

PERFECT PUMPKINS



Name: _____

Types picking Facts

Picking Pumpkins

Pumpkin picking is complex and requires planning in advance. Before you purchase a pumpkin, you'll need to think about the size and the type of the pumpkin that will best fit your needs. Once you've made those decisions, you'll have to go to a pumpkin patch and search for pumpkins in great condition.

To determine what size of pumpkin you want, you'll first need to decide on what you'd like to carve into it. If you plan to carve a traditional face, a small pumpkin will work just fine. If you are going to make or buy a stencil, you should pick a medium size pumpkin. However, if you are planning to carve an elaborate design on your own, you'll want to pick a large pumpkin. This will give you more room to draw and carve.

After selecting a size, you'll need to consider the type of pumpkin you want. There are over forty pumpkin varieties. If you want a pumpkin to carve, you'll need to search for pumpkins that have flat walls. The most popular type of pumpkin used for carving is the Jack-O-Lantern pumpkin. They have less "pumpkin guts" on the inside and their walls are thinner and easier to carve. If you want to cook the pumpkin, you'll want to find smaller pumpkins (4-8 pounds), like the New England Pie Pumpkin, Ghost Rider, or the Baby Pam Pumpkin. If you're looking for pumpkins to decorate the inside of your house, you'll need to think about what type of display you'd like. Maybe you'd want smaller, orange pumpkins like Baby Bear Pumpkins or maybe you'd prefer the Big Max or Big Moon Pumpkins, which are bright orange and weigh between 100 and 300 pounds. There are also Cinderella Pumpkins that are bright orange and can easily be stacked on top of each other for a pretty display. It will be easier to pick a pumpkin if you know what type will best work for your display.

Last but not least, you'll need to learn how to find a pumpkin in great condition. If your pumpkin has a soft or loose stem, it could mean that it's prone to rotting. If you see a green stem, the pumpkin has been freshly picked and will last longer. Don't be afraid to ask the staff for help.

Pumpkins that are bumpy or have bruises. Those are not good. You should pick up the pumpkin and feel for soft spots. If there is too much moisture or has bugs inside of it, it is rotting. When you think you've found a good one, set it on a flat surface. This will help you stand upright when you take it home. If you don't need to worry about that. Instead, you can use them normally have a better texture and

to a store to purchase a pumpkin, be sure to look for pumpkins you want. Once you find one in good condition of the pumpkin.

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Carving Types picking

Types of pumpkins

1. If you wanted to paint a pumpkin instead of carving one, what type of pumpkin should you get? Why?

2. What does the word **dense** mean? Use text evidence to support your answer.

3. Why do people call Munchkins baby pumpkins?

4. What is unique about Blue Doll pumpkins?

5. What type of pumpkin is your favorite?

Pumpkin Carving

1. Choose a pumpkin.



2. Cut off the top.



3. Scoop the seeds.



4. Draw a face.



5. Cut out the shapes.



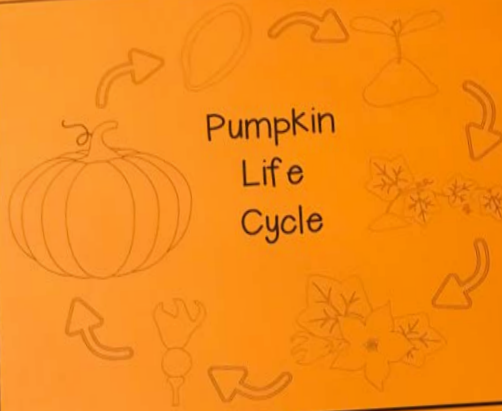
6. Put a candle inside.



Carving

Carving

Pumpkin Life Cycle



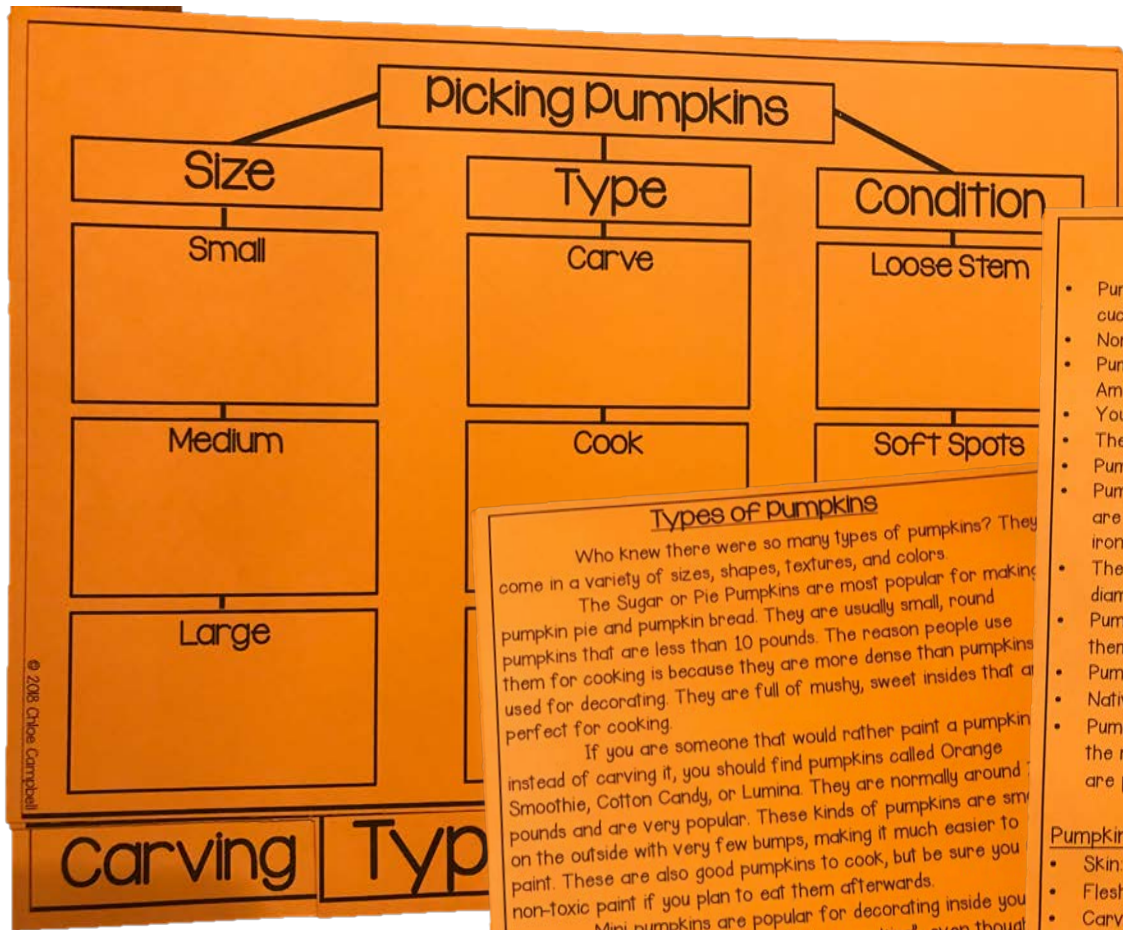
- How long a pumpkin will last before it rots
- Big, medium, small, miniature
- Round, tall, long, uneven, squat, etc.
- The stuff inside, used for cooking
- Is the pumpkin easy to carve with a knife?
- The way the pumpkin's skin feels
- The vertical stripes on a pumpkin
- The outside, colored part of the pumpkin

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| _____ 1. Skin | _____ 5. Size |
| _____ 2. Texture | _____ 6. Shelf Life |
| _____ 3. Flesh | _____ 7. Carvability |
| _____ 4. Shape | _____ 8. Ribbing |

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Carving Types picking

Informational Text



Types of Pumpkins

Who knew there were so many types of pumpkins? They come in a variety of sizes, shapes, textures, and colors. The Sugar or Pie Pumpkins are most popular for making pumpkin pie and pumpkin bread. They are usually small, round pumpkins that are less than 10 pounds. The reason people use them for cooking is because they are more dense than pumpkins used for decorating. They are full of mushy, sweet insides that are perfect for cooking.

If you are someone that would rather paint a pumpkin instead of carving it, you should find pumpkins called Orange Smoothie, Cotton Candy, or Lumina. They are normally around 10 pounds and are very popular. These kinds of pumpkins are smooth on the outside with very few bumps, making it much easier to paint. These are also good pumpkins to cook, but be sure you use non-toxic paint if you plan to eat them afterwards.

Mini pumpkins are popular for decorating inside your house. Lots of people call these "baby pumpkins", even though they are fully grown. Baby Boo, Bumpkin, and Munchkin are all names of these tiny pumpkins. Another type of pumpkin that is often used for decorating inside is the Casperita pumpkin. They are small, white pumpkins that can never catch diseases. Since they are healthy, you'll be able to find them most pumpkin patches.

When you hear the word pumpkin, you probably think of a normal orange pumpkin. You may be surprised to know that there are green, white, and even patterned pumpkins. Blue Doll pumpkins aren't actually blue: they are green on the outside and orange on the inside. There are even Knucklehead pumpkins that get their name from their warty skin. This pumpkin is orange but it has green warts on its skin. These are the perfect pumpkins for carving scary jack-o-lanterns.

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pumpkin Facts

- Pumpkins are a member of the gourd family, which includes cucumbers, melons, cantaloupe, and zucchini.
- North America has been growing pumpkins for five thousand years.
- Pumpkins are grown on six different continents: North and South America, Asia, Europe, Australia, and Africa.
- You can eat the pumpkin flowers.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 2,323.7 pounds.
- Pumpkin seeds can be kept to grow new pumpkins the next year.
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are great sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.
- The largest pumpkin pie weighed 3,699 pounds and was 20 feet in diameter.
- Pumpkins are gluten free, which means they don't have any grains in them.
- Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
- Native American Indians used pumpkins as a main food source.
- Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October.

Pumpkin Terms

- Skin: The outside, colored part of the pumpkin
- Flesh: The stuff inside, used for cooking
- Carvability: Is the pumpkin easy to carve with a knife?
- Shape: Round, tall, long, uneven, squat, etc.
- Texture: The way the pumpkin's skin feels: bumpy, rough, smooth, etc.
- Ribbing: The vertical stripes on a pumpkin
- Size: Big, medium, small, miniature
- Keeps well: The "shelf life" or how long a pumpkin will last before it rots

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Flip Book

Comprehension Questions & Activities