



# WHAT'S INSIDE MY PUMPKIN?

## Grade Level

K-3

## Length of Lesson

45 minutes

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to identify the different parts of a pumpkin.

## Materials Needed

- Orange paper plates
- White paper plate
- Orange yarn
- Yellow yarn
- Pumpkin seeds
- Hole Punch
- Scissors
- Marker
- Glue
- Tape

## Standards

### Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.5; RI.2.7; RI.2.10; SL.2.5

### NGSS

K-LS1-1; 2-LS2-2; 3-LS3-2

## Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to help students in plot sequencing and story telling while learning the parts of a pumpkin.

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Cut the yellow and orange yarn into 4-6 inch strings. Have all materials out on their tables ready to begin!
2. Read "[Pick a Pumpkin](#)" by Patricia Toht to capture student interest.
3. Read through the AITC Pumpkin Ag Mag to learn about pumpkins. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
4. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Give each student five orange plates and one white plate. They will make a booklet consisting of a cover page and four additional pages.
  - Cover page: Students should write "What's Inside a Pumpkin?"
  - Page 1—Shell: Students should cut the outside of one of the orange plates and glue it on top of a white paper plate. Have the students write on the white plate, "Pumpkins have a shell. The shell is discarded for pie pumpkins, but saved for carving pumpkins."
  - Page 2—Pulp: Students should write on an orange plate, "Pumpkins have pulp. The pulp is used to make pie filling." Then ask them to glue yellow and orange yarn to the plate to make it look like pulp.
  - Page 3—Seeds: Students should write on an orange plate, "Pumpkins have seeds. Seeds are used to plant more pumpkins, but they can also be eaten." Then have the students glue some pumpkin seeds to the plate.
  - Page 4—Summary: Students should write on an orange plate, "Pumpkins have a shell, pulp, and seeds inside!" Then have them glue a photo of a pumpkin to the plate.
  - Have the students hole punch each plate on the left side and use a piece of yarn to tie the five plates together.
5. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Pair students together and have them share their books while explaining the parts of a pumpkin.

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Extension Ideas:

- Read "[Pumpkin Jack](#)" by Will Hubbell. Look at the pictures and have students follow along with the colorful life cycle of a pumpkin named Jack.
- Have students draw their own pumpkin life cycles.
- Have students tell a story from the pumpkin's perspective.
- Show a labeled diagram of a pumpkin and/or pumpkin vine.
- Bring in different colored pumpkins or gourds to explain varieties to your students.
- Watch a time lapse video of a pumpkin growing.
  - Here is a video of a giant pumpkin growing: [Giant Pumpkin Time Lapse.wmv](#)
- Take a field trip to a patch and pick your own pumpkins.
- Invite a pumpkin farmer into the classroom.
- Bring in small pumpkins and allow students to decorate them.
- Carve a pumpkin for your class and have your students dig out the seeds.
  - Before removing the seeds, have students estimate the number of seeds in the pumpkin!
  - Bake the seeds and bring them back for your students to enjoy!
- Go to [agintheclassroom.org](#) to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!

