

PIRATES, PRINCESSES AND MINERALS, OH MY!



Halloween is just around the corner and things are getting spooky! Spider webs, witches and skeletons are appearing overnight in yards across the country. Children and adults alike are getting creative with their costumes, and kids are finding bags for trick-or-treating while adults hit the stores for this year's stash of candy. Did you know that without mining, many of our Halloween celebrations would be very different today?

Turn on your computer and start researching, because Halloween is days away and you need a costume! What will you dress up as this year? Maybe a pirate would be a great fit. All you need is a sword and an eye patch. Did you know that some of the first swords ever made in Egypt and modern-day Turkey around 3700 B.C. were constructed from copper? Thousands of years later, medieval blades were made from nickel-containing steel.

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>

<http://www.madehow.com/Volume-5/Sword.html>

<http://www.madehow.com/Volume-7/Tiara.html#ixzz3oTdCvpnu>

<http://www.energizer.com/about-flashlights/how-does-a-flashlight-work>

Maybe a princess costume is more your style. A sparkly dress, lots of jewelry and a crown would do the trick. Many tiaras are made of white gold, which is an alloy of gold and palladium or nickel, due to the precious metal's beautiful shine and resistance to wear. Rings and other elegant pieces of jewelry are made from platinum and palladium.

It's time to wander into the darkness to trick-or-treat. Thankfully, you'll be able to find the way to each doorstep with the help of your flashlight, which uses copper for electrical connections and batteries that contain nickel. By the end of the night, you'll return home with a bag stuffed with candy like dark chocolate, which contains copper and is essential to a healthy diet.

Have a safe and spooky Halloween!