

Pumpkin mystery at Cornell University

Vocabulary

1. prank 2. scaffold 3. intact 4. preserved 5. remained 6. managed

True Story

In 1997, something strange and funny happened at Cornell University. One morning in October, students and staff found a pumpkin sitting high up on McGraw Clock Tower, which is 173 feet tall (53 metres). Nobody knew how it got there, and the _____ soon became famous. For months, the pumpkin _____ there, and people kept wondering how someone had _____ to place it so high without being seen.

The mystery became so popular that students even set up a webcam to show the "Pumpkin Watch" live. In March 1998, when the university finally tried to take the pumpkin down, a strong wind knocked it onto a nearby _____. Surprisingly, the pumpkin remained _____, _____ by the freezing winter temperatures. Even today, nobody knows who put the pumpkin there or how they did it.

Quiz

- Where was the pumpkin found?
- How tall is McGraw Clock Tower?
- What did some students do when the mystery became popular?
- Who put the pumpkin on the tower?

True or False

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Staff found students sitting high up on McGraw Clock Tower. | True False |
| 2. People still don't know how the pumpkin got on the tower. | True False |
| 3. A strong witch knocked the pumpkin onto a nearby scaffold. | True False |

Conversation

- A: Did you see the pumpkin on the tower today?
 B: Yeah, how did it get up there?
 A: I have no idea! It's impossible to climb up there.
 B: There's a live webcam for it now.
 A: Really? I need to check that out!
 B: Seriously, it's so weird!

Discussion

- How do you think the pumpkin got on the tower?
- Have you ever watched a live webcam event?
- Do you have a favorite pumpkin-flavoured food?
- If you could hide an unusual object as a prank, what would it be and where?

