

# Smartest Pumpkin IN THE Patch

More Than Pie (2–3 grade focus)

**Objectives:** Students will learn that there is more to a pumpkin, through facts, research and human uses beyond carving.

**Standards: NS. K-3 Life Science:** As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop an understanding of the characteristics of organisms, life cycles or organisms, and organisms and environments.

**NL. Language Arts. English K-12.3 Evaluation Strategies:** Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend. Interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw upon their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge and word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features.

**Preparation/Materials:** Access to smart board/computer either individual or classroom. Paper, pencils and coloring materials.

### **Activity:**

1. Discuss how students have eaten pumpkin before. There may be many answers. Record these answers for future reference (white board or smart board). What are other ways that pumpkins or squashes may have been used in the past.
2. Squash it together: After exploring all the pumpkin information use worksheet and play It's Squash/Squash It (true or false). Call out either a statement from the worksheet or some that the class may have gathered. Students raise their *It's Squash* paddle if it is a true statement, or their *Squash It* paddle if it is a false statement.
3. Allow students to research what other uses of pumpkins are. Prompting them that they are used as sport, both tossing and boating. Have them report on what they found through power points, written journals or posters.

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4. Jack-o-Lanterns. Have students use own paper and coloring material to design their own “carved” pumpkin.
5. Read Rotten Pumpkin by David Schwartz. Read about the transformation of a Jack-o- lantern as it decomposes.

## Extensions:

**Video:** From Europe buy a fascinating video from sprout to market!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfUMuCCUS78>

**Video:** Cows Eating Pumpkins! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00WBucr1yHE>

**Video:** Pumpkin Boat Races: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqlzv19vmxA>

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## It's Squash/Squash It

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare for It's Squash/Squash It by answering the following questions. True or False?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Let's start with the obvious, a pumpkin is a squash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The state that grows the most pumpkins is Missouri.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A pumpkin flower is poisonous.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A pumpkin is a fruit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkins can grow on vines and bushes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are male and female pumpkin flowers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkins and their seeds are gluten free.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkins are only grown in North and South America.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You should never pick a pumpkin up by its stem.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkins can take up to 300 days to grow to maturity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grizzly Bear is the name of a variety of pumpkin.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Washington D.C is the Pumpkin Capital of the World.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The tendrils of a pumpkin are important to the plant.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All pumpkins are Jack-o-Lanterns.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pumpkins are in the same family as cucumbers and squash.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Horses, cows and dogs can all eat pumpkin.

