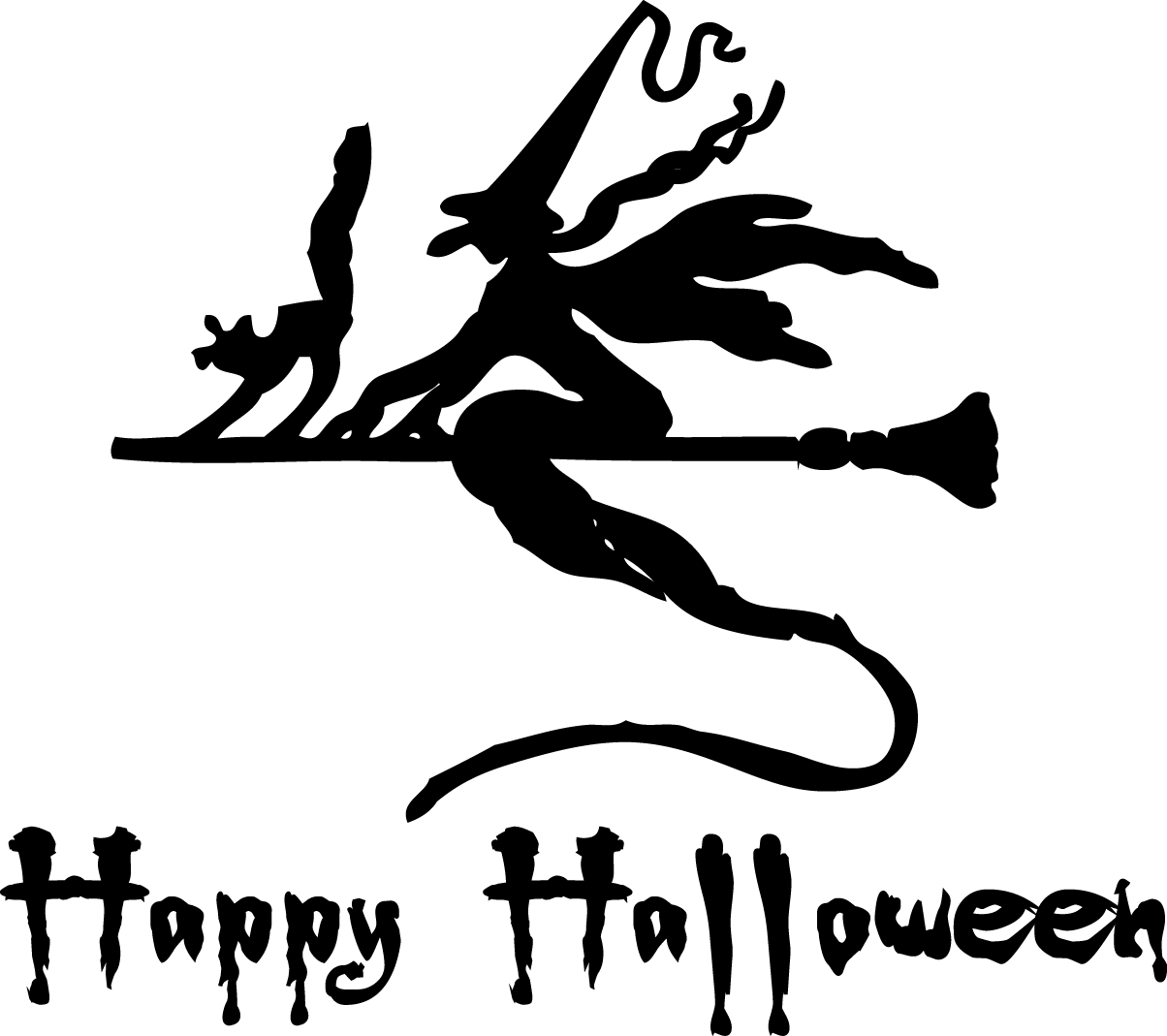
**Ireland**

****In Ireland, believed to be the birthplace of Halloween, the tradition is still celebrated as much as it is in the United States. In rural areas, bonfires are lit as they were in the days of the Celts and children dress up in costumes to spend the evening "trick-or-treating" in their neighborhoods. After the visiting, most people attend parties with neighbors and friends. At these parties, many games are played, including "snap-apple," in which an apple on a string is tied to a doorframe or tree, and players attempt to take a bite out of the apple. In addition to bobbing for apples, parents often arrange treasure hunts with sweets or pastries as the "treasure”. Children are also known to play tricks upon their neighbors on Halloween night. One of which is known as "knock-a-dolly," where children knock on the doors of their neighbors but then run away before the door is opened.

**France**

Unlike most nations of the world, Halloween is not celebrated by the French in order to honor the dead and departed ancestors. It is regarded as an "American" holiday in France and was virtually unknown in the country until around 1996.

**Mexico, Latin America And Spain**

Among Spanish-speaking nations, Halloween is known as "El Dia de los Muertos." It is a joyous and happy holiday, a time to remember friends and family who have died. Officially celebrated on November 2 (All Souls' Day), the three-day celebration actually begins on the evening of October 31. Designed to honor the dead who are believed to return to their homes on Halloween, many families build an altar in their home and decorate it with candy, flowers, photographs, fresh water and some of the deceased's favorite foods and drinks. Candles and incense are burned to help the departed find his or her way home. Relatives also tidy the gravesites of deceased family members, including cutting weeds, making repairs and painting. The grave is then decorated with flowers, wreaths or paper streamers. On November 2, relatives gather at the gravesite to picnic and remember the dead. Some of these gatherings may even include tequila and a mariachi band although American Halloween customs are slowly taking over this celebration.

**China**

****Foreign teachers have introduced the British and American Halloween of October 31, but except for kids who have foreign teachers or the expat oriented bars and restaurants and schools in China, Halloween activities aren't popular in China. The Chinese have **traditional days of the dead that are much more popular,** such as the Hungry Ghost Festival, the Qing Ming Festival, the Double 9th Festival, and the Spring Festival. The Hungry Ghost Festival is on the 15th day of the 7th lunar month. The Taoist name for the Hungry Ghost Festival is the Zhongyuan Festival (中元节), and Buddhists call it the Yulanpen Festival. People perform **special ceremonies** to avoid the wrath of the ghosts such as putting the family’s ancestral tablets on a table, burning incense, and preparing food three times that day.