, and there are similarities and differences in them.

In my opinion, these two holidays are very similar and instead of Halloween it is quite possible to celebrate Ivan Kupala, which has been celebrated by people in Russia since ancient times.

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**Appendix 1**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **holiday of Ivana Kupala** | **Halloween** |
| **otherwise** | Summer Solstice Celebration, Ivanov Day | All Saints Day, Samain Time |
| **Time held** | June 24/ July 31 | October 31 |
| **A type** | Folk | International |
| **Value** | All miraculous and healing herbs bloom on this night, when the creative forces of the earth reach their tension. | The Eve of All Saints' Day is traditionally considered the only day of the year when the spirits of the dead can return to earth. |
| **Traditions** | Burn bonfires and jump over them, lead round dances, weave wreaths. | Children begging for treats, scary rides, costume parties. |
| **Associated with** | Summer Solstice, John the Baptist | Samhain, Happy All Saints |
| **Celebration** | Festivities | Fireworks, family feasts, parties |
| **Celebrated a holiday** | in many parts of Europe under a similar national name - in Russia, Belarus, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Ukraine. Particularly strong in Spain, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the UK. | in English-speaking countries, although it is not an official day off. Since the end of the 20th century, during the process of Americanization and globalization, the fashion for Halloween paraphernalia has also emerged in most non-English-speaking countries of Europe and the CIS. Halloween is informally celebrated in some other countries that have close cultural ties with the United States or Great Britain, for example, in Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand, in a number of the island countries of Oceania, and more recently in Russia and other CIS countries. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Holidays history comparison** | |
| **Differences** | |
| **Halloween** | **Ivan Kupala** |
| 1. Celebrated in the fall - on the last day of the harvest. | Clebrated in the summer - on the day of the solstice. |
| Symbolizes the arrival of winter. | It symbolizes the day of the meeting  of "fire and water". |
| It was born relatively recently. | It was born a long time ago. |
| Halloween was born gradually,  by combining  several holidays and folk  traditions into one whole. | It was from ancient times in Russia,  as a separate holiday. |
| Symbolizes the end of the harvest. | Symbolizes the completion of planting work. |
| Recognized by the church. | Prohibited by the church. |
| **Similarities** | |
| - Communication with evil spirits.  - Divide the year in half.  - There are rumors that sorcerers, witches, etc. fly through the streets.  - People tried to protect themselves from evil spirits.  - Signifies the end of summer. | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Comparison of traditions, customs and ceremonies of the holidays** | |
| **Differences** | |
| **Halloween** | **Ivan Kupala** |
| 1.Traditional colors: orange and black. | 1.Traditional colors: red and white. |
| 2. Costumes must be similar to the appearance of evil spirits. | 2. The costumes are more comfortable, mostly folk costumes. |
| 3. Symbol - Jack's lamp. | 3. The symbol is the ivan-da-marya flower. |
| 4. Legend of the sinner Jack. | 4. The legend of the fern flower. |
| 5. Decorated houses with skeletons, garlands of eyeballs and other creepy things. The streets were decorated with pumpkin lamps | 5. Plants are the main decoration of the holiday. The girls decorated their heads with wreaths, and in the evening they lowered them to float on the water. Grasses were spread all over the house. |
| 6. Guessing apples. | 6. Guessing on plants. |
| 7. Celebrated only at night | 7. The holiday began in the morning and continued at night. |
| 8. The game "Treat or regret. Favorite characters: pirate, evil genius, black cat. We tried to create the most creepy look. | 8. We danced in circles. Bathing tradition. It was customary to collect grass on Midsummer's Day. It was on Ivanovo night that people learned about the future harvest. |
| **Similarities** | |
| - Fortune-telling is an integral part of the holidays, more often people used to guess for love.  - Lighting fires.  - There is a legend associated with one of the symbols of the holiday. | |

**Appendix 2**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Heard %** | **Know%** |
| **Ivan Kupala** | 43,2 | 13,5 |
| **Halloween** | 82,2 | 77,97 |