

Halloween History

Witches And Zombies, Oh My!

(NAPSA)—They show up on your doorstep every October 31st: girls in black dresses and pointy hats, boys sporting the look of the undead. While witches and zombies are now an integral part of the Halloween celebration, many wonder about the origins of these mythic figures.

Witches date back to some of the most ancient cultures where people's beliefs were rooted in elaborate forms of demonology. These beliefs are based on the premise that, in a world full of spirits, many were hostile and demonic. The demons could be warded off only through the wares of witches and sorcerers, such as amulets, incantations and exorcisms.

Zombies, on the other hand, are a more recent addition to the pantheon of creepy creatures. The word zombie comes from the Haitian practice of voodoo. A zombie is a human who dies—usually thought to have been poisoned by a voodoo priest—then comes back



This Lifesize Witch can be cackling good fun at your Halloween party.

however, are more familiar with the lurching, nightmare instilling variety found in films such as "Night of the Living Dead" and "Dawn of the Dead."

This year, Spencer Gifts makes it easy to bring witches and zombies to your next Halloween bash. Some of the more animated include:

- **Life Size Witch:** Double, double, toil and trouble! This exclusive, life size decoration makes for a deliciously spooky dinner guest who is sure to put the haunt into your Halloween.

- **Death Crawler:** This undead creepy, crawly latex zombie moans and groans as it drags itself across your floor. Set him to be sound activated or guide him via radio control either way, he's sure to freak some trick-or-treaters.

- **Tormented Zombie:** Make the best first impression at your Halloween party! This 3 foot tall Zombie bust will greet guests by screaming and pulling off his head!

For more Halloween costumes and decorations that are sure to scare big, check out the Spencer Gifts store nearest you. For a big scare online, visit www.spirithalloween.com.



The Death Crawler has a leg up on the competition. No, wait, it doesn't have any legs!

to life and serves their new master as a mindless, incredibly strong slave. Most Americans,