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

**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.