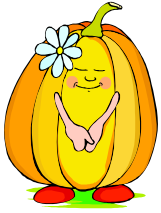


Teacher Ideas



Each of us is like a pumpkin: God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off that you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then He cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, pride, etc. Then He carves a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you for all the world to see.

A Must-Have Teacher Resource Book: Cook, Deanna F. (1998). *Kids' Pumpkin Project*. Charlotte, VR: Williamson Publishing. (ISBN: 1-885593-21-X. \$8.95) Excellent pumpkin activities and ideas year-round.

Fall Harvest Board

This is the main bulletin board I use in October. I leave this up thru November too, placing some diecut turkeys around the trees. Click on picture for more detail on this board.

Scarecrow Door- I make a large scarecrow and bale of hay from poster board. I cover the door with green paper and then post both the scarecrow and bale of hay on it. Then I write welcome on the bale of hay and add die cut pumpkins with the children's names written on them around the scarecrow.

Pumpkin Play/Games

Pumpkin Patch: Select 2 or 3 children to be Farmers. The remaining children should join hands to form a long, winding Pumpkin Vine. Ask every second or third child to become a Pumpkin by crouching down and hugging his/her knees. At your signal, have the Farmers "pull" the Pumpkins off the Vine by gently rolling them over onto their sides. Then have the Pumpkins roll away. Repeat until every child has had a turn being a Pumpkin and a Farmer.

Pin The Stem On The Pumpkin

Have the children paint a large cardboard pumpkin shape. When the pumpkin is dry, secure it to the wall or your bulletin board. Give each child a construction paper stem with a piece of tape looped at the top. Let each child cover or close their eyes and let them try to pin the stem on the pumpkin.

Variation: You can play pin the nose on the pumpkin at your halloween party. Make a large pumpkin and a nose per child. I put sticky tac on the back, blind fold them and let them try to pin the nose on.

Pumpkin, Pumpkin: Provide a pumpkin-shaped eraser or an orange button. Have the children stand in a circle with one child in the center. The child in the center closes his or her eyes and counts to 20. Meanwhile, the children in the circle pass the pumpkin" around. At the count of 20, the child in the center opens his or her eyes and gets 3 chances to guess who holds the pumpkin. If the child guesses correctly, he or she switches places with the person holding the pumpkin. If he or she doesn't guess correctly, have the people who were incorrectly chosen sit down, the child in the middle close his or her eyes, and the "pumpkin" moved again around the circle of standing people. If this time, he or she guesses correctly, the game goes on. If not, have the last person guessed incorrectly be it."

Find the Pumpkins Game: Cut pumpkin shapes out of orange construction paper. Hide the shapes around the room and let your children look for them. If you wish, give your children plastic jack-o'-lantern containers to carry all the shapes they find.

Pumpkin Patch Game: Create a seasonal bulletin board that doubles as a game. Cover the bulletin board with brown paper. Add this verse:

***Welcome to the pumpkin patch.
Take a look and find the match.***

Duplicate a pumpkin shape on orange paper, making as many pairs as you wish to match. For example, students can match up pumpkin pairs for rhyming words, synonyms, antonyms, upper/lower case letters, or

math facts. Tack the pumpkin shapes to the board, separating the matching pairs. Add green leaf shapes and green ribbon vines. Challenge kids to play the game by matching up the pairs during free time.

Puppets: Help your students make hand puppets to enhance this Halloween rhyme. Teach the class the rhyme. Then select 5 students at a time to come to the front of the class and act out the lines:

Five little pumpkins...

(Rock puppets back and forth.)

1...2...3...4...5

(Each pumpkin sits down on count.)

Sitting in a pumpkin patch,

Waiting for Halloween to arrive.

(Rock puppets back and forth.)

(Each student stands to speak:)

First one said, "I'm going to be a jack-o-lantern with a smile real big."

Second one said, "I want to be a jack-o-lantern that looks like a pig."

Third one said, "I'm going to be a jack-o-lantern witch with a hat."

Fourth one said, "And I'll be a jack-o-lantern scary black cat."

Fifth one said, "Jack-o-lanterns are not for me. I'm going to be a pumpkin pie as yummy as can be!"

Pumpkin Dancing

Dance of the Pumpkin: Transform the Mexican Hat Dance into a pumpkin dance. Place a large pumpkin in the center of the room. Have the children form a circle around it. Use the dance steps of the Mexican Hat Dance--right heel, left heel, right heel, clap-clap, (repeat 3 more times), then join hands and skip around in a circle.

Thanksgiving Information and Education

From: <http://www.pumpkinnook.com///tday/tinfo.htm>

Thanksgiving is a special time. You will find lots of useful information here, including material for teaching.

- [Thanksgiving Resources](#) A good resource for Teachers
- [The First Thanksgiving](#) When was the first thanksgiving in America? You may be surprised!
- [The First Thanksgiving](#) America's Homepage-- Plymouth, Mass.
- [Plimoth on the Web](#) From the Plymouth Plantation Museum, learn the history of seventeenth century pilgrims.
- [Teaching About Thanksgiving](#) An in-depth informational/instructional site.
- [A Season of Thanksgiving](#) A wide variety of content from history to jokes to recipes.
- [Why Do We Really Celebrate Thanksgiving?](#) A nice, brief historical perspective
- [Teaching About Thanksgiving](#) A very in-depth reading(about 20 pages) written by a native American, from an Indian perspective
- [Timetable for Thanksgiving Dinner](#) If this is your first year cooking Thanksgiving dinner, this link is for you.
- [Weather Almanac for Thanksgiving](#) Find out how the weather caused the pilgrims to land at Plymouth Rock.
- [Gracious Graces](#) Pick a prayer for your celebration.
- [Turkey Trivia](#) Learn all about the Bird of the Month!
- [Turkey History and Trivia](#) A really great site for interesting facts and info!