

PUMPKIN PATCH FUN

October is the time of year for dressing in costumes, carving jack-o'-lanterns, and displaying creepy skeletons and spiders! Put a twist on your traditional celebrations with these innovative ideas for teaching exciting October subjects!

PUMPKINS AND JACK-O'-LANTERNS

Did You Know?

- Pumpkins are a variety of squash and are vegetables, not fruits. Like other squash, they grow on the ground on vines.
- Pumpkins start out green, then gradually change to orange as they grow bigger.
- Native Americans grew pumpkins and taught early settlers how to grow them.
- Originally, jack-o'-lanterns were made by placing candles inside hollowed out turnips, beets, or potatoes! After settling in the U.S., immigrants found pumpkins were better for making jack-o'-lanterns.

Literature Selections

- Pumpkin Pumpkin** by Jeanne Titherington: Mulberry Books, 1990. (Picture book, 23 pg.) A boy grows a large pumpkin from a seed, carves it, and saves seeds to plant the next year.
- Five Little Pumpkins** by Iris Van Rynbach: Boyds Mills Press, 1995. (Picture book, 24 pg.) Illustrated version of the popular finger play rhyme.
- Too Many Pumpkins** by Linda White: Holiday House, 1997. (Picture book, 32 pg.) A woman who hates pumpkins makes the best of it when pumpkins sprout in her yard.

Funny Jack-o'-Lantern

Sing to the tune of Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
Pumpkin, pumpkin orange and round
(Students make arms into a big circle)
Pumpkin, pumpkin on the ground
(Students squat to the ground)
Farmer, farmer look at me
(Students point to self)
What a funny jack-o'-lantern I would be
(Students jump up and spread arms wide and smile or make a face)
Pumpkin, pumpkin orange and round
(Students make arms into a big circle)
Pumpkin, pumpkin on the ground
(Students squat to the ground)

Carved in Pumpkin

Make shapely pumpkin names with your class. Have each child draw the outline of a large pumpkin on orange construction paper. Inside the pumpkin, have each student draw connecting bubble letters of her name, filling the space inside the pumpkin. Next, carefully cut out the letters, without cutting them apart. Finally, cut a green paper stem and leaf and glue them to the pumpkin name. Display the pumpkin names around the classroom.

