

Smartest Pumpkin IN THE Patch

Peeking at Your Pumpkin (1–3 grade focus)

Objectives: Students will identify and count the characteristics of their pumpkins using measurement and observation. The students will use and expand their vocabulary knowledge with descriptions of their pumpkin.

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.

CCSS.MC.2MD.A1-4 Measure and estimate lengths in standard units.

Preparation/Materials: Pumpkins for group or student use. Measuring tapes. Sink of water. Worksheet copies. Pencils and colored pencils.

Activity:

1. Group discussion of the physical traits of a pumpkin. Using appropriate vocabulary, stem, ribs, skin etc. Students should already have their pumpkins with them so they should be able to physically follow along with most of the words. Have students hypothesize the function of the parts.
2. Show examples of best ways to measure their pumpkin and allow students to complete worksheet. This should be group or independent work to reinforce vocabulary and measurement skills. Assist students as needed with use of measuring tape.

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3. Group discussion and collect information to graph, list, or rank. Using the information gathered from the project have students place their pumpkins in ascending order for height, then weight or another measurable characteristic.
4. Create a journal entry or creative writing subject using the information gathered with the adjectives and physical descriptions.

Extensions:

Read story: [How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin](#) by Margaret McNamara

Video: Although long very interesting! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pPfyPOYCml>

