

All about Pumpkins

Grade Level(s)

1st

Estimated Time

30 minutes

Purpose

Students will gain a broader understanding about agriculture and the use of pumpkins. Students will learn about the life cycle of the pumpkin and the pumpkin industry.

Materials

▪ Worksheets:

Pumpkin life cycle PDF (available in kit or on website)

Pumpkin pie recipe to send home with families (available in kit or on website)

Pumpkin varieties PDF (available in kit or on website)

▪ Links:

Website: www.linncoag.com -2020/21 virtual learning-October

Book: Seed, sprout, pumpkin pie (read-aloud video available on our website)

Pumpkin life cycle YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mowqo4dKuVY>

Intro video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKmQxYdARZY>

▪ Other:

Crayons

String

Small paper plate

Hole punch

Glue or tape

Pumpkin seeds for taste testing

Vocabulary

Pumpkin: a large rounded orange-yellow fruit with a thick rind, edible flesh, and many seeds.

Sprout: small growth on a plant.

Vine: a trailing stem.

Variety: different kinds of pumpkins.

Interest Approach – Engagement

- Ask the students to brainstorm what they know about pumpkins.
 - How do they grow, why do we grow pumpkins, where do pumpkins grow, what color is a pumpkin?
- Read the story *Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin Pie* or watch the read-aloud video available on our website.
- Emphasize the stages in the life cycle of a pumpkin.
 - SHOW varieties of pumpkins. Ask the students to recap what they learned about pumpkins.
 - Why do we grow pumpkins?

Background - Agricultural Connections

- Pumpkins are an original American (New World) food product. Pumpkins have been cultivated for at least 9,000 years in North and South America. They are part of the family of vining plants called Cucurbitaceae that includes cucumbers, squash, gourds, melons, and others.
- The size of a pumpkin depends on water, temperature, insects, diseases, pollination, fertility, soil type, plant population and weeds.
- Bees and other insects help pollinate the pumpkins. Some insects are harmful and some insects (like bees) are helpful.
- Pumpkins are ready to harvest when they are the right color and have the right rind readiness. But remember, they can be a lot of different colors.

Procedures

1. Watch the introduction video with the students available on our website if not participating in Zoom presentation.
2. Watch life-cycle video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mowqo4dKuVY>
 - Ask the students to repeat the life cycle
3. Pass out pumpkin life cycle supplies
 - Color the life cycle, cut out and hole punch each stage (*emphasize in science we color realistically*)
 - Ask the students to place the life cycle in the correct order.
 - Use yarn to string the stages together.
 - Last step- add the paper plate to the sequence, draw a Jack o' Lantern and glue the stem to the plate.
 - Tie the ends together or tie each end separately so stages don't fall off the string.
4. Taste pumpkin seeds
5. Send pumpkin pie recipe home with students.

Organization Affiliation

Lesson adapted by Morgan Hibbs from *Pumpkins not just for Halloween*, a lesson plan from National Ag in the Classroom.

Agriculture Literacy Outcomes

Plants and Animals for Food, Fiber & Energy

- Explain how farmers/ranchers work with the lifecycle of plants and animals (planting/breeding) to harvest a crop

Culture, Society, Economy & Geography:

- Discuss what a farmer does

Iowa/ Common Core Standards

- K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.