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As one of the world's oldest holidays, Halloween is still celebrated today in several countries around the globe, but it is in North America and Canada that it maintains its highest level of popularity. Every year, 65% of Americans decorate their homes and offices for Halloween. Halloween is the holiday when the most candy is sold and is second only to Christmas in terms of total sales.

#### Australia

In Australia, some people will leave bread, water and a lighted lamp on the table before retiring on Halloween night. The reason for this is that it was once believed such items would welcome the dead souls back to earth on a night which for the Australians was considered to be brimming (溢) with strong cosmic energies.

#### Belgium

The Belgians believe that it is unlucky for a black cat to cross one's path and also unlucky if it should enter a home or travel on a ship. The custom in Belgium on Halloween night is to light candles in memory of dead relatives.

#### Canada

Modern Halloween celebrations in Canada began with the arrival of Scottish and Irish immigrants in the 1800s. Jack-O-Lantern is carved and the festivities include parties, trick-or-treating and the decorating of homes with pumpkins and corn stalks.

#### France

Unlike most nations of the world, Halloween is not celebrated by the French in order to honor the dead and departed ancestors. It is regarded as a "American" holiday in France and was unknown in the country until around 1996.

21. In which countries does Halloween have its highest level of popularity?

- A. France and North America
- B. Canada and North America
- B. Australia and Canada
- D. Belgium and Canada

22. Why will people leave bread, water and a lighted lamp on the table in Australia?

- A. These items would welcome the dead souls back to earth
- B. These items are used to respect ancestors
- C. These items are just for fun
- D. The other items can replace them