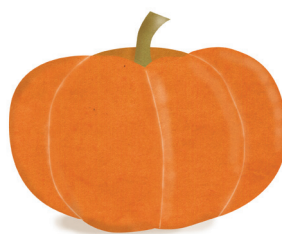


OCTOBER

Pumpkin Math



Activity Description: Students will practice counting while learning about different parts of a pumpkin plant.

MATERIALS

- Small pumpkins
- Green yarn (enough to connect all pumpkins)
- Leaves
- Large spoon/scoop
- Newspaper
- Knife
- Blank paper

Activity Steps

Activity Prep: Cover a table with newspaper. Set pumpkins on the paper in a line connected by the yarn to represent a vine. Add leaves to the yarn. Use a knife to cut the tops off of enough pumpkins for students to remove seeds. Note: For younger students you may wish to draw pumpkin/leaf/seeds ahead of time. If time/space is limited, you may wish to remove seeds and wash prior to conducting the activity.

Step 1: Give one piece of paper to each student.

Step 2: Tell students about the lifecycle of a pumpkin: (1) A pumpkin starts as a seed planted in the soil. (2) A seedling pokes above the soil. (3) The small plant grows into a long vine. (4) Flowers start to grow on the vine. (5) Flowers turn into small green pumpkins. (6) The pumpkin grows, turns orange and is picked.

Step 3: Have students draw a pumpkin on their paper. Have students count the number of pumpkins on display and write the number on their paper.

Step 4: Have students draw a leaf on their paper. Have students count the number of leaves and write the number on their paper.

Step 5: Have students draw a seed on their paper.

Step 6: Have students work together to remove pumpkin seeds and count. Students are to write the number on their paper.

Processing Questions

- Are pumpkins a fruit or a vegetable? Listen for students to share their guesses. Explain that pumpkins are a fruit (they contain seeds) but when it comes to cooking, they are often referred to as vegetables.
- How do pumpkins get to us? Listen for students to share that farmers grow them, they are taken to a grocery store/farmers' market/restaurant and we purchase them.

Extension Opportunity

Introduce students to a unique snack—baked pumpkin seeds. Soak raw seeds in saltwater and bake until crispy. Search online for various seasoning recipes.



Commodity Pumpkins

Featured State
Virginia

Suggested Book
How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin by Margaret McNamara

Make a Snack!
Bake pumpkin bread or muffins for a warm treat.