

June 28, 1993.

Dear Teacher:

This pumpkin tutorial package has been prepared by the Pumpkin Farm for use in the classroom to further students' knowledge of pumpkins.

I hope that you will find this information useful and educational (and fun!!).

This package is geared for different grade levels, so you may select and use the items which are best suited for your class.

Please feel free to copy and distribute any information in this package.

Yours truly,

Jerry Howell,
Pumpkin Farm.

The Origins of Halloween Traditions

There are many superstitions and symbols connected with the festival of Halloween, celebrated on October 31. The name "Halloween" means "hallowed evening" since it takes place before All Saints' Day. Halloween traditions originate from many countries and have been modified by different cultures over time.

The Irish have a story about the origin of jack-o-lanterns. A man named Jack could not enter heaven because he was a miser, and he was unable to enter hell because he had played practical jokes on the devil. Therefore, he was left to walk the earth until Judgment Day with his lantern which was a hot coal placed in a hollowed-out turnip.

The use of witches, ghosts, and cats in Halloween celebrations originates with the Druids. The Druids were an order of priests in ancient Gaul and Britain who believed that ghosts, spirits, fairies, witches, and elves came out on Halloween to harm people. They thought that cats had once been human beings, but were changed as punishment for their evil deeds.

The Druids also took part in an autumn festival called "Samhain" (pronounced SAH-WIN) or "summers end". It was a celebration of the food which had been grown during the summer. The tradition of decorating with pumpkins, leaves, and cornstalks originates with this Druid festival.

In ancient days, celtic priestesses travelled about the countryside, chanting to frighten away the evil spirits which were thought to be free to roam the earth only once a year on Halloween night. Therefore, this is believed to be the origin of the Halloween parade.

Trick or treating had its origins in the practice of "souling", where people visited homes and offered prayers for the dead in return for gifts of food.

Canadian Halloween

The modern Halloween celebrations in Canada began with the arrival of Scottish and Irish immigrants in the 1800's. Pumpkins were used for jack-o-lanterns instead of turnips. Celebrations of the fall harvest included feasts, Halloween parties, trick-or-treating, and decorating with pumpkins and corn stalks.

Pumpkin Farm 1993.

How Pumpkins Grow

Pumpkins come from a family of plants called cucurbits. They are closely related to squash, gourds, melons, and cucumbers.

Pumpkins grow in the field on plants which have long sprawling vines that cover the ground.

Pumpkin seeds are planted in the field from the last week of May to the middle of June.

After seeds are planted, they will sprout (germinate) in 7 to 10 days, depending on the variety. During this time, seeds need moisture and warmth.

Once seeds have germinated, they will send up their first leaves, called seed leaves. Next, the true leaves will appear.

As the leaves develop, and the vines spread, an extensive root network develops in the top 12 inches of soil. These shallow roots can be found as branching offshoots all along the vine. They gather most of the food, moisture, and air for the plant's growth. There is a strong tap root which can grow as deep as 2 to 3 feet. Tendrils develop along the vines to anchor the plant.

Yellow flowers (called blossoms) begin to appear after the first three weeks of growth. Male blossoms, which produce pollen, are seen first. About a week later, the female blossoms follow. Female blossoms are easy to spot, because they have tiny pumpkin at their base. Blossoms live for only half a day, and will not open in cold, rainy weather. When both male and female blossoms appear on the vine, bees transfer the pollen from the males to the females. This is called pollination.

Once pollinated, the fruit at the base of the female blossom develops into a full-sized pumpkin. During this time, the plant continues to produce blossoms. The pumpkin contains seeds which can be saved to grow new pumpkins the following year.

While growing, pumpkins require a lot of moisture and sunlight to develop.

It takes about 90-120 days (depending on the variety) for a pumpkin to grow after it has been planted.

Pumpkins are picked in October when they are bright orange in colour.

Pumpkin Care and Carving Tips

When selecting a pumpkin, choose one that is ripe, and has no bruises, cuts or nicks.

Remember: Don't carry a pumpkin by its stem; it may break
Don't bruise the pumpkin or it will not last as long.

Instead of cutting off the top of the pumpkin to remove the seeds try cutting off the bottom. This will allow the pumpkin to sit up straight and make removing the seeds easier.

When cleaning out the pumpkin, use an old soup ladle to scoop out the seeds.

Try carving a giant pumpkin. They are much easier to carve than regular pumpkins.

Use bold simple features for the face.

Use a marker to draw a face on your pumpkin before you carve it.

Try carving a word into the mouth of the pumpkin, for example, carve the word "BOO" in the mouth of your pumpkin.

Remember: Knives are very sharp and dangerous. So make sure you have an adult help when carving your Jack O' Lantern.

October Word Search

Name: _____ Date: _____

Find the list of words in the puzzle. They are forward, backward, up, down and diagonally in all directions. Circle each letter as you find it and cross it off the list. When all the words are found the 18 leftover letters will give you a message. Good Luck!

```

J A C K O L A N T E R N W S F N B
S K S A M S E V A E L H O K U I R
A V E H A R V E S T A B R L L K O
H C T I W V A M P I R E C A L P O
C O B W E B S F A S I R E T M M M
B L O S S O M S N P A E R S O U S
N R O C N A I D N I S D A N O P T
C Y K O O P S I B U K I C R N T I
O D M C U T K B O E F P S O E N C
S R U H S P L H A L E S M C L A K
T U D O M A D S Q U A S H U O I C
U O H U C E F A L L R E T E P G I
M G P K T M I N I P U M P K I N P
E W C N E T H A N K S G I V I N G
S A U G R E A T P U M P K I N E N
T A P P L E B O B B I N G V I N E
H A L L O W E E N N O T E L E K S
    
```

Apple bobbing
 Bats
 Bees
 Black Cat
 Blossoms
 Boo
 Broomstick
 Cobwebs
 Costumes
 Cornstalks
 Cut
 Fall
 Full moon

Ghosts
 Giant Pumpkin
 Great Pumpkin
 Gourd
 Halloween
 Haunted House
 Harvest
 Indian corn
 Jack O'lantern
 Leaves
 Masks
 Mini pumpkin
 Mud

Peter
 Pick
 Pumpkin Farm
 Pumpkin Pie
 Scarecrow
 Skeleton
 Spider
 Spooky
 Squash
 Thanksgiving
 Witch
 Vampire
 Vine

Pumpkin Scramble

Name: _____ Date: _____

Unscramble the letters to answer the question.

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 colour of a ripe pumpkin? _____
6. hewit What is the colour of a Baby Boo pumpkin? _____
7. nidani What is a colourful 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? _____

WORD MATCH

Name: _____

Date: _____

Match the scrambled words with the unscrambled words.

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

Find the Answers at the Pumpkin Farm

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Name a pink coloured squash _____
2. What is the colour of Spaghetti Squash? _____
3. How much does the Pumpkin Farm's biggest pumpkin weigh? _____
4. What is in the outhouse? _____
5. What is the variety name of giant pumpkins? _____
6. How many varieties of squash are there? _____
7. Name 10 varieties of Squash _____

8. What is the name of miniature white pumpkins? _____
9. Name a pumpkin used mostly to make pies _____
10. What is used to get the pumpkins out of the field? _____
11. Why do pumpkin plants need bees? _____
12. What colour are ripe pumpkins? _____
13. Do pumpkins grow on:
(A) trees (B) vines (c) bushes
14. How many days does it take a pumpkin to grow? _____
15. What is a pumpkin flower called? _____
16. What is the name of the multi-coloured corn? _____

Tips for Growing Giant Pumpkins

Seeds:

Store your giant pumpkin seeds in a dry location until spring.

Garden Preparation:

Select a garden location that is sunny and well-drained.

Add plenty of compost or manure in fall and or spring.

Have your soil tested and apply the recommended dosage of fertilizer.

Adjust your soil ph to 6.5 - 7.0.

Planting Your Giant Pumpkin Seeds:

Start giant pumpkin seeds indoors in the second or third week of May.

Plant each seed 1" deep in 4" - 8" pots with a good, moist potting soil.

Place pots in a sunny, warm location (80 - 85 F). Plants will emerge in 5 to 10 days. (A greenhouse is ideal.)

Transplant giant pumpkin plants outdoors after the last frost in hills of mixed compost, manure, and soil (usually after May 24th).

Space required for each plant should be a minimum of 20 X 20 feet.

Caring For Your Plants:

Fertilize plants weekly with a good liquid fertilizer (20-20-20) until harvest.

Keep soil moist but well-drained.

Remove all weeds with a hoe.

After pumpkins set, water heavily. They should receive the equivalent of 1-2" of rainfall per week.

When pumpkins reach basketball size, select 1 or 2 pumpkins per plant and remove all others.

Step back and watch them grow!

Remember, the size of your pumpkin is directly proportional to the amount of work put into it. If you get a big pumpkin, don't forget to enter it in your local fall fair.

Pumpkin Recipes

Pumpkin Pie

2		eggs
1	tblsp	melted butter
1/4	cup	brown sugar
1/4	tsp	ginger
1/4	tsp	mace
1/4	tsp	nutmeg
1/2	tsp	salt
1	tsp	cinnamon
1	tblsp	flour
1/4	cup	honey or maple syrup
1	cup	milk
1 1/2	cups	cooked, mashed pumpkin

In a medium mixing bowl, beat together eggs, butter, and sugar.

Mix in remaining ingredients.

Pour the mixture into a 9" unbaked pie shell.

Bake at 450 F for 10 minutes

Reduce heat to 350 F and continue baking for 30 minutes, or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean

Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

2	cups	pumpkin seeds
2	tblsp	oil (corn, sunflower)
1-2	tsp	salt

Separate seeds from pumpkin pulp. Do not wash.

Coat seeds with oil and salt.

Bake on a baking sheet at 250 F until seeds are dry, about 1 hour.

Cooking Pumpkin

Use firm, bright-coloured pumpkins.

To bake, cut in half, scrape out the seeds and pulp, and brush the inside with melted butter and a little salt.

Cover with foil. Bake at 350 F for about 50 minutes, or until tender.

Scoop pulp from skin. Mash or beat until smooth.

A 3 lb pumpkin yields 4-5 cups.

Pumpkin Recipes

Pumpkin Muffins

1	cup	cooked pumpkin
1	cup	flour
1		egg
3/4	cup	brown sugar
3/4	cup	oatmeal
1/2	cup	raisins
1/2	cup	milk
1/2	cup	orange juice
1/4	cup	vegetable oil
1	tbsp	baking powder
1	tsp	cinnamon
1/2	tsp	baking soda
1/2	tsp	salt
1/4	tsp	ginger
1/4	tsp	mace
1/4	tsp	nutmeg

Preheat oven to 400 F

Grease 2 muffin tins.

Mix flour, oatmeal, baking powder, baking soda, salt and spices into a large mixing bowl.

Stir in brown sugar and raisins.

In a separate bowl mix oil, milk, juice, egg, and pumpkin on low speed in mixer.

Mix liquid ingredients into dry mixture.

Pour into muffin tins.

Bake for 20-25 minutes.

Cool for 5 minutes, then remove from tins.

Answer Sheet

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

Word Match

Pumpkin	satb
Halloween	droug
bats	verac
gourd	starveh
vine	mippukn
wagon	essde
carve	loneweHal
tractor	anwog
harvest	crerocaws
squash	inev
scarecrow	mafr
seeds	rtrarot
farm	uhsaqs

October Word Search

Have A Safe Halloween