



Pumpkin Activities



Pumpkin Investigations



Listed here are some the investigation or question that can be used in learning more about pumpkins.

1. There are ribs that run side by side(stem to bottom) on the outside of a pumpkin. Are there more ribs on bigger pumpkins than on a smaller one?
2. Where on a pumpkin are the ribs the deepest? The shallowest?
3. Where on a pumpkin are the ribs the closest together? The farthest apart?
4. Do pumpkins with more ribs have more seeds?
5. Are the ribs closer together on bigger pumpkins than on smaller ones?
6. How is the size of pumpkin related to the amount of empty space?
7. Are the seeds scattered around inside a pumpkin or are they arranged in certain groups and patterns?
8. If the seeds are in groups and patterns, are the groups and patterns the same for different pumpkins?
9. If we call the stem end of the pumpkin "up" do the pointed ends of the seeds point up, down, sideways or in different directions.
10. What is the relationship between pumpkin size and seed size? Do bigger pumpkins have bigger seeds?
11. Think of a way of finding the number of seeds in a pumpkin without actually counting each seed.
12. Do bigger pumpkins have more seeds than smaller pumpkins?
13. In one pumpkin are the seeds all the same size? If not, where are the seeds the largest? The smallest?
14. Hit pumpkins of different sizes to see where you get the lowest and highest sounds.
15. Do pumpkins float in water? If pumpkins do float, determine whether bigger pumpkins float higher out of the water than smaller pumpkins.
16. What parts of the pumpkin sink in the water? Try different parts of the pumpkin shell and different parts of the seeds.
17. Where are pumpkin shell the thinnest? The thickest? Be careful to measure shell thickness the same way. Determine if there is a relationship between shell thickness and pumpkin size.
18. A pumpkin was once the bottom part of a beautiful, yellow flower. Find the place on the pumpkin where the blossom part of the flower grew.
19. Try to figure out what the stringy stuff on the inside of the pumpkin does. Is it attached to the shell? The seeds? If the stringy stuff is attached to the seeds, is it attached to the pointed or rounded end of the seed?
20. Does the string from the seed attach directly to the shell wall or to something else?

Estimate the pumpkins weight, then actually weigh the pumpkin. To make it more difficult - use a bathroom scale. First, weigh yourself and then get on the scale with the pumpkin. Subtract the first weight from the second to get the weight of the pumpkin!

Pumpkin Seed Count

Do you know how many seeds are inside the pumpkin? Follow these steps to find out. Get in groups .

1. Each member of the team will estimate the number of seeds inside the pumpkin.
2. Lift the stem off the pumpkin. Begin taking the seeds out. Your hands will get dirty, so be sure to pull your sleeves up! Be sure all seeds stay on the table.
3. Next, count all of the seeds inside your pumpkin. Be sure you get them all. You may want to consider putting the seeds into groups of 5 or 10 to make counting easier for your team.
4. Now, total the amount of seeds collected. Use a calculator to double check your total.
5. Our pumpkin had this amount of seeds _____.
6. The team member that had the closest estimate was _____.

Making Words:

How Many Words Can You Make Using These Letters

p, u, m, p, k, i, n



Indiana Farm Bureau Inc.

OUTSTANDING IN THE FIELD - PUMPKINS

When you see me in the fields;

My orange glowing in the sun,

It's time to say goodbye to summer

and hello to autumn fun!

The Pumpkinsburg Address

Four score and seven seasons ago, our Fore-Farmers brought forth upon this continent, a new Pumpkin, conceived in the garden, and dedicated to the proposition that no two pumpkins are created equal.

DID YOU KNOW?

A pumpkin is really a squash?

It is! It's a member of the Cucurbita family which includes squash and cucumbers.

That pumpkins are grown all over the world?

Six of the seven continents can grow pumpkins including Alaska! Antarctica is the only continent that they won't grow in.

Antartica



Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.

Pumpkin flowers are edible. In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

Pumpkins were once recommended for removing freckles and curing snake bites.

The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.

Pumpkins are 90 % water.

80% of the pumpkin supply in the United States is available in October.

What do pumpkins contain that are nutritious for people?

The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake. **How many eggs is that?**





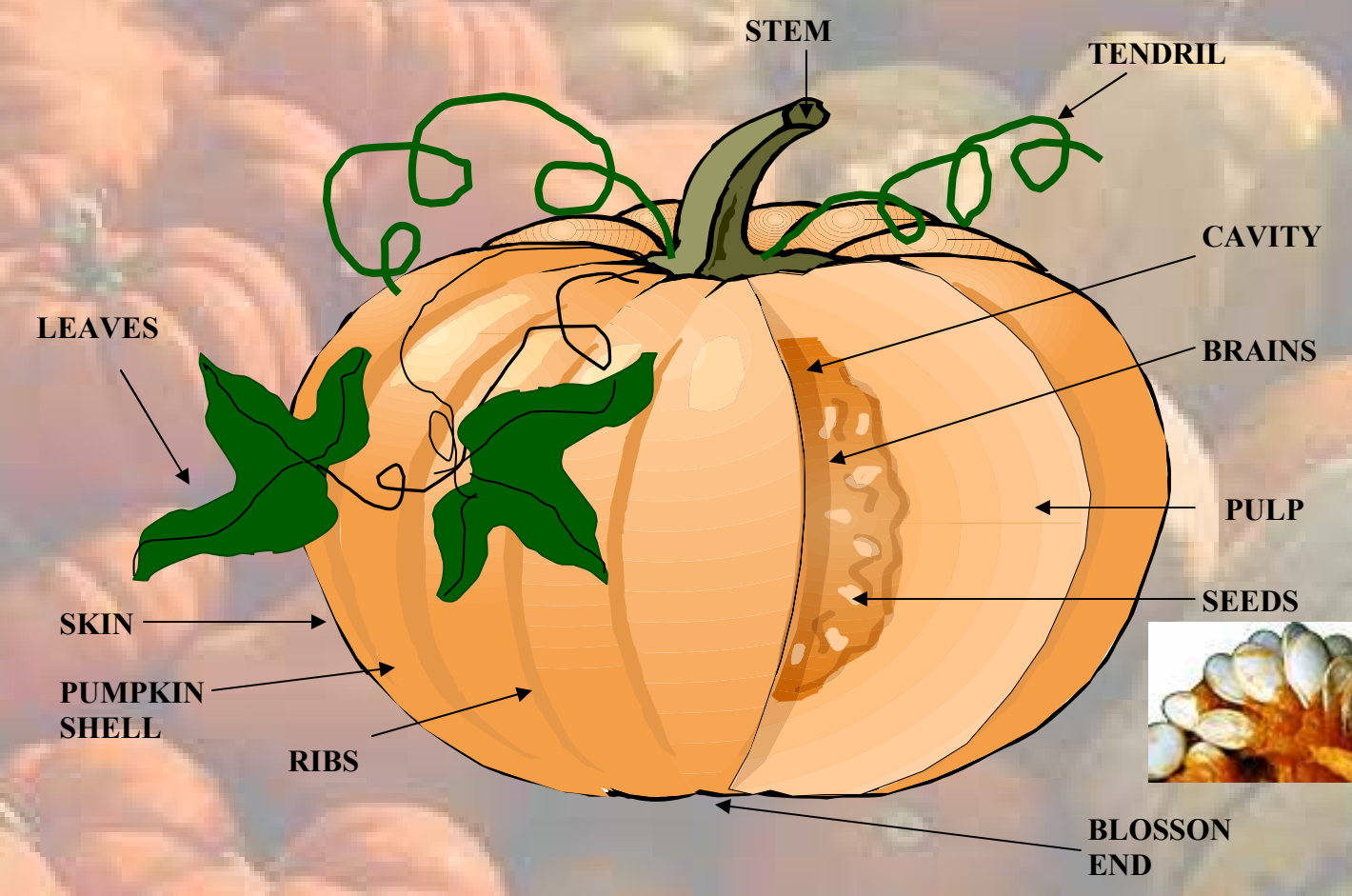
What Came First? The Pumpkin or the Seed?

Anatomy of a Pumpkin

Young and old alike, constantly ask "what's this" or "what's that part called?" Do you know the entire anatomy of a pumpkin? As a pumpkin expert, you will want to be certain of the answer when the question comes up.

Here is the complete pumpkin anatomy:

- Stem-** Located on the very top of the pumpkin. It is brown to brownish green, and slightly curved. During the growing season, the stem is attached to the vine. It is the umbilical cord, bringing nutrients to grow the fruit.
- Tendrils-** Sometimes attached to the stem are thin, hairlike "tendrils" During the growing season, tendrils on the vine are green. They twist around objects on the ground to help anchor the vine and protect it from the wind.
- Leaves-** The leaves of a pumpkin absorb energy from the sun for plant and fruit growth. In reality, the stem doesn't have leaves. The vine does(further away from the stem).
- Pumpkin Shell-** This refers to both the skin and the pulp of the fruit.
- Skin-** The thin, shiny, orange outer layer of a pumpkin is called the skin. It is also called the "rind". It is a protective layer to keep insects and disease out of the fruit. It is not edible. It won't make you sick if you eat it. It just doesn't taste good or have a pleasurable texture. **What other colors can pumpkins be?**
- Pulp-** Also called "meat". This is the yummy part of the pumpkin that you use to cook with, and to make hundreds of tasty recipes and treats.
- Ribs-** Look at the outside of a pumpkin. There are indented ridges running from top to bottom. These are called ribs.
- Blossom End-** When the fruit was very young, a flower blossom was at the end of the fruit(now its bottom). This is the blossom end. That female flower was pollinated, and the fruit then developed. The flower died, off, leaving a scar in its place.
- Cavity-** We're not talking about your teeth! This is the inside of a pumpkin. After removing the pumpkin guts, its just an empty cavity.
- Brains-** Okay, the proper name is fibrous strands. But, just about everyone calls them "brains". So, we will, too. There are a lot of other names for this slimy, mushy, mass of strings and seeds. They include: guts, sinew, goop, goo, pumpkin slime, and just plain old "yucky stuff".
- Seeds-** Seeds are the beginning of next years pumpkins. Do you remember the old saying "Which came first? The pumpkin or the seed?" **How many seeds are in your pumpkin?**
- Seed Coat-** also called "seed jacket",. It is the outer layer of the seed. Nature provides this to protect the nut inside that will eventually emerge into a pumpkin plant.
- Nut-** Located inside of the seed, the nut eventually develops into a new pumpkin. When a seed is planted, moisture and warmth triggers the nut to begin to grow. **What other kinds of nuts can you think of?**



PUMPKIN GAMES

Pin the Stem on the Pumpkin

On a large piece of paper, draw a picture of a pumpkin minus the stem or use construction paper to create a pumpkin. Make stems out of construction paper and have the children stick on the pumpkin stem! (Can also do noses!)

Pumpkin Bowling:

Object of Game: Knock over the bowling pins. Make a strike or a spare.
Preparation:
 1. Select several small pumpkins about four to six inches in diameter. You need extras in case a few split or break.
 2. Place plastic (children's set) of bowling pins several feet away on the lawn or floor of the room.
 3. A great alternative to bowling pins are plastic liter bottles.

