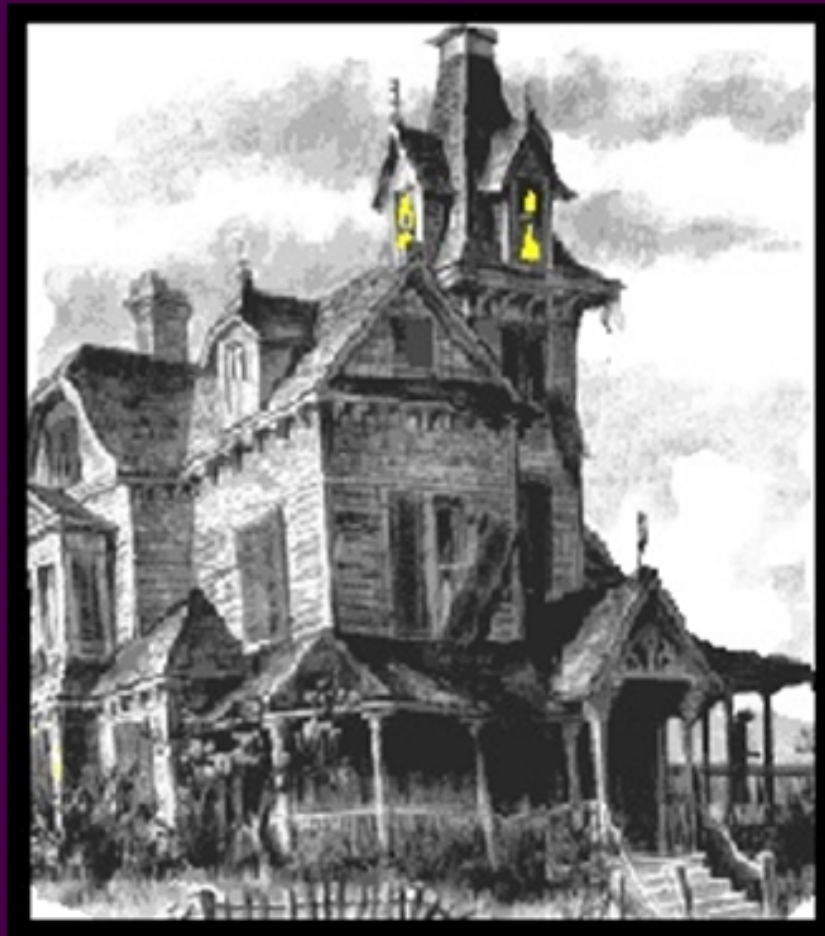


Reading With a Purpose



Haunted Houses

**Adapted from:
The History of Halloween
by Jake Henderson & Robert Marshall
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Haunted Houses

“Haunted houses” and similar places have long been a pastime of Halloween. How long have they been around? How popular are they?

No one is sure when the first haunted house was created. However, the first “haunted” attractions were steam-powered and date back to 1915.

In the late 1960s and early '70s, haunted houses became popular in the United States. They were mostly used to raise money for schools and other groups.



At first these scary places had performers wearing costumes and masks. The performers would hide and jump out to scare or shock visitors.

Words to watch for!

pastime attraction
popular performer

Over time these haunts have become much more. A modern haunted house might have strobe lights, black lights, fog machines, and sound effects. Also, scary images and scenes of fright are common.

In modern times, “haunted houses” aren’t just in homes. It could be set up in an old hospital, warehouse, basement, factory, or even a cornfield.

Haunted houses also make lots of money. A haunted house usually costs anywhere from \$5-\$25 to enter. They are now more popular than ever. There are thousands of haunted attractions every year across the United States. More than 12 million people a year enjoy them. All together, these places make billions of dollars each holiday season. Many of them leave their guests looking forward to coming back for more.

Multiple Choice: *Select the choice that completes the statement or answers the question.*

1. _____ Haunted attractions are closely related to which holiday?

- a. New Year's
- b. St. Patrick's Day
- c. Thanksgiving
- d. Halloween

2. _____ The first haunted attractions were

- a. houses
- b. castles
- c. steam-powered
- d. water-powered



3. _____ The reading stated that the first haunted houses were used mostly for

- a. scaring children
- b. raising money for schools and other non-profit groups
- c. entertaining adults
- d. providing jobs to adults

4. _____ How many people, on average, visit haunted houses every year in the United States?

- a. 1 million
- b. 5 million
- c. 12 million
- d. 21 million

5. _____ How long have haunted houses been popular in the United States?

- a. less than 15 years
- b. around 20 years
- c. around 50 years
- d. for more than 200 years

Guided Reading: *Fill in the blanks below to create complete sentences.*

1. No one is sure when the first _____ was created.

2. The first "haunted" attractions date back to _____.

3. In the early '70s, haunted houses became popular in the _____.

4. A modern haunted house might have strobe lights and sound _____.

5. In haunted houses, scenes of _____ are common.

Common Core Multiple Choice: *Select the choice which answers each question.*

1. _____ Which of these best describes the main idea of this lesson?
- a. "Haunted houses" make lots of money.
 - b. "Haunted houses" are not just set up in homes.
 - c. "Haunted houses" have a long and interesting history.
 - d. "Haunted houses" are actually haunted.
2. _____ Which of these sentences best supports the main idea?
- a. The first haunted attractions were steam-powered and date back to 1915.
 - b. Performers would hide and jump out to scare or shock visitors.
 - c. Scary images and scenes of fright are common.
 - d. A haunted house usually costs anywhere from \$5 to \$25 to enter.
3. _____ According to the lesson, which of the following statements is true?
- a. Haunted houses were more popular in the 1960s than they are today.
 - b. Haunted houses are only set up in homes.
 - c. Having live performers in haunted houses is a new idea.
 - d. A modern haunted house might have strobe lights and fog machines.
4. _____ Which of these best defines "pastime" as it is used in this lesson?
- a. A form of amusement or entertainment.
 - b. A lighter shade of a color.
 - c. A historical setting.
 - d. A semi-liquid with a gritty consistency.
5. _____ Which of these best defines "attraction" as it is used in the lesson?
- a. Two people who have an interest in each other.
 - b. An event which draws a large audience.
 - c. A magnetic force which brings two particles together.
 - d. The friction between two objects.
6. _____ Which of these best defines "performer" as it is used in this lesson?
- a. To act or play a role.
 - b. To change into another form.
 - c. A previous version.
 - d. A tall tale, or folktale.



Summarize: *Answer the following questions in the space provided. Attempt to respond in a complete sentence for each question. Be sure to use correct capitalization and punctuation!*



1. Who might enjoy visiting a haunted house?
2. What was the purpose of the first haunted attractions?
3. Where did haunted attractions become popular during the early 1970s?
4. When were the first haunted attractions built?
5. Why might someone visit a haunted house?
6. How do haunted attractions go about scaring visitors?



Student Response: *Please respond to the questions raised below. A good response should be a paragraph of at least three to five complete sentences.*

7. Imagine you are creating a "haunted house". What would you put in it? Why would you choose those things?
8. Why do you think people enjoy being frightened by things like haunted houses or horror movies?

Answer Key:

Haunted Houses Multiple Choice:

- 1) D
- 2) C
- 3) B
- 4) C
- 5) C

Guided Reading:

- 6) Haunted house
- 7) 1915
- 8) United States
- 9) Effects
- 10) Fright

Common Core Multiple Choice:

- 1) C
- 2) A
- 3) D
- 4) A
- 5) B
- 6) A

Summarize:

- 1) Student responses will vary.
- 2) Haunted attractions were usually intended to raise money.
- 3) Haunted attractions became popular in the U.S. during the early 1970s.
- 4) The first haunted attractions appeared in the 19teens.
- 5) Someone might visit for entertainment, to be frightened, or to donate money to a charity or school.
- 6) Haunted attractions use people in costume, sound effects, and strobe lights to scare visitors.

Student Response:

7. Student answers will vary.
8. Student answers will vary.