

## Vocabulary for the Midterm Election

Knowing these words and phrases will help you understand news about this fall's election:

**midterm election:** an election in a year that does not include a Presidential election. US Presidential elections occur every four years — 2016, 2020, 2024, for example — so midterm elections are halfway between these — 2018, 2022 and 2026. This year, the midterm election will be on November 6, 2018.

There are two houses of Congress. All 435 members of the House of Representatives have to run every two years, in even-numbered years. Senators must run every six years; of the 100 Senators, about one third of them run in each even-numbered year.

This year, observers will be watching carefully to see if Republicans keep their majorities in the House and Senate, or if Democrats will **flip** (switch control) one or both of these. Historically, it has been common for the party

of the President to lose seats in a midterm election. For example, in the midterms over the last 80 years, the President's party has increased its number of seats in Congress only twice. In contrast, the President's party has *lost* an average of 30 House of Representative seats and an average 4

Senate seats in midterms during this period. This year, if 23 (or more) current-Republican seats in the House (or two current-Republican seats in the Senate) go, instead, to a Democrat, the Republicans will lose their majority there.

As it happens, this year, 26 of the 49 Senate seats currently held by Democrats are up for election; only 9 of the 51 seats held by Republicans are.

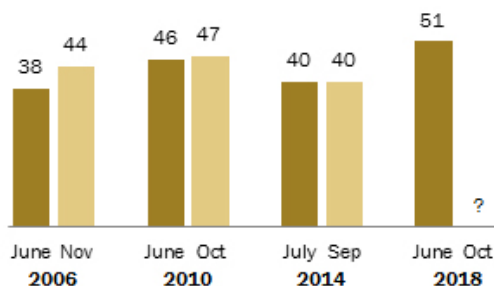
**wave:** a large number of elections won by one party. This year, observers are watching to see if a lot of Democrats win national and state elections (a *blue wave*), or not.

**gubernatorial election:** an election for a state's governor. States differ in how often they hold an election for their governor and whether there are any limits to the number of terms a governor can serve. In 2018, 36 states will hold a *gubernatorial* election; these seats are currently held

by 26 Republicans, 9 Democrats and one Independent. While a governor's influence is mostly on his/her state's politics, there are national consequences to these races, as well. For example, some states' governors oversee or can veto the re-drawing of Congressional districts that occurs every 10 years (next

### High voter enthusiasm ahead of 2018 midterms

% of registered voters who say they are more enthusiastic than usual about voting



Note: Based on registered voters.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-12, 2018.

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### English at Large

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## Halloween Costumes

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Costumes are a traditional part of Halloween. During the holiday's early days, some people believed that ghosts appeared at this time of year; they wore costumes to scare the ghosts.

You can spend many hours (and dollars) on the costumes, or make something fun for free. The most traditional costumes are ghosts, witches, skeletons, and other scary characters. But you will see a wide variety of costumes — animals, TV characters, and story book characters. It might be fun for your child to dress as a character from your own country. For some ideas, try this site: [www.thespruce.com/halloween-crafts-for-kids-4127472](http://www.thespruce.com/halloween-crafts-for-kids-4127472)

Some words about masks: Masks make it hard for children to see. Safety experts say to pick a costume with no mask. Use face paint instead. Also, masks — any kind, not just scary ones — can be frightening for young children. They get confused about whether people have permanently changed when they put on a mask.

If older siblings are going to wear masks, have them put the masks on and off while the younger child watches. Or let the preschool child play with the mask in front of a mirror.

Costumes are big business. Americans will spend \$1 billion (!!) on costumes for children and, in a relatively new trend, another \$1.2 billion on costumes for adults. I say make your own...

## Halloween



On the evening of October 31 every year, in most US communities, you will see children in the streets, dressed in costumes, carrying bags for candy. They will go from door to door in their neighborhoods and shout, "Trick or Treat!" According to tradition, the neighbors should give them a piece of candy (the Treat). If not, the children will play a Trick on them. Halloween is so popular in the US that most adults are ready with a basket of candy at the door. Today, the Trick part is rare — children just run to the next house if there is no Treat.

The roots of Halloween are very old. The name itself comes from a Christian celebration of all saints (or "hallows"), started in the ninth century. All Hallows' Day is November 1; the night before is All Hallows' Eve. But the holiday is also rooted in an older, pre-Christian festival, Samhain (pronounced "SOW-in"). As these two belief systems came together, the holiday came to be seen as a time when the boundary between the living and the dead became thinner. Those who had died could re-visit the living, either to haunt those who had wronged them, or just to visit happily with their families. With all these spirits around, going outside became frightening to some. Some stayed home and had fun there. Some people put charms at the doors and windows to keep unfriendly spirits away. If they were brave enough to go out, they would build bonfires, play pranks, and wear costumes, and they often visited people's homes in their disguises.

In the mid-1800s, Irish immigrants to the US brought their traditions with them and, by the 20th century, Halloween had become a popular holiday. Halloween is not considered a religious holiday by most Americans. Here is some background about the common symbols of this holiday:

**Ghosts and skeletons:** These are references to the thinning of the veil between our world and the "other world."

**Witches, broomsticks and black cats:** You will see images of witches riding on broomsticks, sometimes with or in the form of a black cat. In the Middle Ages, the idea of witches — women who had sold themselves to the Devil — grew out of the Christian belief about witchcraft (magic) and heresy. You may see witches stirring large pots; in pagan times, these were signs of abundance but now are used to suggest that witches make magic potions.

**Jack-o-Lanterns:** An old story says that a man named Jack loved to tease the Devil. The Devil made him wander the earth forever, carrying a lantern. Today in the US, a carved pumpkin with a candle in it is called a Jack-o-Lantern. (See Sidebar on page 3.)

**Apples, squash, corn, and nuts:** You will see doors and tables decorated with these harvest fruits, a reference to the harvest timing of Halloween.

In the US, Halloween is a light-hearted, fun holiday. However, there have been some accidents. Because children often go Trick-or-Treating after dinner when it is dark, some children have been hit by a car. And, I am sorry to say, there have been a few tragedies in which adults put poisons or razor blades in children's candy. These tragedies are extremely rare (and have not happened in many many years). But they changed the way that some families and towns celebrate Halloween. Some schools hold a Halloween party for children in costumes instead of Trick-or-Treating. Some towns encourage children to go Trick-or-Treating before dark. And parents now are very careful about the candy their children get. Please read the list of safety tips on the next page closely.

# 7 Halloween Tips If You Have Children...

1. **Make sure car drivers will be able to see your child.** Make part of the costume white. Put day-glow stickers on the back of the costume. Use a white candy bag. Give your child a flashlight to carry.
2. **Choose the houses you go to carefully.** Go to neighbors you know, or who clearly have young children of their own. If you do not know many people in your neighborhood, ask to go Trick-or-Treating with a neighbor or friend.
3. **Do not go to any house with the front lights turned off.** This means they are not at home, or they have no more Treats left, or do not want to participate in Halloween.
4. **Go along with your younger children when they go Trick-or-Treating.** Stay with them, especially crossing streets. Usually, children do not go inside the neighbors' homes. If your children are invited inside, go with them unless you know the neighbor.
5. Older children may want to go with their friends, without you. **Use your judgment about what is safe.** Ask a friend or teacher if you are not sure. Discuss with your child ahead of time where the group will go. Do not let your child go alone.
6. **Do not let your children eat any candy until you have looked at it carefully.** If the paper is torn, or if it is not pre-packaged, throw it away.
7. **A non-safety tip:** It is most polite for your children to say, "Trick or Treat!" in a friendly and loud voice when the neighbor opens the door. And "Thank you," and "Good-bye" or "Happy Halloween" as they leave.

## ...and 3 Tips If You Don't

You do not have to have children to enjoy Halloween. It's fun to see the costumes and feel the excitement of all that candy! Here is some advice for being a good neighbor:

1. **If you would like to participate in Halloween, show some sign of this.** If you live in a house, turn on your front porch light and front hall light. In an apartment, a Halloween decoration (like a picture of a pumpkin or witch) on the front door also signals that you would like children to knock.
2. **Have a basket of Treats near (but inside) the front door.** The children do not need to come into your home — they can stand at the door to get their Treats. In the weeks before Halloween, stores will sell special bags of small, wrapped candy — this is what most neighbors give. But you can give very small toys or a few pennies instead of candy, if you like. Do not give any food that you did not buy packaged at the store.
3. **If you do not want to participate, or if you are going out, turn off the front lights and take down the decorations.** This may discourage children from knocking. One year, we had no more candy, so we turned out the front lights, and ignored the doorbell. The next year, we bought more candy!

## To Carve a Jack-o-Lantern

1. With a sharp knife, cut a 5-6 inch circle around the stem of the pumpkin, making a lid. (Adults should do the cutting, or buy a special pumpkin-carving knife that is safe for older children.) Carve at an inward angle so you can put the lid back on without it falling through. Remove the lid.
2. With your hands and a large spoon, scrape out all the seeds and stringy, yucky stuff. Throw this stuff away. Or wash the seeds, add salt, and put them in a 350° oven till they are golden and crisp - about 10 minutes, stirring once or twice - for a snack. Scrape the pumpkin until all the wet strings are gone, leaving about a one-inch pumpkin wall. (If you see an orange plastic spoon with a flat edge for sale this month, grab it - it makes this job so much easier.)
3. Draw the face on the pumpkin with a pencil. Cut along your pencil lines. Cut at an angle so the pumpkin wall does not show from the outside. Be sure to make enough holes to let oxygen inside, to keep the candle lit. Or buy a stencil and special carving tools that are now on sale, to make pumpkins that are intricate or include written words - these are a new development in the last few years.
4. Dig a small hole in the inside bottom of the pumpkin. Put a wide-bottom candle in the hole. Light the candle. Replace the lid. Boo!

Here is a good youtube to help:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfeYXK1byI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfeYXK1byI)

## Discovery of America: Closer to True

Help your children understand the real discovery of America and the events surrounding Columbus' landing. I recommend these books:

### ***The Discovery of the Americas*** (B & G Maestro, Scholastic).

Shows how archaeologists trace the movement of peoples, 12,000 to 30,000 years ago, from Asia the Americas. Similarities in teeth, language, myths, architecture, pottery, and design tell a fascinating story.

***Encounter*** (J. Yolen, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich) A picture book about Columbus' landing, told from the viewpoint of a Native American small boy. His reaction to Columbus' white skin and European clothing is shown in the eerie illustrations.

***Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus*** (P. Sis, Knopf). Another picture book, with especially lovely artwork, about Columbus' life from childhood to adulthood. The unusual level of detail makes it good for older elementary school kids who don't usually choose picture books any more.

***Morning Girl*** (M. Dorris, Hyperion Press). Chapter book — historical fiction about a Native American sister and brother who lived on the Bahamian island where Columbus landed in 1492.

## Columbus/Indigenous People's Day

Columbus Day marks the day in 1492 when an Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus, landed in the "New World." He landed on October 12. The federal holiday is now the second Monday in October. This year, it is October 8. For reasons you will read below, some cities now celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead.

According to the traditional story, Columbus believed he could reach "India," an important source of spices, by sailing west from Europe. ("India" or "the Indies" were the names used in the 15th century for all eastern Asia, including China and Japan.) It was generally accepted at that time that the world was round. But most people thought the ocean between Europe and India was far too wide for Columbus' plan. Columbus convinced the Spanish Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand to pay for his experiment. When he reached land (on an island that is now part of the Bahamas), he thought he had reached India. He called the Native American people "Indians." Columbus eventually made four trips to the New World (but he never landed on what is now mainland US).

Recently, historians have challenged the traditional story of Columbus in a few ways:

- Until recently, Americans celebrated Columbus' discovery of the New World. But the word "discover" suggests that no one knew North and South America were here until Columbus arrived. In fact, people had been living here for at least 12,000 years. Historians agree that fully-evolved humans walked here, over the land bridge that connected Siberia and Alaska during the last Ice Age. When Columbus landed, Native Americans had well-developed cultures, with complex religions, food, language, architecture, and social systems.
  - Columbus forced hundreds of Arawak Indians to return to Spain as slaves. He and his men treated the Arawaks with brutality, and killed many of them. Many people do not want to call him a hero. In fact, some Native Americans and others hold annual protests on this day.
- So the meaning of this holiday has changed for many Americans. Instead of focusing on what he meant to Europe, there is a new sensitivity to the negative effect of European migration and domination on the lives of Native Americans.
- Unlike Halloween, this is a holiday with few symbols and customs. There are no special dinners, gifts, foods, songs or forms of celebration that everyone joins. However, it is one of the few times that countries throughout North, Central, and South America join in the same historic remembrance.
- Columbus was not the first European to land in the western hemisphere. Leif Eriksson, an Icelandic explorer, probably started a small community on Newfoundland around the year 1000.
  - Some historians believe Columbus was simply looking for new land to conquer for Spain, and was not headed toward India at all. His orders from Isabella and Ferdinand were to "discover and acquire...Islands and Mainlands" in the Ocean Sea. These orders do not mention "India." Would they have used the word "discover" for India? Could they have believed that Columbus could acquire (take as his own) all of India?





# Learn about Indigenous People

Learning about the people who lived on and near the land where you have now settled would add to the depth of your experience living in the US.

What did their homes look like? What did they wear and eat? What was their social structure like? What were their relations like with other nearby groups? What happened to them when the Europeans arrived? Is there still a community living there now; if so, what can you learn about them?

Depending on where in the US you live, you may be able to visit a reservation or museum or learn from a library. Of course, the internet can get you started as well:

- See this map of Native Tribal Nations at the time of the first European arrivals: [www.npr.org/assets/news/2014/06/Tribal\\_Nations\\_Map\\_NA.pdf](http://www.npr.org/assets/news/2014/06/Tribal_Nations_Map_NA.pdf) It includes the names the Tribal Nations used for themselves (and the names adopted by English speakers).

Or explore this map - [www.native-languages.org/states.htm](http://www.native-languages.org/states.htm) - click on your state to learn the names of tribes near you.

- Once you know the name of the group(s) who lived in your area, try to learn more about them by entering the name into a search engine.

## Birthday Biography: Jimmy Carter

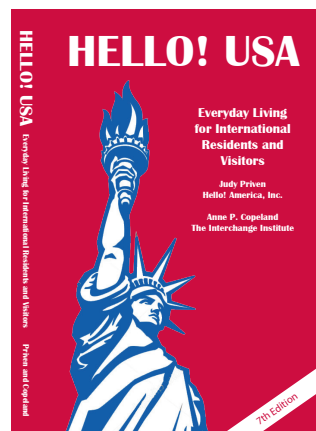
Former US President Jimmy Carter was born on October 1, 1924, in Plains, Georgia. He began his career in the US Navy. Then, when his father died, he took over the family peanut farm, which he ran successfully. He served two terms in the state Senate of Georgia and then, in 1970, was elected Governor of Georgia. As Governor, Carter declared that racial segregation and discrimination would not be tolerated in his state. This was still notable back then...

Carter's decision to run for President in 1976 surprised many, even his mother, who asked him, "President of what?" He had little national name recognition, but he was popular in the South as "one of their own." The US had not had a President from the South since 1848. The US was still reacting to the traumas of the end of the Vietnamese War and the Watergate scandal, and Carter's campaign as an ethical (and religious) leader was successful.

As President, Carter was heavily involved in the Middle East peace process, the return of the Panama Canal Zone to Panama, and the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). During his last year in office, 66 US citizens were taken hostage in the US Embassy in Iran by militants supporting the Iranian Revolution. The crisis dominated the news and the Presidential election campaign in 1980. Carter lost to Ronald Reagan; the hostages were released a few minutes after Reagan was sworn in as the new President.

President Carter has been active in human rights, community service, disease prevention and political negotiations in his postpresidency years. (He is currently one of five living past Presidents, along with both George Bushes, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.) In 2002 he won the Nobel Peace Prize, for his lifetime work. He is active in Habitat for Humanity, an organization that helps low-income people build their own homes. Happy Birthday, Mr. President.

## Hello! USA



*Hello! USA: Everyday Living for International Residents and Visitors*, is newly updated (2018) and easy for you to buy on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Over the years, this popular book about the practical aspects of moving to the US has helped thousands of people move into the US, answering hundreds of questions about American life and culture for international individuals and families traveling or moving to the U.S.

Useful for newcomers and those who are still settling in, it includes charts to convert clothing sizes and metric measurements; sample job résumés and cover letters; step-by-step instructions for renting a home, buying a car, or filing a tax return; help in understanding medicine labels; charts on converting European-American clothing sizes, Centigrade-Fahrenheit temperatures, American and metric measurements; baseball and football idioms; and much more.

Buy your copy at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Or contact us directly ([interchangeinstitute.org/html/hello\\_usa.htm](http://interchangeinstitute.org/html/hello_usa.htm)) for discounts on orders of 20 or more.

The Important Issue of Immigration

Researchers at the Pew Research Center recently asked over 2000 Americans what the most important problem facing the USA is. Here is how they answered, separately for (1) Republicans and Independents who lean toward Republican values ("Rep") and (2) Democrats and those who Lean Democrat ("Dem"):

	Rep	Dem
Immigration	17	8
Democrats/Liberals	5	0
Lack of humanity/respect	5	1
Political gridlock/division	8	6
Health care	4	6
Economy	6	6
Unemployment	2	5
Foreign policy	2	5
Education	2	6
Environment	<1	5
Wealth inequality	1	6
Race relations/Racism	3	12
Donald Trump	2	13

In another part of the same survey, participants were asked what issue they would most like to hear candidates discuss this election cycle. "Immigration" was the #1 topic for both Republicans (21%) and Democrats (19%). When asked which party they thought would deal better with the immigration issue, 48% said the Democrats and 34% said the Republicans.

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VOCABULARY FOR THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS

in 2020), and so, can have an impact on the federal government

**office:** political job or position. We say, "She has been *in office* for 12 years" or "How long has he *held office*?" to mean "She has had this political job for 12 years" or "How long has he had this job?" This word refers to any elected position, from President of the US to local school board officials.

**seat:** political job or position. We say, "His *seat* is vulnerable" to mean "He may not win the election," or "He *lost his seat*" to mean "He was not re-elected for that job."

**incumbent:** the politician who currently *holds office* (who currently has the job)

**voter turn-out:** proportion of registered voters who actually vote in an election. Voter turn-out for midterms is usually lower than that in Presidential election years (about 40% vs. about 60%). Many observers expect higher than usual turn out this year, from both parties.

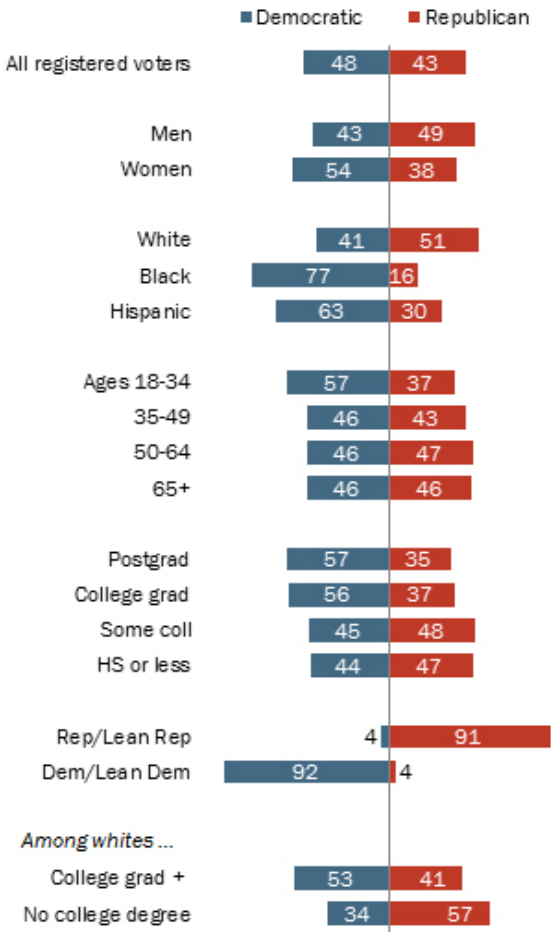
**partisan:** Taking one party's side. A *partisan discussion* is one in which each person takes a strong side (in politics, a side consistent with either the Republican or Democratic Party).

A **non-partisan** effort is one that attempts not to take sides. A **bi-partisan** effort is one that includes input from both political parties.

**special election:** an election that takes place out of usual sequence, to fill an empty seat. This November, there will be six special elections to fill four House and two Senate vacancies.

Wide demographic differences in 2018 voting preferences

% of registered voters who say they support or lean toward the \_\_\_\_ candidate for Congress in their district



Notes: Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Other/Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-12, 2018.

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**GOP:** Grand Old Party; a nickname, since 1875, for the Republican Party

**poll:** This word has two meanings: a survey of how people will or did vote, and the place where people go to vote. Confusing!

**October surprise:** an event shortly before the

early-November election that affects how people vote -- a foreign policy announcement, a personal scandal, a sudden solution to a big problem, the release of new government statistics. These have all occurred in Octobers past.

Here is a non-partisan site that follows many mid-term election polls closely; check its predictions for all the races this year: [www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/2018/](http://www.realclearpolitics.com/elections/2018/) then click on "Elections 2018" at the top to pick the type of race that interests you.

### Democrats hold large advantage over GOP on several issues; Republican Party leads on the economy

% who say each party could do a better job dealing with ...

	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both/Neither	
Terrorist threat	32	43	17	<b>R+11</b>
Economy	36	45	14	<b>R+9</b>
Budget deficit	35	41	18	<b>R+6</b>
Taxes	40	43	13	<b>R+3</b>
Trade	40	41	12	<b>R+1</b>
Gun policy	44	38	11	<b>D+6</b>
Foreign policy	44	36	14	<b>D+8</b>
Immigration	48	34	12	<b>D+14</b>
Drug addiction	43	27	21	<b>D+16</b>
Health care	48	32	15	<b>D+16</b>
Abortion & contraception	50	31	10	<b>D+19</b>
Race & ethnicity issues	52	28	14	<b>D+24</b>
Environment	57	25	12	<b>D+32</b>

Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Significant differences at the 95% confidence interval in **bold**.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-12, 2018.

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## An October Risk: Hitting a Deer

October and November are the months when deer are most likely to be hit by a car in the US. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports 1.5 million deer-related car accidents every year, resulting in more than \$1 billion in car damage (or, an average of over \$3000 per accident), 175-200 human deaths and more than 10,000 human injuries. It is hard to know how many deer deaths and injuries are involved, as the deer may scamper, injured, into the woods after a crash.

Motorists are most likely to hit a deer at dusk, on roads at the bottom of hills, near streams. West Virginia is the state where these accidents are most likely -- one in 41 drivers hit a deer each year. Montana, Iowa, South Dakota and Pennsylvania also have high rates. Hawaii, California, Florida and Texas have the lowest.

Safety experts point out that many human injuries are caused when drivers swerve to avoid hitting a deer, but then hit a tree or another car instead. Harsh as it sounds, their advice is to brake vigorously but avoid swerving, even if it means you hit the deer. Deer often travel in groups, so be careful if you see one - others may be nearby. If you do hit a deer, pull your car safely off the road, call the police or 911, take pictures to document the accident but don't approach the deer, and call your insurance company.



## Leaf Peeping

If you live in a part of the US with many *deciduous* trees (with broad leaves that fall off in winter), you should plan to take a special drive or walk in the forests in October.

The *foliage* (leaves) of the deciduous forests east of the Rocky Mountains in the US is particularly beautiful in the fall, for several reasons. First, there is a greater variety of trees in these forests than in most other forests of the world. Because different types of leaves turn different colors, there is great variety in color. Second, these forests have many maple trees. Maple trees, especially sugar maples, are often the brightest in color in fall. A single leaf may be red, orange, and yellow at the same time.

Leaves are green in the spring and summer because the pigment *chlorophyll* is present. Other color pigments are also present -- different ones in different kinds of trees -- but the chlorophyll hides them. In fall, the cold weather causes the chlorophyll to break down. *Carotenoids*, which cause leaves to look orange, yellow and brown, will always appear. *Anthocyanins*, which make leaves look red and purple, depend on certain water, temperature and light conditions, and so vary from year to year. That is why some autumns are more beautiful than others. The best color comes when there have been warm, sunny days and cool, crisp (but not freezing) nights.

Check [www.foliagenetwork.com](http://www.foliagenetwork.com) for a leaf report in the eastern US.

Newcomer's Almanac is published monthly by The Interchange Institute, for people who have recently moved to the United States. Its goal is to promote international understanding by providing information about the American holidays, customs, values, social issues, and language that often confuse and surprise newcomers. It is written by Anne P. Copeland, PhD, who is a clinical psychologist and the Director of The Interchange Institute. She is an American and has lived and worked overseas with her family.

The Interchange Institute is a not-for-profit organization that studies the impact of intercultural transitions on individuals, their families, and the organizations for which they work. From the results of this research, the Institute offers seminars and workshops, produces publications, and provides consultative services to the international newcomers, their organizations, and to host communities, recognizing that change and insight on both sides facilitates smooth transition.

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## That Crazy English: Weather Idioms

Nature has had center stage in the US lately. Here are some ways we use weather images in our language:

Her friend got fired from her job; it was *a bolt from the blue*. (...it was a completely unexpected event — like a lightning bolt from the blue sky.)

I just learned that my sister will be coming to visit me; I am *on cloud nine*. (I am very happy.)

She broke her arm but with your help, I am sure she *can weather the storm*. (...she can manage to do what needs to be done.)

The neighbors are very upset about the new stop sign at the corner, but I think it is a *tempest in a teacup*. (I think it is a *small matter that seems large* only to the neighbors.)

That contract came just in time; it was a *real windfall*. (it was a *real piece of good luck*.)

When you expressed doubt about his plan, it *took the wind out of his sails*. (...his enthusiasm for the project dropped a lot.)

We have not picked the final date for the party; it is still *up in the air*. (it is still *undecided*.)

Thanks for the invitation, but I cannot come. May I have a *rain check*? (...Will you please invite me again some other time?)



## GRAMMAR: THE OR A?

Read [Columbus Day](#) on page 4. In the first few paragraphs, circle every “the” and “a” or “an” that you see. Notice that “the” is used to introduce or identify nouns that are specific — that is, particular things that the writer thinks the reader (you!) knows about already. (You know, *the* day in 1492, the one you have read about in history books.) “A” or “an” are used to identify a member of a class or set. The writer does not assume that the reader knows the specifics being referred to. (There were lots of Italian explorers so I have to tell you that the one I’m talking about is Columbus.)

In each pair of items below, write “the” in one item and “a” (or “an” if the noun begins with a vowel) in the other, depending on the context given by the second sentence in each item. In some items in a pair, either “the” or “a” could be correct; use the context of the other item to make your choices. The first one has been done for you.

- 1a. Did you watch a movie last night? Which one?  
1b. Did you watch the movie last night? I left it for you next to the TV.
- 2a. I remembered to bring \_\_\_\_ coat. But I forgot the mittens.  
2b. I remembered to bring \_\_\_\_ coat. But I’m still cold.
- 3a. I added \_\_\_\_ orange to the salad. I hope you like it.  
3b. I added \_\_\_\_ orange to the salad. I hope you weren’t planning to eat it for a snack.
- 4a. She met with \_\_\_\_ lawyer last night. She really needs some advice.  
4b. She met with \_\_\_\_ lawyer last night. He finally had time to see her.
- 5a. I put \_\_\_\_ book in my backpack. I may have time to read while I wait.  
5b. I put \_\_\_\_ book in my backpack. This way I’m sure I won’t forget it.
- 6a. I heard \_\_\_\_ telephone ring. It is right next to my bed.  
6b. I heard \_\_\_\_ telephone ring. Or was that noise my microwave?
- 7a. \_\_\_\_ drawer in my desk is stuck. And the legs are wobbly.  
7b. \_\_\_\_ drawer in my desk is stuck. It’s the second one from the top.
- 8a. \_\_\_\_ salesman answered my questions. I’ll go home and think about what to buy.  
8b. \_\_\_\_ salesman answered my questions. He was very helpful.

## HOMEWORK

## WITH A PEN

1. Read about [Halloween](#) on pages 2 and 3. Write a short description of a holiday from your country for which people dress in costumes. What do the costumes look like? Do adults and children both wear them? Why are costumes traditional on this holiday?

2. Read [Halloween Costumes](#) on page 2. Write instructions to make a costume from your home country — a famous person, traditional dress, or something silly like food or a famous product.

3. Read [Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day](#) on page 4. Write a description of a national holiday in your home country that marks a historical event. How do people celebrate it? Has its meaning or celebration changed with time?

4. Read [The Important Issue of Immigration](#) on page 6. Write a list of social or political issues that people in your home country would describe as “Very Important.” Which of these is/are the same as in the US?

5. Read [An October Risk: Hitting a Deer](#) on page 7. Write a list of driving hazards you have in your home country.

## UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

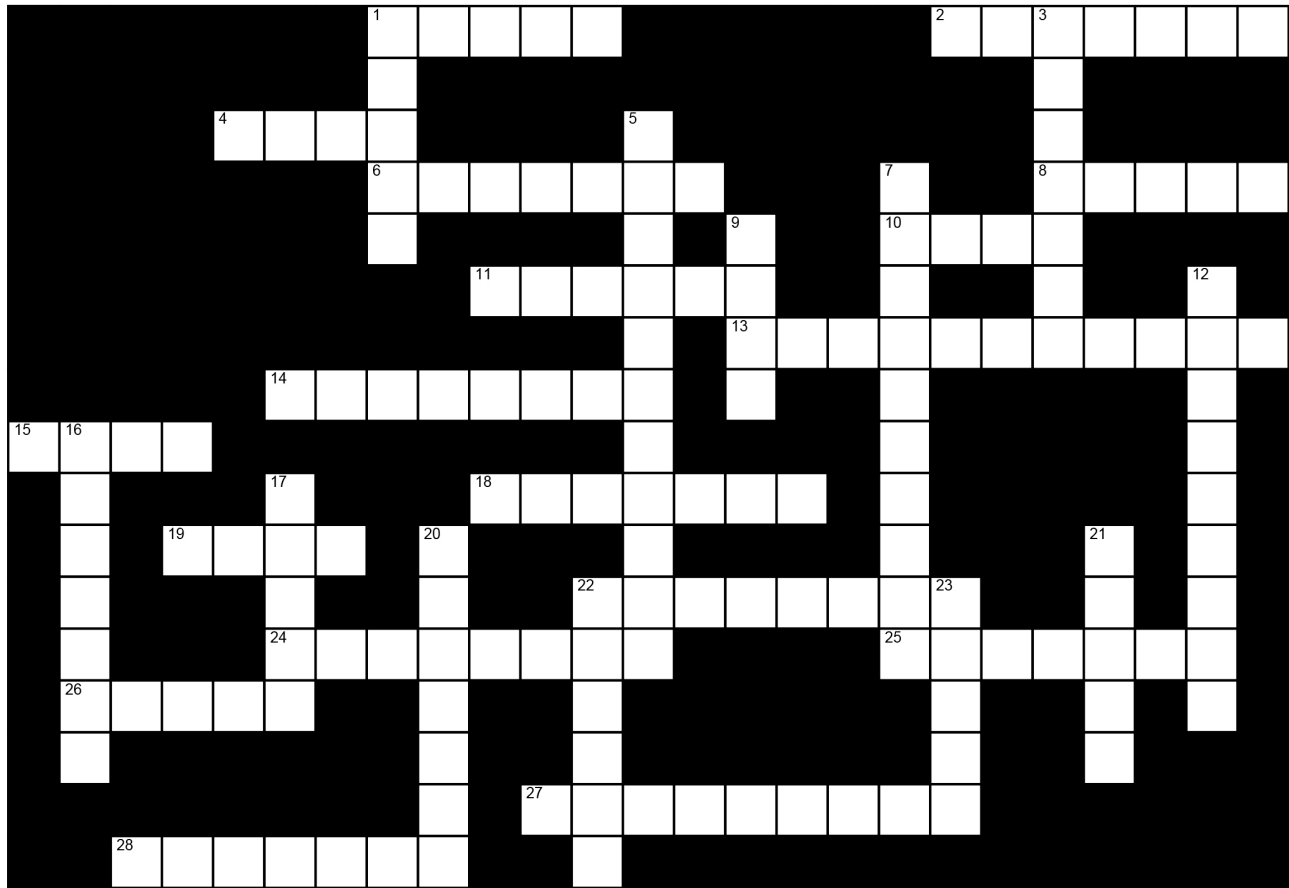
Read about [Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day](#) on page 4. Mark each sentence below True (T) or False (F). Make corrections to the false sentences to make them true.

- T ~~F~~ 1. Christopher Columbus was <sup>Italian</sup> Spanish.
- T F 2. Columbus was kind to the people he met in the New World.
- T F 3. Columbus was probably not the first European to cross the Atlantic Ocean.
- T F 4. Columbus was the first person to discover that the world is round.
- T F 5. This holiday is celebrated only in the United States.
- T F 6. Columbus was the first European to walk on land that is now the United States.
- T F 7. Columbus discovered America.
- T F 8. It is traditional to send Columbus Day cards to your neighbors in the US.

## VOCABULARY

Read the [Halloween](#) articles on pages 2 and 3. Pick the correct meaning of the bold word:

1. If you would like to **participate** in Halloween, show some sign of this.  
a. compete with others      b. help others      c. join others in doing
2. The name ‘Halloween’ comes from a Christian **celebration** of all saints.  
a. party for      b. time to remember      c. listing of
3. Young children are confused about whether people have **permanently** changed when they put on a mask.  
a. forever      b. suddenly      c. mysteriously
4. An old story says that a man named Jack loved to **tease** the Devil.  
a. steal from      b. bother, annoy      c. hurt
5. Hanging fruit and vegetables on a front door is a **reference** to old harvest festivals.  
a. symbol of      b. definition of      c. replacement for
6. Halloween is a **light-hearted** holiday.  
a. spiritual      b. fun, not serious      c. day-time



## Across

1. It is traditional to give children \_\_\_\_ on Halloween.
2. Fall \_\_\_\_ is especially beautiful when there is a variety of types of trees in one place.
4. In a blue \_\_\_\_, lots of Democrats win seats held by Republicans.
6. It is traditional to wear a \_\_\_\_ on Halloween.
8. On Halloween, children shout, "Trick or \_\_\_\_!"
10. to be on cloud \_\_\_\_, to be very happy
11. a political job or position
13. A majority of Pew survey participants think the Democrats do a better job dealing with the \_\_\_\_.
14. Gubernatorial elections are to choose a state's \_\_\_\_.
15. a political job or position
18. an election in a year when there is no Presidential election
19. a place where people go to vote
22. Christopher \_\_\_\_ was an Italian explorer sailing for Spain.
24. a \_\_\_\_ issue, one in which different political groups differ widely
25. Halloween is rooted in a pre-Christian festival called \_\_\_\_.
26. Halloween \_\_\_\_ make it hard for a child to see, and can scare young children.
27. a trees whose leaves fall off in winter
28. \_\_\_\_ the storm, to manage a difficult time

## Down

1. a rain \_\_\_\_, a postponed opportunity
3. jack-o- \_\_\_\_, a carved pumpkin
5. The most important issue to Republicans in a Pew survey was \_\_\_\_.
7. native people
9. Try hard not to hit a \_\_\_\_ while driving your car.
12. politician who current has the job
16. Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of the \_\_\_\_.
17. When a political seat \_\_\_\_, it changes from one party to another.
20. An \_\_\_\_ Surprise can change the results of an election.
21. GOP: \_\_\_\_ Old Party
22. Jimmy \_\_\_\_ won the Nobel Peace prize after he was US President.
23. knock the wind out of your \_\_\_\_, take away your enthusiasm

## OUT AND ABOUT

1. Read [Leaf Peeping](#) on page 5. Do you see any evidence of anthocyanins in your community?
2. Read about the [midterm elections](#) on pages 1, 6 and 7. Find out (a) the names of your district's House of Representative candidates, (b) whether one of your Senators is up for election this year and, if so, the names of the candidates for that seat, (c) whether there is a gubernatorial election and if so, the names of the candidates. In each case, is the incumbent running?

## IF YOU USE THE WEB

1. Read [Halloween Costumes](#) on page 2. Go to the web site mentioned ([www.thespruce.com/halloween-crafts-for-kids-4127472](http://www.thespruce.com/halloween-crafts-for-kids-4127472)). Pick a costume you would like to wear and read the instructions for making it.

2. Read [Columbus/Indigenous Peoples Day](#) on page 4. For a perspective on Indigenous Peoples' Day, watch [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsSi1skCoUc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsSi1skCoUc)

For a bit of social history, compare these two cartoons, made in 1960

-- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSJko0aRZmE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oSJko0aRZmE)  
-- and 2013 -- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF-unlvjccA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aF-unlvjccA).



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## WITH A FRIEND

1. Read [Columbus Day](#) on page 4. Tell a friend or partner what you were taught as a child about how Europeans found the Western Hemisphere. Did you learn that Columbus "discovered" it? Discuss a history lesson that you learned as a child about your home country that you now understand differently.

2. Read about [Halloween](#) on pages 2 and 3. If people in your home country celebrate Halloween, describe how, if at all, it is different than in the US. Discuss a holiday in your country that involves talking about death. Or that involves purposefully being scary or scared. Or that involves people wearing costumes. Or that involves asking for food from neighbors.

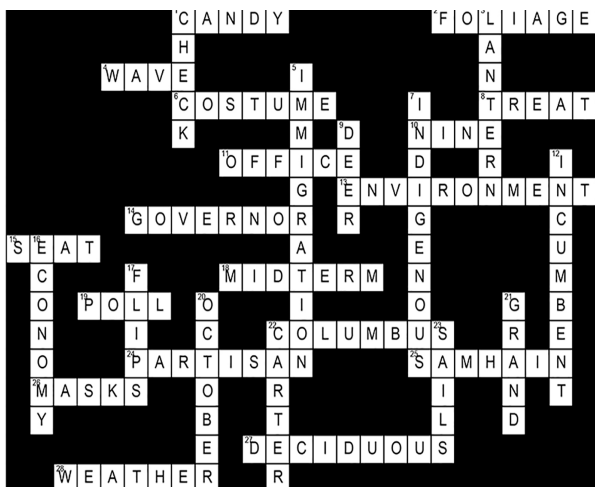
3. Read [That Crazy English: Weather Idioms](#) on page 8. Take turns with a friend or partner using one of the idioms to express these things:

- ♦ *It will be difficult to get through this period.*
- ♦ *We have not yet decided how to celebrate his birthday.*
- ♦ *We were so surprised to receive your letter telling us about your father's illness, because we thought he was healthy.*
- ♦ *We were so grateful to receive your check; we really needed the money.*
- ♦ *I think this is not so important; they should not be arguing about this.*
- ♦ *Her baby was born on Tuesday; she is so happy!*

## HALLOWEEN BY NUMBERS

Read [Halloween](#) on page 2. Try to match the number on the left with the correct product on the right. Now you know about Halloween and the US economy.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1) 41,100,000  | a) dollar value of candy imported to the US, January to July               |
| 2) 894,900,000 | b) number of 5-14-year-olds in US, all of them potential Trick-or-Treaters |
| 3) 1,637       | c) number of US candy factories  |
| 4) 803,000,000 | d) number of people who work in US candy factories                         |
| 5) 67,531      | e) number of pounds of pumpkins grown in the US                            |



## ANSWERS

### GRAMMAR: THE OR A?

- 2a the 2b a  
3a an 3b the  
4a a 4b the  
5a a 5b the  
6a the 6b a  
7a The 7b A  
8a A 8b The

### VOCABULARY

- 1c 2b 3a 4b 5a

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

2. F ...was cruel to the people...  
3. T  
4. F ...was not the first person...  
5. F ...is celebrated in North, South and Central America  
6. F ...never walked on the land. that is now the United States.  
7. F Native Americans discovered America.  
8. F It is not traditional...

### HALLOWEEN BY NUMBERS

- 1b 2e 3c 4a 5d 6b