

Pumpkin Patch lesson Outline K-3

- Before: Students demonstrate a basic understanding of the processes which take place in order to produce a pumpkin—primarily focused on the the growth of the plant and the pumpkin life cycle.
 - Growing a pumpkin *Read aloud the information on pumpkins written on the page. Then have the students answer the questions.
 - What are some things you think might change how well a pumpkin grows?
 - Sunlight
 - Water
 - Soil
 - Relating a pumpkin to other plants
 - Life cycle of a pumpkin
 - Have students color this pumpkin life cycle worksheet
https://www.worksheetplace.com/mf_pdf/Pumpkin-Life-Cycle.pdf
- During: Students consider the different factors which go into growing their pumpkins.
 - What type of soil do you think the pumpkins are growing in?
 - What has the farmer done to make it possible for these pumpkins to grow?
 - Soil amendments
 - Watering system
 - Weeding
 - Write down three observations of things you see/hear or smell at the pumpkin patch.
- After: Students are able to make connections between the discussion of external factors and the growth of the pumpkins. Students are able to summarize the different components important to growing a plant.
 - What do you think the soil looked like underneath the surface where the pumpkin was growing? (Draw a picture: Pumpkin plant, soil layers, organism, plant roots)
 - What was your favorite part of the pumpkin patch?
 - Five Little Pumpkins Song
 - Follow this link for a youtube video of a sing-a-long version of the song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cm1qvX1ygOo>
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Pumpkin Patch: a little to know before you go

Growing a Pumpkin

Pumpkins need a long growing season. Their seeds should not be planted until there is certainty of no more frost, meaning that the ground is nice and consistently warm. If the ground gets too cold, then their seeds will be injured and could potentially rot during a thaw. It is safe to plant them in June and early July here in the San Luis Valley.

What are some things you think might change how well a pumpkin grows? Draw a picture or make a list of the best growing conditions for a pumpkin.

Pumpkins are relatives of other types of squash. Pumpkins fall into a category called **cucurbita pepo**, which includes winter squash, pumpkin, and summer squash as well.

What similarities between pumpkins and other squash can you think of? Think of size, shape, texture, smell, etc.

What makes pumpkins different from other fruits and vegetables?



Pumpkin Patch: During



Pick up a handful of soil and squeeze it in between your hands. Does the soil look dry, moist, light, or dark? Talk with a classmate about what you notice about it.

What do you think the farmer has done to help the pumpkins grow?

Write down or draw three observations of things you see, hear, touch or smell at the pumpkin patch.

1.

2.

3.

Pumpkin Patch: After



Draw a picture of the environment where the pumpkin grew. Include what you think the soil looked like underneath the surface where the pumpkin was growing. In your picture include the **pumpkin plant**, **plant roots**, **soil layers**, **organisms** that might be living in the soil, and anything else that helped the pumpkin grow.

Draw a picture or write about your favorite part of the pumpkin patch.

Five Little Pumpkins Song



Sing this song as a class to help you remember your time at the pumpkin patch.

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate,
First one said "oh my, it's getting late!"
Second one said "There are witches in the air,"
Third one said "but we don't care!"
Fourth one said "Let's run and run and run."
Fifth one said "we're ready for some fun!"
Then ooo ooo went the wind, and out went the lights,
And the five little pumpkins rolled out of sight.