NO PREP

# Halloween Safety

## Hazards and Precautions

**Includes:** Student reading, case study, differentiated questions, teacher key

Name: Period: Date:

### Halloween Safety: Hazards and Precautions

**The Hidden Risks of Halloween**

Halloween is a holiday full of fun, but it also comes with potential risks that students and families should consider. Costumes, candy, and nighttime activities can all create safety concerns. From tripping on long costumes to eating unsafe candy, the excitement of the evening sometimes causes people to overlook important precautions. Public health officials remind families each year that Halloween safety is just as important as fun. One major risk is traffic accidents. Children often cross streets in the dark, and drivers may have difficulty seeing them, especially if costumes are dark-colored. Reflective tape, flashlights, and supervision help reduce these dangers. Another hazard comes from costumes themselves. Masks that block vision or costumes that drag on the ground can cause accidents. Fire safety is also important—costumes made from flammable materials can be dangerous near candles or jack-o'-lanterns.

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### The Hidden Risks of Halloween

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### Candy and Health Concerns

Candy is a highlight of Halloween, but it also presents risks. Parents are often warned about the possibility of tampered candy, though most cases are rare or based on urban legends. The more common danger is simply overeating sugar, which can cause stomachaches and long-term health issues if it becomes a habit. For children with food allergies, Halloween candy poses an even greater risk, as many treats contain peanuts, dairy, or gluten. To reduce these risks, families can inspect candy before eating it, encourage moderation, and provide allergy-safe alternatives. Public health campaigns often emphasize the "Teal Pumpkin Project," which promotes non-food treats like small toys for children with allergies. By preparing ahead, families can make Halloween safe and enjoyable for all.

**Balancing Fun and Safety**

Halloween safety is not about taking away the fun; it's about making sure everyone can enjoy the holiday without harm. When families prepare with reflective gear, safe costumes, and careful candy checks, they reduce risks while keeping the spirit of Halloween alive. Understanding these safety measures helps students recognize that responsibility and fun can go hand in hand.

**Key Information: Table: Common Halloween Hazards and Safety Tips**

| Hazard | Safety Tip |
|---|---|
| Traffic accidents | Wear reflective clothing, carry flashlights |
| Costume risks | Avoid masks that block vision; ensure proper fit |
| Fire hazards | Choose flame-resistant materials |
| Candy safety | Inspect treats before eating |
| Food allergies | Offer allergy-safe or non-food alternatives |

**Case Study: Public Health Campaigns for Safe Trick-or-Treating**

**In the 1990s, several cities launched Halloween safety campaigns after a rise in pedestrian accidents involving children. Police officers handed out reflective stickers, schools educated students about crossing the street safely, and communities promoted safer trick-or-treat routes. These efforts reduced the number of Halloween-night accidents and set an example for other communities nationwide. In recent years, campaigns like the Teal Pumpkin Project have expanded safety beyond physical risks to include health needs. By encouraging families to offer non-food treats, the project helps children with allergies feel included without danger. These case studies show how public health campaigns adapt to changing concerns, from traffic safety to dietary needs, ensuring that Halloween traditions remain safe for everyone.**

1. How did Halloween safety campaigns in the 1990s help reduce accidents?

_____

_____

2. Why is the Teal Pumpkin Project important for modern Halloween celebrations?

_____

_____

**Multiple Choice**

1. What is one of the biggest safety risks on Halloween night?
    a) Not enough decorations
    b) Running out of candy to distribute early
    c) Traffic accidents involving pedestrians
    d) Running out of costumes in stores

2. What does the Teal Pumpkin Project promote?
    a) Buying candy in bulk
    b) Allergy-safe and non-food treats
    c) Trick-or-treating before sunset
    d) Safer costume fabrics without flammable materials

3. Why are masks sometimes unsafe during Halloween?
    a) They always cause allergies
    b) They are always flammable
    c) They make costumes more expensive to produce
    d) They can block vision and cause accidents

**Matching**

Write the letter of the correct definition on the line next to each term.

| Term | Definition |
|---|---|
| 1. ___ Candy safety | A) Wear reflective tape and carry flashlights |
| 2. ___ Traffic accidents | B) Choose flame-resistant fabrics |
| 3. ___ Costume risks | C) Offer allergy-safe or non-food alternatives |
| 4. ___ Fire hazards | D) Check treats before eating |
| 5. ___ Food allergies | E) Ensure proper fit; avoid masks that block vision |

**Fill-in-the-Blank**

1. Costumes made from _____ materials are safer near open flames.

2. The _____ Pumpkin Project promotes non-food Halloween treats.

3. Children should carry _____ or wear reflective items to stay visible at night.

**Short Answer**

Answer each question in 2-4 complete sentences.

1. Why do public health officials focus on traffic safety during Halloween?

_____

_____

_____

2. How can families balance the excitement of candy with safe and healthy choices?

3. Why is it important to make Halloween safe for children with food allergies?