



Pumpkins

Teacher s Curriculum
from our Pumpkin Patch

Math

* Students can pick up three pumpkins, one at a time, and predict the weights: heaviest, middle, and lightest. Invite them to record their pumpkin weight predictions. Then weigh the pumpkins. Do the predictions match the weights? Encourage students to create a chart to organize their information.

* Measure the circumference of the same three pumpkins. Does the heaviest pumpkin have the largest circumference? What conclusions can students draw about the relationship between weight and circumference?

* Find the relationship between the size of a pumpkin and the number of ribs. In how many ways can this relationship be expressed?

* Predict which pumpkin (the largest? the smallest?) will have more seeds. Hollow out those two pumpkins and count the seeds of each. Predict how many seeds the middle-sized pumpkin will have. Students can find out how close their predictions are.

* Challenge younger students to find a way to divide the pumpkin seeds so each class member has the same #

Nutrition & Health

Pumpkins are rich in Vitamin A and potassium, high in fiber and have a variety of nutritional/medical benefits:

*They were once recommended as a cure for freckles.

*They were used as a remedy for snakebites.

*The seeds help avoid prostate cancer in men.

*Pumpkin seeds can be roasted for a snack.

Social Studies

This is the perfect time for students to explore some of the history behind pumpkins.

*Students can research where pumpkins originated. When were they first raised? By whom?

* What is a jack-o'-lantern? Where did the term come from? What are other meanings of the term jack-o'-lantern?

Creative Thinking

Cinderella's pumpkin was used as a coach. And last year, a creative New Englander used a giant pumpkin as a motor-boat. Challenge your class to brainstorm new and unusual uses for pumpkins!

Language, Arts, Reading, Writing

*Place one or more pumpkins in view of the students. Ask them to write a list of words to describe the pumpkin.

*Invite students to write a paragraph describing a jack-o'-lantern face. When finished, they can exchange assignments and draw the face as described in the paragraph they are handed.

Science (How Pumpkins Grow)

1. Leafy vines grow from pumpkin seeds.

2. Yellow-orange flowers bloom on the pumpkin vine, then wither.

3. The flowers' ovaries (at the base of the flower) swell and become tiny green pumpkins.

4. The pumpkins grow larger and change color and...

5. About 4 months after planting, they're ready to harvest.

Fun Facts about Pumpkins

*Pumpkins are 90% water.

*Pumpkins are a fruit.

*Pumpkins vary in color from white to yellow to orange.

*Pumpkins are grown all over the world on six of the seven continents, with Antarctica being the sole exception.

*The "pumpkin capital" of the world is Morton, Illinois

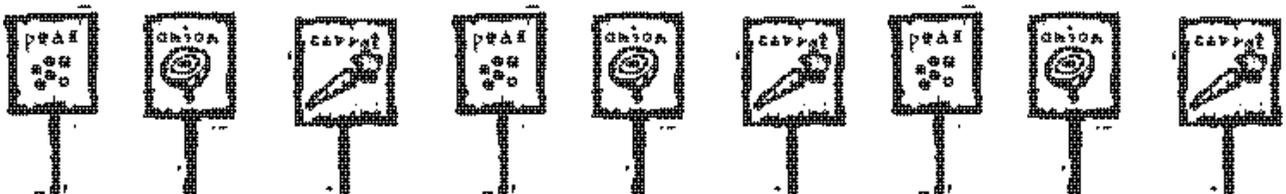
*The Irish brought the tradition of pumpkin carving to America. They had started by carving pumpkins first.

*Pumpkin flowers are edible

*The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake

*The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,262 pounds

*80% of the U.S. pumpkin supply is available in October





Pumpkin Activities



Pumpkin Scramble

1. ipe What is a pumpkin dessert? _____
2. koljarncetan What is a carved pumpkin? _____
3. retppreet What is the name of a pumpkin eater? _____
4. nisve What do pumpkins grow on? _____
5. rengo What is the color of a ripe pumpkin? _____
6. hewit What is the color of a Baby Boo pumpkin? _____
7. nidani What is a colorful corn? _____
8. ebes What pollinates corn? _____
9. ocresarcw What is a stuffed man? _____
10. slomsob What is a pumpkin flower? _____
11. wnelahoel What is October 31? _____
12. deses What is inside a pumpkin? _____

Pumpkin poem

One day I found two pumpkin seeds; I planted one and pulled the weeds.
 It sprouted roots and a big, long vine; a pumpkin grew; I called it mine.
 The pumpkin was quite round and fat; I really am quite proud of that.
 But there is something I'll admit; that has me worried just a bit.
 I ate the other seed, you see; now will it grow inside of me?
 I'm so relieved since I have found; that pumpkins only grow in the ground!

Pumpkin Word Match

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| pumpkin | satb |
| Halloween | droug |
| bats | verac |
| gourd | starveh |
| vine | mippukn |
| wagon | essde |
| carve | loneweHal |
| tractor | anwog |
| harvest | crerocaws |
| squash | inev |
| scarecrow | marf |
| seeds | rtcarot |
| farm | uhsaqs |

Answer Key

Pumpkin Scramble

- | | |
|--------------|----------------|
| ipe | pie |
| koljarncetan | jack-o-lantern |
| retppreete | Peter Peter |
| nisve | vines |
| rengo | orange |
| hewit | white |
| nidani | Indian |
| ebes | bees |
| ocresarcw | scarecrow |
| slomsob | blossom |
| wnelahoel | Halloween |
| deses | seeds |

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