

ALL SAINTS' DAY

SAINT

According to the Catholic Church, a saint is someone who has lived a good and noble life. They are approved for sainthood by church leadership, including the leader of the Catholic Church, the pope. There have been many saints named by the Roman Catholic Church. If ancient saints are included, the number of saints is around 10,000. If the ancient saints are not counted, there are around 3,000 Catholic saints. Many of these saints had their own holiday at one point.



ORIGIN

The origin of All Saints' Day is often debated. The earliest account of a day for saints goes back to May 13 in 609 or 610 AD. Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to Mary (Jesus Christ's mother) and all church martyrs on this day. A martyr is a person who died because of a belief they had. Romans have celebrated May 13 as a day of remembrance of Mary and the martyrs since that day. Many Catholics think All Saints' Day goes back to a speech given by Pope Gregory III who called for honoring of all saints. The Roman Catholic Church then set the date for this remembrance for November 1. The church accepts this story as the history of All Saints' Day. Some other names for the day are: All Hallows' Day, Hallowmas, or Feast of All Saints.

CELEBRATIONS

People all over the world celebrate All Saints' Day today. Celebrations vary by region and culture. The largest All Saints' celebrations occur in countries with the largest Catholic populations. The day is important to millions of people all over the world.



MEXICO

All Saints' Day, November 1, is also known as Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead in Mexico. People spend the day remembering relatives who have died in addition to the religious remembrance of saints. There are many customs, like going to family members' graves to pay respects.

ALL SOULS' DAY

It is important not to confuse All Saints' Day with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2. It is dedicated to those who have died and not reached heaven yet.

Name _____

ALL SAINTS' DAY

MATCHING: Match each term with its description.

1. ____ All Souls' Day	A. A person who died because of a belief they had
2. ____ Boniface IV	B. Pope who called for honoring of all saints
3. ____ November 1	C. Someone who has lived a good and noble life
4. ____ martyr	D. Dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to Mary
5. ____ saint	E. Date when All Saints' Day is observed
6. ____ pope	F. Observed in Mexico on November 1 st too
7. ____ Day of the Dead	G. Observed on November 2 nd
8. ____ Gregory III	H. Leader of the Catholic Church

MULTIPLE CHOICE: Choose the best answer.

9. How does a person mainly get named a saint?
- A. The people of a church congregation votes
 - B. Church leadership approves them for sainthood
 - C. Performs miracles in front of many people
 - D. Dies for a worthy cause
10. Which of the following is NOT another name for All Saints' Day?
- A. All Hallows' Day
 - B. Hallowmas
 - C. Feast of All Saints
 - D. All Souls' Day
11. What is the author's main purpose in writing this passage?
- A. To persuade the reader to celebrate All Saints' Day
 - B. To explain how a person becomes a saint
 - C. To inform the reader about All Saints' Day
 - D. To entertain the reader with an interesting story
12. Which countries celebrate All Saints' Day?
- A. Countries with the largest Catholic population
 - B. Countries with the largest Jewish population
 - C. Countries in the Northern Hemisphere
 - D. Countries in the Western Hemisphere

