4 OLD-SCHOOL HALLOWEEN GAMES

KIDS CAN PLAY TODAY

A little vintage, a little creepy, and plenty of ridiculous.






NO OPEN FLAMES. NO FANCY SUPPLIES.

Four family games + creepy touch-bag labels + silly challenge cards

A LITTLE OFF THE ORDINARY

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Game 1: Apple & Flour-Sack Swing

The old apple-and-candle game, minus the eyebrow-singeing part.



THE OLD-SCHOOL IDEA

Historic Halloween versions put an apple on one end of a suspended stick and a lit candle on the other. Even old game books eventually suggested swapping the candle for a flour bag. We are taking that hint - and making the whole thing softer.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 apple with a sturdy stem
- Lightweight cardboard tube or very light dowel
- String for the center suspension
- Small soft "flour sack" filled with tissue or cotton
- Open space + a grown-up to supervise

HOW TO PLAY TODAY

1. Tie the apple to one end and the soft sack to the other.
2. Suspend from the middle so the bar can swing freely.
3. Hands behind backs. Try to bite the apple.
4. If the soft sack taps you first, everyone gets to laugh. Reset and try again.

MAKE IT SILLIER

Give the sack a ridiculous name - The Flour Ghost, The Powder Puff of Doom, or Aunt Mildred. Award a point for every clean bite of apple.

QUICK GROWN-UP NOTES

Keep the bar very light, keep the swing slow, and leave lots of room around the player. Use a soft pretend flour sack rather than a heavy bag of real flour. For younger children, shorten the swing or hold the bar steady. Adjust foods for allergies and sensory needs - the point is ridiculous fun, not proving toughness.

Game 2: Donut on a String Challenge

The party game that turns perfectly respectable grown-ups into frosting-covered fools.



THE IDEA

Hang individual ring donuts from strings. Players put their hands behind their backs and try to eat the donut while it swings away from them. First one finished wins - or forget the race and just see who can manage it without chasing the donut across the room.

WHAT YOU NEED

- Ring donuts - plain, glazed, or whatever works for your group
- One clean string per donut
- A clothesline, broom handle, or sturdy overhead support
- Napkins. Trust us.
- Optional tiny prizes

HOW TO PLAY

1. Hang donuts at comfortable face height.
2. Players stand with hands behind their backs.
3. On GO, everyone tries to take bites while the donuts swing.
4. First finished wins - or award prizes for funniest technique, messiest face, or most determined player.

FAMILY TWIST

Do a Kids vs. Grown-Ups round. The grown-ups must keep their hands clasped behind their backs the entire time. Younger players can have their donut held still or lowered. No shame in making the game fit the people at your party.

OPTIONAL APPLE VERSION

Want the older Halloween feel? Hang an apple by the stem instead. It is much harder than it looks. Use a clean apple for each player, and supervise younger children around strings.

Game 3: Creepy Mystery Touch Bags

Harmless ingredients. Unhelpful labels. Very useful imaginations.

THE SECRET IS IN THE STORY

Don't say, 'Reach into this bag of spaghetti.' Say, 'I found this behind the old shed. I'm pretty sure it's still warm.' Then let their imaginations do the rest.

BRAINS	**Cold cooked spaghetti**	Make it worse: add one spoonful of cool water so it feels extra slippery.
MONSTER EYEBALLS	**Peeled grapes**	Serve only as a touch prop; keep food-safety and choking risks in mind.
SPIDER EGGS	**Dry rice mixed with dried peas or small dried beans**	The tiny grains plus larger round pieces feel much stranger than either one alone.
TROLL TOES	**Baby carrots**	Cold carrots feel especially convincing when no one can see them.
BAT GUTS	**Cold gelatin cut into chunks**	Use any dark or bright color. A little squish goes a long way.
DRAGON TEETH	**Large dry pasta shapes**	Rigatoni, shells, or bow ties work well and are easy to find.
SWAMP CREATURE SKIN	**Cold wet wrinkled washcloth**	Wring it out, crumple it up, and hide the edges so nobody recognizes it by shape.

HOST TIP

Use opaque paper bags, boxes with hand holes, or bowls hidden under towels. Keep the real-answer list on this page and cut out the creepy labels on the next page. Nobody peeks until everyone has guessed.

Creepy Touch-Bag Labels

Cut them out, tape one to each bag, and keep the real contents secret.

DO NOT PEEK

BRAINS

DO NOT PEEK

MONSTER EYEBALLS

DO NOT PEEK

SPIDER EGGS

DO NOT PEEK

TROLL TOES

DO NOT PEEK

BAT GUTS

DO NOT PEEK

DRAGON TEETH

DO NOT PEEK

SWAMP CREATURE SKIN

DO NOT PEEK

Game 4: Pass the Pumpkin

Nobody gets eliminated. Everybody risks looking ridiculous.

Sit or stand in a circle. Pass a small pumpkin, plush pumpkin, or orange ball while music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding it draws a challenge card and does the silly thing. Then start the music again.

CUT-APART CHALLENGE CARDS - PAGE 1

WITCH CACKLE

Cackle like a witch who just won the lottery.

MUMMY WALK

Cross the room like a mummy who is late for dinner.

WEREWOLF

Give your best werewolf howl.

SPIDER PANIC

Pretend the floor is covered in spiders for 10 seconds.

MONSTER DANCE

Do your best 10-second monster dance.

VAMPIRE PIZZA

Act like a vampire ordering a pizza.

EVIL LAUGH

Give your best over-the-top villain laugh.

PUMPKIN LEGS

Act like a pumpkin that just discovered it has legs.

Pass the Pumpkin Challenge Cards

Page 2 - because the grown-ups should not escape this easily.

GHOST VOICE

Speak like a spooky ghost until your next turn.

MAKE THEM LAUGH

Make someone laugh without touching them.

UMBRELLA BAT

Act like a bat trying to use an umbrella.

ZOMBIE RUNWAY

Do your fanciest zombie runway walk.

100 SPIDERS

Pretend you opened a closet and found 100 spiders.

SILLY SPELL

Make up a ridiculous spell and cast it on a grown-up.

GROWN-UP TEAM-UP

Choose a grown-up to do a 5-second monster dance with you.

SPOOKY CHICKEN

Pick another player. Do a spooky chicken dance together.

MAKE IT YOURS

Add your own family jokes, easy challenges for little kids, or a card that makes the oldest person in the room do something ridiculous. The best version is the one your people will actually play.

Your 30-Minute Old-School Halloween Game Nigh

No elaborate setup required. Pick two games or play all four.

5 MIN

Set out the creepy touch bags before anyone sees what goes inside.

8 MIN

Start with Donut on a String. Everyone is clean at the beginning. This will fix that.

7 MIN

Move to the touch bags. Read the creepy labels with unnecessary seriousness.

10 MIN

Finish with Pass the Pumpkin so kids and grown-ups end up laughing together.

ONE LAST THING

The Apple & Flour-Sack Swing was inspired by a real old Halloween apple-and-candle game. The fire stayed in the history books. The silliness can stay at the party.

HAVE A WEIRDLY GOOD HALLOWEEN.

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For personal family use. Adult supervision recommended for food, strings, moving objects, and small items.