

Picking Pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch

Written by Ms. Bailey's 1st grade class, South Kortright Central School, 2012-2013

Lessons and Activities – GRADE K-2



BIG IDEAS

- Relatedness & Diversity
- Life Cycles & Sequences
- Interconnectedness



The activities for this fun sing-along song explore life cycles and plant relatives.

Activity 1 *How Do Pumpkins Grow?*

Students learn the life cycle of the pumpkin plant, and demonstrate their knowledge with sequencing activities.

Activity 2 *All in the Family: Who Are the Pumpkins' Cousins?*

Students explore the characteristics of fruits in the cucurbit family, which includes pumpkins, melons, and other well-known fruits.



Where the song came from

Students from South Kortright School visiting Maple Shade Farm in Delhi, NY for their annual pumpkin picking field trip. These are some of the kids who wrote the *Picking Pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch* song!

For more information, or if you experience any problems with downloads, please contact info@harvestofsongs.com.



Harvest of Songs is a collaboration between Farm Catskills and Story Laurie.
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Picking Pumpkins in a Pumpkin Patch

How do pumpkins grow?

Time 30 minutes

BIG IDEAS

- Cycles and Sequences
- Interconnectedness

STANDARDS

NYS Science Standards

- LE 3.1b, LE 3.1c
- LE 5.2a
- LE 1.1b, LE 1.2a
- LE 4.2a
- LE 2.1a
- LE 4.1a,b,c

CCLS

- Math.K.CC.A.1
- Literacy.W.K.8, W.1.8, W.2.8
- Literacy.SL.K.5, SL.1.5, SL.2.5
- Literacy.SL.K.2, SL.1.2, SL.2.2
- Literacy.RL.K.3, RL.1.3

YOU WILL NEED

- Pumpkin plant life cycle chart (provided)
- Pumpkin life cycle sequence cards (provided—Print enough copies for each student to have the full set.)
- One of the following books:
 - *From Seed to Pumpkin* by Wendy Pfeffer
 - *Pumpkin, Pumpkin* by Jeanne Titherington
 - *The Pumpkin Book* by Gail Gibbons
 - *Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie* by Jill Esbaum

This activity emphasizes sequencing, cycles and interdependence. Plants supply food for people and plants have basic needs of their own. Students will learn the life cycle of the pumpkin plant, and demonstrate their knowledge by placing life cycle cards in the proper sequence.

STUDENTS WILL UNDERSTAND

- All living things change over time.
- People need plants for food.
- Plants have basic needs and respond to their environment.

ACTIVITY

1. Engage: Watch the video Picking Pumpkins at the Pumpkin Patch.
2. Discuss: “How do you think a pumpkin patch comes to be?”
3. Read one of the recommended books aloud, then review the pumpkin plant life cycle using the provided chart.
4. Deepen: “What is the life cycle of a pumpkin?” Students will replicate each phase of a pumpkin’s development with movements. Starting scrunched down in the shape of seeds and slowly changing their body to match the growing of a seed into a sprout, vine, flower, to pumpkin. (You will need to make sure all of your students have enough room to grow.)
5. Reflect: Students will color and organize the pumpkin life cycle cards into the proper sequence.

TEACHER TIP

Following the growth stages and change in the life cycle of a pumpkin is an accessible way to investigate energy flows and cycles. All living things move through developmental stages and change over time. This lesson can be easily modified to investigate the life cycles of other plants and trees, familiar animals, and human dynamics.

Picking Pumpkins in a Pumpkin Patch

How do pumpkins grow?

EXTENSION

Pumpkin Field Trip

Take a trip to a pumpkin patch. Encourage full sensory exploration of a pumpkin plant. Interview the farmer. Pick a few pumpkins to bring back to the classroom for cooking or decoration.

Sprout Seeds

Soak pumpkin seeds in cool water overnight in a clear container. Cover the container with cheesecloth affixed to the container with a rubber band. Drain the water, rinse the seeds with fresh water and drain again. Repeat the rinsing and draining of the seeds at least twice a day. When the seeds have sprouted, observe the anatomy of these mini-plants and then eat them as tasty snacks!

FOLLOW-UP

Box of Sequencing Cards

Pairs of students can pick a plant or other living thing which can be observed first-hand and create a new set of sequence cards. These cards should be made available to all students in a Sequencing Box for individuals to practice their sequential thinking with a variety of "living stories."

Memory Match Game

Color in one set of the life cycle cards; make a color copy, laminate and cut. Voilà! You now have a mini memory match game to review the pumpkin life cycle.



Story Laurie & students imagine themselves as pumpkin seedlings drinking up the rainfall!

JOKE TIME!
Q: How do you repair
a broken jack-o-lantern?
A: With a pumpkin patch!

Picking Pumpkins in a Pumpkin Patch

All in the Family: Who Are the Pumpkins' Cousins?

Time 15 minutes,
plus exploration

BIG IDEAS

- Relatedness and Diversity

STANDARDS

NYS Science Standards

- LE 1, 3.1b
- PS 3.1b, c, e, f

CCLS

- Math.K.MD.A.1, K.MD.A.2
- Math K.MD.B.3, 1.MD.4
- Literacy.W.K.2, W.1.2
- Literacy.SL.K.5, SL.1.5
- Literacy.SL.K.1, SL.1.1

YOU WILL NEED

- A diverse collection of 8-12 fruits from the cucurbit family
- Drawing paper
- Pencils and crayons or colored pencils
- Chart paper
- Markers

*This activity focuses on the skills of observation and categorization. Students take time to carefully investigate a diverse collection of fruits in the cucurbit family, which includes pumpkins, melons, and other well-known fruits. * In what ways are each of the objects in a collection unique? What similarities connect them?*

ACTIVITY

- 1.** Engage: In a whole group meeting, slowly present 2 of the fruits in your collection. "How are these 2 objects alike?" "How are they different from one another?" Encourage students to use all 5 senses when comparing the two.
- 2.** Slowly present each of the fruits, passing them around the circle of students to handle and observe.
- 3.** Discuss: "What do you notice about this collection?" "What ways can you think of to sort them?" Take note of the suggested categories on chart paper.
- 4.** Model: Sort the objects into one of the suggested groupings, for example, by color or color pattern.
- 5.** Apply: Set up a sorting station for small groups to arrange the fruits according to similarities and differences.
- 6.** Reflect: After sorting, students should draw their groupings on drawing paper and label each group or way of sorting.

*In addition to pumpkins and melons, the cucurbit family includes squashes, gourds, and cucumbers. Although all cucurbits are technically fruits, we eat many of them, like zucchini and acorn squash, as vegetables. When putting your collection together, aim for diversity.

TEACHER TIP

In order to maximize hands-on investigation, this activity is best done in small groups. It can be set up as a station during a choice time, with groups of children rotating through to have a turn.

Note: Thick-skinned fruits like gourds and melons will last longer as learning tools than thin-skinned fruits like cucumbers.

Picking Pumpkins in a Pumpkin Patch

All in the Family: Who Are the Pumpkins' Cousins?

EXTENSION

Swap it up!

Change the items in your collection. Add new examples you've found. Students will likely also want to add cucurbits from home to the collection.

Cucurbit Tasting Station

Prepare a few different foods with different cucurbits and set up a tasting station. Eat some raw, some baked, some savory and sweet.



These pumpkins, squashes, and gourds – with their different colors, tastes, and shapes — all highlight the diversity of the cucurbit family.

Pumpkin Life Cycle



Pumpkin Life Cycle

Memory Match Cards

