

DATE: August 6, 2001
TIME: 60 minutes

GROUP: K-4
ACTIVITY: Hayride to the Pumpkin Patch

**JOHNSON'S CORNER FARM
SAMPLE LESSON PLAN**

SUBJECT: Pumpkin Production

LESSON SUMMARY: Pumpkins have become an important part of the Halloween and fall harvest celebrations. The painting, decorating and carving of this vegetable stimulates students' creativity. Students will gain a foundation and basic understanding of growing vegetables, seeds, fall harvest customs and traditions.

OBJECTIVES:

- To gain familiarity with growing pumpkins and other vegetables
- To introduce students to the fundamentals of growing a crop
- To know how to select, handle and use pumpkins
- To learn of various holiday traditions associated with the fall season.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION ACTIVITIES	TIME
HAYRIDE	Safety Rules Growing Crops Along the Way to the Pumpkin Patch Farm Animals Farm History	15 minutes
PUMPKIN USES	Holiday Uses Pies Roasting Seeds	5 minutes
PUMPKIN SEEDS	Removing and Drying Kinds of Pumpkins Storage of Seeds When to Plant	5 minutes
PUMPKIN CROP MANAGEMENT	How to Plant Soil Preparation Stages of Growth Weeding Insect & Disease Control Watering	5 minutes
HARVEST	Number of Pumpkins Per Plant How Do We Prepare for Harvest What is a Quality Pumpkin? How to Select & Handle?	5 minutes
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS	Halloween Traditions Harvest Celebrations Historical Beliefs	10 minutes
WRAP-UP	Questions Coloring Books & Songs Maze Experience	15 minutes

- JOHNSON'S CORNER FARM CONTINUED -

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EXERCISE:

1. List the various kinds of pumpkins seen.
2. Discuss what are the fall holiday traditions?
3. Discuss how different seeds result in different plants.
4. Discuss what things a farmer must do to produce a crop.
5. What animals and crops were seen and describe each.

RESOURCES:

Johnson's Corner Farm, <http://www.johnsonsfarm.com/>

*** Kansas State University Research & Extension

MF-2030 Commercial Pumpkin Production Guide

<http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/hort2/samplers/mf2030.htm>

*** Penn State University Cooperative Extension

UA293 Agricultural Alternatives: Pumpkin Production

<http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/FreePubs/ua293.html>

*** Alabama Cooperative Extension – Harvesting Pumpkins

<http://www.aces.edu/dept/extcomm/specialty/pumpkins.html>

*** Iowa State University, Horticulture and Home Pest News

Harvesting and Storing Pumpkins

<http://www.ent.iastate.edu/ipm/hortnews/1997/9-12-1997/harvpump.html>

The Origins of Halloween Traditions <http://www.niagara.com/infocor/pumpkinfarm/module/origins.html>