

ILLINOIS

Junior Ag Mag

Pumpkins Are A Fall Favorite

Fall is the season for pumpkins. Farmers in Illinois grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world.



Pumpkins

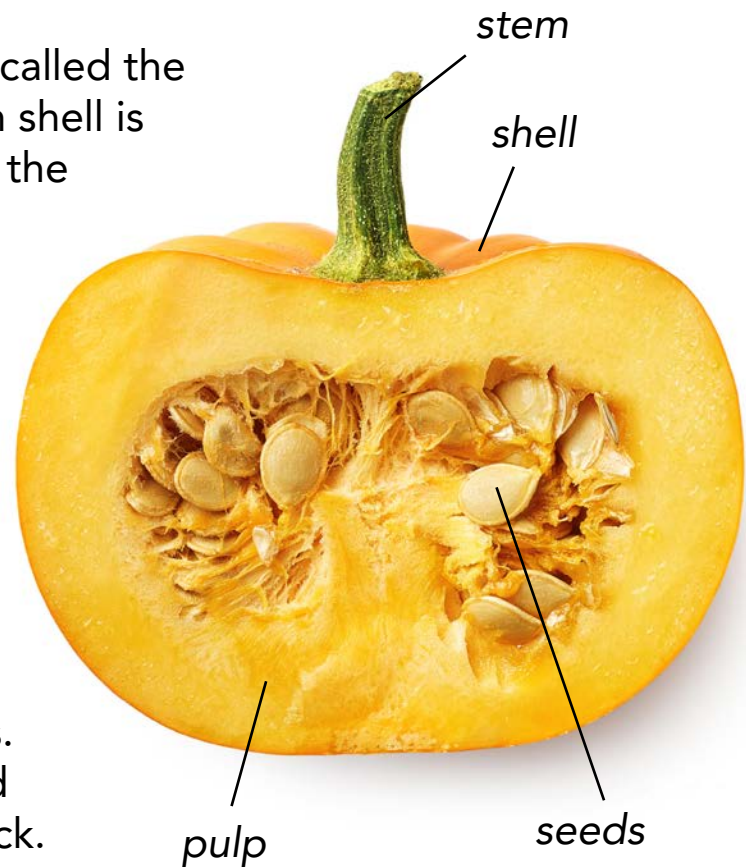
Types of Pumpkins

There are many types of pumpkins. Pumpkins come in different shapes and sizes. Pumpkins also come in many colors. Some pumpkins are used to decorate for fall and Halloween. Other pumpkins are eaten. Most of the pumpkins we grow in Illinois are made into canned pumpkin. Canned pumpkin is used to make pumpkin pie and other tasty foods.



Parts of a Pumpkin

The outside of a pumpkin is called the shell. On top of the pumpkin shell is the stem. The stem is where the pumpkin was cut from the vine. This can be used as a handle to carry your pumpkin. Inside the pumpkin are the pulp and seeds. The pulp is the part of the pumpkin we eat. Seeds can be saved and planted the next year. Then the seeds will turn into more pumpkins. The seeds can also be baked and made into a yummy snack.



Pick a Pumpkin Near You

Illinois has many pumpkin farms open in the fall. Families can come to the farm and pick pumpkins right out of the field. Many farms have other fun things to do such as corn mazes, hay rack rides, and foods made with pumpkin. You can buy pumpkins in all shapes, sizes, and colors to take home with you. **Have you ever been to a pumpkin farm?**



Meet an Illinois Pumpkin Farmer

This is Kaylee Heap. She is a pumpkin farmer. Kaylee and her family grow over 90 types of pumpkins at Heap's Giant Pumpkin Farm. They invite families to the farm to pick their own pumpkins. Their pumpkin farm has many fun things to do in the fall. The Heap family likes to grow giant pumpkins. Once they grew a pumpkin that weighed more than a grizzly bear!



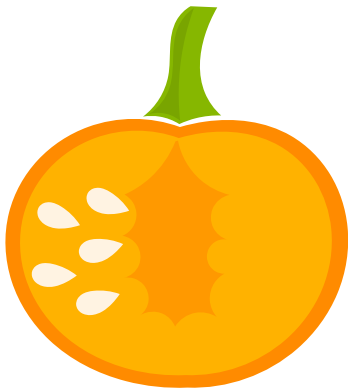

How Pumpkins Grow

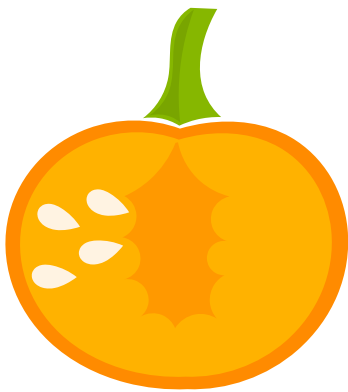
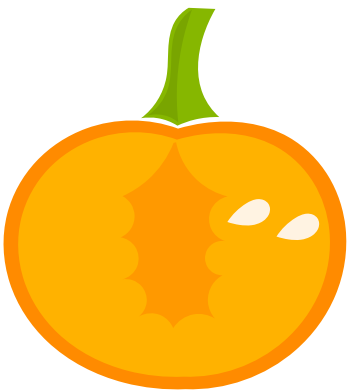
Pumpkins start as seeds. Farmers plant the seeds in the soil in the spring. Pumpkins need sunlight, water, and rich soil to grow into a pumpkin vine. The vine then makes blossoms, or flowers. After bees visit, the blossoms turn into tiny green pumpkins. Most pumpkins turn from green to orange. Pumpkins are picked in the fall.

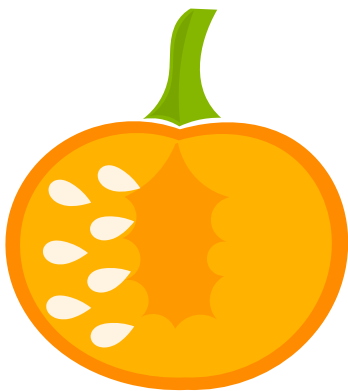
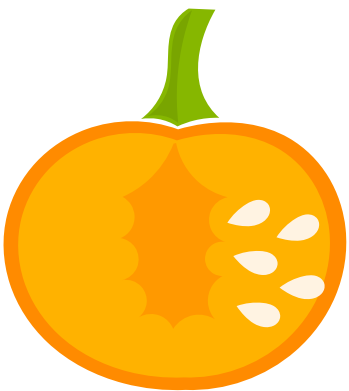


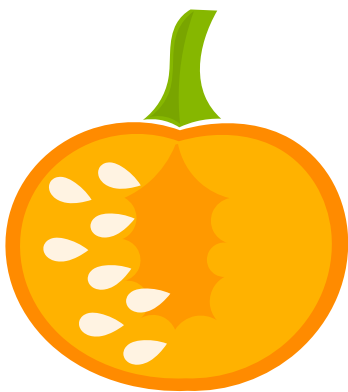

Pumpkin Math

Count the number of pumpkin seeds in each pumpkin.
Then add or subtract to solve each math problem.

 $+$  $=$ _____

 $-$  $=$ _____

 $+$  $=$ _____

 $-$  $=$ _____