




Pump Up the Curriculum with Pumpkins

Pumpkin Arts

-  **Decorating Pumpkins**
Decorating Pumpkins: Provide each student with a small pumpkin and have assorted arts-and-crafts supplies available in the classroom. Encourage students to decorate their pumpkins. If desired, they can illustrate their decorated pumpkins on a remaining journal page. Send the completed pumpkins home with students.
Mr. Pumpkin Head: Get a real pumpkin and supply washable markers, and props such as glasses, paper mustache, hats, scarves, and wigs. Let each child have turn to decorate and dress up pumpkin. When next child's turn - just wash the markers off!
Mini Pumpkin Decorations: You need: Mini Pumpkins (can be purchased at most grocery stores), Permanent markers, Paint (optional). Small, ornamental pumpkins purchased at most markets make a great easy craft project. Simply outline a face on the small pumpkin with a black permanent marker. Have kids either paint inside outline or use colored markers to add color to the little guys. Make lots, these make great decorations!!

-  **Pumpkin mural**
Pumpkin mural: Roll out long sheets of butcher paper and encourage children to draw pumpkin vines, flowers, sprouts, and green and orange pumpkins. I like to use light brown paper so the back looks like dirt, but the children's work still shows up. Makes a nice backdrop if you want to display the next project...

-  **Paper pumpkin patch**
Paper pumpkin patch: Stuff lunch sacks with newspaper and twist the top. Secure with masking tape. Paint the bottom part orange and the top green to look like a pumpkin. Let dry. I like to display these in the hallway with vine cut from paper hanging on them and the pumpkin mural backdrop. Tip: Don't paint faces on them and they can stay in the hallway during NOV too!!!

Give each child a small paper plate and a piece of orange construction paper. Let the children tear their orange papers into small pieces and glue the pieces all over their paper plates. Then let them glue on green construction paper stems to complete their pumpkins.

Variation: Provide orange and green tissue paper. Have the children tear pieces and crumple them into loose balls and glue on plates.

Extension: Hang a long piece of butcher paper on a wall at the children's eye level. Attach the pumpkins to the butcher paper. Add vines and leaves with a green felt-tip marker to create a pumpkin patch mural.

Make a pumpkin patch in the classroom to store the class supply of pumpkins when not in use. To prepare the patch, have students cut out and attach construction paper pumpkin leaves to lengths of yarn and then display the resulting greenery in the patch. You might want to work together to create an eye-catching scarecrow to guard the classroom crop. Have each student dangle a numbered tag from his/her pumpkin's stem. To make the tags, punch a hole in a leaf cutout for each student and label each with a different number. Students choose cutouts, thread the lengths of yarn through the holes in the leaves, and tie the yarn ends. The pumpkin owners should remain anonymous until the first writing activity has been completed. The teacher should have a pumpkin in the patch, too!

Pumpkin Patch- Need: Paper bags (small), orange paint, green paint, masking tape, stuffing (newspaper/tissue), green yarn, diecut leaves. Give each child a bag and some stuffing and let them stuff their bag until almost full. Then twist off the top of the bag with masking tape, roll into a stem shape. Let children paint the bag orange and the stems green. Once dry, connect the pumpkins with green yarn and tie on a leaf; display around the room. Write each child's name on the leaf.

Handy Pumpkins-Need: Brown construction paper, orange and green paint. Have each child make a fist shape and then paint their knuckles orange. Let the child press the painted knuckles onto the paper. Add a thumbprint green stem onto each pumpkin. If desired add orange or green glitter if desired. Once dry, use green yarn pieces to connect the pumpkins, creating a vine effect.



Pumpkin printing

Cut the pumpkin into chunks and let children design pulp by using nails. Press on ink pads then on construction paper.

Pumpkin/Gourd Prints-Buy miniature pumpkins and gourds. Slice each in half, leaving stem attached to top piece. Use the top piece to make pumpkin and gourd prints all over the page.

Pumpkin Playdoh-Make a batch of plain white playdoh, add food coloring, and add an entire container of pumpkin spice to the playdoh. Provide seasonal cutters and teach the children how to roll a ball to make a pumpkin. Provide miniature pie tins (such as those from Little Debbie's pecan pies), and model for the children how to make a pumpkin pie. If desired, children can sprinkle on orange glitter, for extra delight.



Print with the seeds which are hot glued onto the bottom of blocks.



Using large fingerprint paper (12x18), child mixes two colors (red and yellow) together to discover what the new color will be. Cut into pumpkin shapes after it dries.



Pumpkin Picture Holder

"Your Li'l Pumpkin" Picture Holder

What you need:

- White Crayola Model Magic
- Orange, brown and green BioColor
- Orange and green pipe cleaners
- School pictures for display

Process:

1. Mold a piece of Crayola Model Magic into the shape of a pumpkin. Add a short stem to the top and some leaves to the side of the stem.
2. Bend one end of each of the pipe cleaners to create a circle making sure that the bent tip over extends so that part of the circle is overlapped. These will holder the pictures.
3. Stick the pipe cleaners, straight end first, into the pumpkin.
4. Allow Model Magic compound to dry.
5. Paint the body of the pumpkin orange, the stem brown and the leaves green. Let dry.
6. When the paint is completely dry, place a picture in each of the pipe cleaner circles.



Other Art Activities

Leaf Windsock-Take the children outside to collect fall leaves. Then once inside again, let the children glue their leaves onto white or colored paper (the longer type of paper). Once the glue has dried, laminate the papers. Then roll, lengthwise, into a cylinder shape and staple. Let the children choose what colors of crepe paper to attach to the bottom of the windsock. Punch two holes on each side of top of the windsock and then add yarn for a handle. Hang from the ceiling, near a window.

Pumpkin Blanket- This activity is used to follow up with the book: Pumpkin Blanket by Turney Zagwyn. After reading the story, take the children to a pumpkin farm (or hide some pumpkins outside for the children to "find") and let them each pick out a small pumpkin. Give each child two pieces of cotton squares (fairly large size). Let the children use fabric paints, felt, fabric remnants, rick rack, and buttons to decorate their square with. Write each child's name under his/her squares. (Blanket Idea adapted from Oct/Nov 1999 Mailbox). Let each child cover the pumpkin with their blanket squares to keep the pumpkin warm. After a few nights, sew all of the fabric squares together to create a quilt. If desired drape the big quilt over all of the pumpkins. Later on, place it on the rocking chair or in the language area.

Owls-(Idea updated from Oct/Nov 1999 Mailbox Magazine). Need: Brown construction paper, black and white paint, sponges, cupcake liners, black buttons, yellow triangle paper shape. Let each child use small square sponges and sponge on white paint and black paint. Let Dry, then trace on an owl shape, cut out. Then let each child decorate his/her owl by adding cupcake liner eyes, paper triangle nose, and black button pupils.

Scarecrow Faces-Draw large circles from flesh colored paper. Model the language for the children to draw a scarecrow face. Let the child glue fall leaves around the face, to resemble hair/straw. If desired, let the child choose a colored hat or bow to place on their scarecrow person.

Leaf Prints-Let each child choose some fall leaves from outside. Place the leaves on a piece of brightly/dark colored piece of paper. Place in the sun, until the sun has faded the paper and created a leaf imprint. OR let the child place a piece of aluminum foil over a large leaf and press the foil, until the leaf imprint shows through. Then let the child glue his/her print onto a piece of paper. OR let the child lay his/her leaves onto a table. Tape a piece of paper over the leaf. Give the child red, yellow, green, orange, and brown crayons to rub over the leaf, creating leaf rubbings.

Harvest Leaf Placemats-If your school's location provides for lots of fallen leaves from trees, gather a pile of leaves into a large pile in the schoolyard. Let each child take a turn "falling" into the leaves. As each child does, snap a photo of them doing this. Let each child have lots of turns! Then return inside with each child carrying a couple of chosen leaves. Give each child a piece of brown construction paper and help them to make leaf prints around the edges of the construction paper. To make a leaf print, lightly paint the underside of the leaf with paint and then press onto the paper. After desired number of prints is desired, let dry. Glue the picture onto the placemat and then laminate or cover with contact paper. Write a cute saying on it like: We love leaves, etc; and write Fall 1999. Send home to the parents as a gift. I did this activity on my last day with the kids (before my maternity leave). They absolutely loved it! We played in the leaves, raked them, up, took our pictures, and played some more! This has to be the most favorite activity of all!!!

Sensory Table: Place green easter grass into the table and add lots of thematic items like: pumpkins, gourds, leaves, small scarecrows, etc;

Place rice and autumn colored and shaped macaroni into the table. Then add thematic items: scarecrow parts (doll sized overalls, shirt, pumpkin head, etc;)

I also use a pumpkin bucket filled with autumn colored macaroni in which tiny pumpkins are hidden. I place a scale on the exploratory table for the children to balance the pumpkins on.

Place large (sealed-glued and taped) ziploc bags full of raw pumpkin insides, canned pumpkin, orange paint, and water with orange sequin pumpkin shapes or leaf shaped confetti). Let children use fingers to explore this squishy wishy activity, without fear of getting anything on their hands. On the pumpkin bag, encourage children to write with fingers to make letters, numbers, shapes, etc;

Harvest Pumpkin Necklaces-Okay I admit, this is one of those activities that you do a majority part of the work with!! Need: pumpkin face lollipop, miniature hershey bars (the medium sized snack ones, not the little bitty ones), smarties, yarn. First take the lollipop and tie yarn around the neck of the lollipop(secure with glue-tacky craft glue). Second, glue on a hershey bar onto the stick part of the lollipop. Let this harden for a while. Then tie on smarties to the neck of the stick for arms, one on each side. Then tie on smarties for the legs, one on each child, still tying off around neck of lollipop (hiding yarn behind hershey bar). This is an activity on which I let the child help me make them a lollipop man. This is a perfect October gift/treat to send home with the children. They like to wear it and eat it!!!

Noodle Necklaces- I try to find the leaf and pumpkin colored noodles at the craft stores when they are in season. Give the children some yarn, plastic lacing needle, and shaped noodles to string. Or if these are not available to use, use a shaped hole punch and make small die cuts for the children to string.

Pumpkin Pouches-This is a hands on project on which the teacher will assist the child completely. First the teacher will prepare ahead of time..A pumpkin made from orange paper, a pumpkin made from clear vinyl or cold laminating film, and a plastic lacing needle with strong yarn. Punch holes around both pumpkins, (hold them together to insure matching holes on both parts). Remember to only punch holes around the sides and bottom of pumpkin, leaving a top gap so that the pouch can be filled with treats/candy. Then assist the child in lacing his/her pumpkin pouch, and tie off. Then modeling language, using pictures, let the child pick out a face for his pumpkin. Each child will then

use a black sharpie to "draw" the pumpkin face on, one step at a time. Give a choice between 2 sets of eyes shown on pictures, then assist child in drawing the eyes, etc; If you have a party, you can send home any treats in this pouch. You can even add a yarn strap to enable the pouch to be worn over the arm or around the neck.

Paper Mache Pumpkins

Paper Mache Recipe

1 balloon for each child

Orange and green paint

Other paints and/or decorations

Paper towel roll

Using paper mache recipe, cover inflated, fat, balloon with paper mache and newspaper. Allow to dry over night. When covering balloon - cut a 2-inch piece from the paper towel roll. Place on top of balloon and paper mache over top to form stem. Sit balloon with stem side up to dry so that the bottom remains partially flat. The next day when dry, paint orange with paint. Paint stem green. Once dry, paint in eyes and other details. Flower vines can be purchased at craft stores if you wish. These make nice window ornaments instead of real pumpkins, however, do not use a candle inside.

Paper Bag Pumpkin

Paper bag (lunch or grocery)

String or green yarn

Markers, crayons or paints

Newspaper



Drama

Dramatics-Place lots of play clothes in your closet for the children to dress as scarecrows, place larger child size overalls, straw hat, plaid shirt, and pull over shoes boots. Also place dress up props, such as pumpkin bodies, and scarecrow faces. These can be made by enlarging a pumpkin onto bulletin board and cutting out arm holes, so the child may place the pumpkin over his/her top part of the body. Scarecrow faces can be made the same way and cutting out eye holes and placing on a tongue depressor. This is very enjoyable to the children in front of the mirror. Get ready to take some cute pictures.



Pumpkin Carving

Carving Pumpkins: Carving pumpkins is a great family endeavor. Your child can help you clean out the pulp and seeds inside the pumpkin to prepare it for carving. She can then advise you on how to carve it.

TIP: If you are planning on lighting pumpkins around preschoolers, it is safer and easier to carve the pumpkin from the bottom rather than from the top. This method enables you to first light a candle and then place the pumpkin over it so that you don't risk burning your hand. This method also eliminates the temptation for young children to take the pumpkin's top off and put it back on again, and avoids breaking the stem.



Music

Pass The Pumpkin

Sit in a circle. Provide a plastic pumpkin for children to pass while the teacher beats on a drum. Children pass the pumpkin to the tempo of the music. Alternate between fast and slow. When the music stops the child who has the pumpkin stands and takes a bow. Continue.

Pass the pumpkin (variation)

it is played like hot potato using a small real or toy pumpkin. Children pass the pumpkin to Halloween music while seated in a circle. When the music stops that child holding the pumpkin is out and receives a small prize like a sticker, pencil or lollipop. At the end of the game, the last child left receives a bigger prize like crayons, coloring book or notebook.

Musical Pumpkin Game

Need:

plastic pumpkin

music
slips of paper

Contributed by:
Cindy Hafner

Think of actions that preschoolers can perform and write them on pieces of paper. Fold the papers and place them in a plastic pumpkin. The children stand in a circle. Pass the pumpkin around the circle as the music plays. When the music stops, the child holding the pumpkin reaches in and chooses a paper. He then performs the action (smiling, hopping, shaking a leg, etc.). The child sits down, the music begins, and the pumpkin continues around the circle. The activity ends when all children have had a turn.

Mr. Pumpkin

Sung to "Are You Sleeping" Mr. Pumpkin, Mr. Pumpkin, Eyes so round, eyes so round. Harvest is coming, Harvest is coming, To my town, to my town.

"**The Scarecrow in the Dell**"- to the tune of "Farmer In The Dell"

Ahead of time make necklaces with different fall pictures...examples... Scarecrow, pumpkin, Indian corn, leaves, etc.

You start with one child being the scarecrow in the middle.. Sing the Scarecrow in the field the scarecrow in the field high ho it's fall time the Scarecrow in the field. The Scarecrow picks a pumpkin (child puts the pumpkin necklace on another child) and they join him/her in the middle of the circle. Continue with the pumpkin choosing a leaf...etc.

Five Little Pumpkins-

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate
The first one said oh my! it's getting late
The second one said the wind is in the air
The third one said But we don't care
The fourth one said Let's run, let's run,
The fifth one said, it's Harvest time Fun
Then puff went the wind and out went the lights
Away rolled the pumpkins and out of sight!!!!!!

Pumpkin, Pumpkin

Lying on the ground
Pumpkin, Pumpkin
Oh so big and round.
Your as orange as orange can be
In a pie you will be tasty
Pumpkin, Pumpkin
Lying on the ground

10 Little Pumpkins-

1, 2, 3 little pumpkins
4,5, 6 little pumpkins
7,8,9 little pumpkins
10 little pumpkins in all!!
(Make ten pumpkins from felt or make different colored pumpkins and substitute color words for numbers)
Roly-Poly Pumpkin by Diane Thom.

Oh, the roly-poly pumpkin
Went rolling down the hill.
Once it started rolling
It couldn't keep still.
It rolled and rolled and rolled
Until it bumped into a rock.
Then the roly-poly pumpkin
Rolled to a stop!
Have You Ever Seen A Pumpkin?
(Have you ever seen a lassie tune)
Have you ever seen a pumpkin, a pumpkin, a pumpkin,
Have you ever seen a pumpkin, that grows on a vine?
A round one, a tall one, a bumpy one, a squashed one.
Have you ever seen a pumpkin, that grows on a vine?

Pumpkin Music

Pumpkin Growing

Tune: "Frere Jacques"
Pumpkin growing, pumpkin growing,
On the ground, on the ground.
How'd you get so big,
How'd you get so big,
Big and round, big and round?
--Diane Thom

Pumpkin on the Vine

Tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star"
Pumpkin, pumpkin on the vine,
When I pick you, you'll be mine.
I'll carve you out where you'll be seen,
Pumpkin, pumpkin on the vine,
When I pick you, you'll be mine.
--Colleen A. Stockton

Pumpkin Vine

Tune: "Clementine"
In a garden by a school yard
Grows our lovely pumpkin vine.
Long and twisted, green and leafy,
Such a lovely pumpkin vine!
Oh, our pumpkin, oh, our pumpkin,
Oh, our lovely pumpkin vine.
Long and twisted, green and leafy,
Such a lovely pumpkin vine!

Yellow flowers start a-blooming
All along our pumpkin vine.
Soon the pumpkins will be budding
Underneath our lovely vine.
--Nancy Nason Biddinger

In the Pumpkin Patch

Tune: "The Paw Paw Patch"
There are pumpkins on the ground,
There are pumpkins to be found,
There are pumpkins all around,
Way down yonder in the pumpkin patch.
--Gayle Bitteringer

Found a Pumpkin

Tune: "Clementine"
Found a pumpkin, found a pumpkin,
Found a pumpkin just now.
Just now I found a pumpkin,
Found a pumpkin just now.
Additional verses: Carved a pumpkin; Made a jack-o'-lantern.
--Joan Bowman

Do You Know the Pumpkin Man?

Tune: "Muffin Man"
Do you know the Pumpkin Man, the Pumpkin
Man, the Pumpkin Man,
Do you know the Pumpkin Man, who lives in
Pumpkin Patch?
Yes, I know the Pumpkin Man, the Pumpkin Man,
the Pumpkin Man,
Yes, I know the Pumpkin Man who lives in
Pumpkin Patch.
--Anonymous

I Planted a Seed

Tune: "Little White Duck"
I planted a seed
Oh, so very small.
It grew and grew and grew,
But still it wasn't tall.
Then a bud appeared one day,
And then a pumpkin came to stay.
Now I have a pumpkin round
From my seed in the ground,
Pumpkin round.
--Gayle Bitteringer

The Roly-Poly Pumpkin

Tune: "The Eensy, Weensy Spider"
Oh, the roly-poly pumpkin
Went rolling down the hill.
Once it started rolling
It couldn't keep still.
It rolled and rolled and rolled
Until it bumped into a rock.
Then the roly-poly pumpkin
Rolled to a stop!
--Diane Thom

Silly Jack-O'-Lantern

Tune: "Oscar Meyer Theme Song"
Oh, I'm gonna make a silly jack-o'-lantern.
(Cup hands around eyes and grin.)
I bet you are wondering just why.
'Cause after we're done with the jack-o'-lantern,
We'll make of it a most delicious pie!
(Rub tummy.)
--Diane Thom

Pumpkin, Pumpkin

Tune: "Farmer in the Dell"
First we plant the seed...
The seed grows a sprout...
The sprout grows a plant...
The plant grows a flower...
The flower grows a pumpkin...
The pumpkin grows and grows...
We finally pick the pumpkin...
We carve a jack-o'-lantern...
We save some seeds for spring...
--Norene Barker
Written to accompany Jeanne Titherington's book

See the Pumpkins

Tune: "Frere Jacques"
See the pumpkins, see the pumpkins
(Hold hand over eyes and look around.)
Orange and round, orange and round.
(Hold arms in front of body in a circle.)
See the little pumpkins,
(Make small circle with hands.)
See the great, big pumpkins
(Make large circle with arms.)
Orange and round, orange and round.
(Hold arms in front of body in a circle.)
--Gayle Bitteringer