

# PUMPKINS Unit

## BY NICOLE RICCA

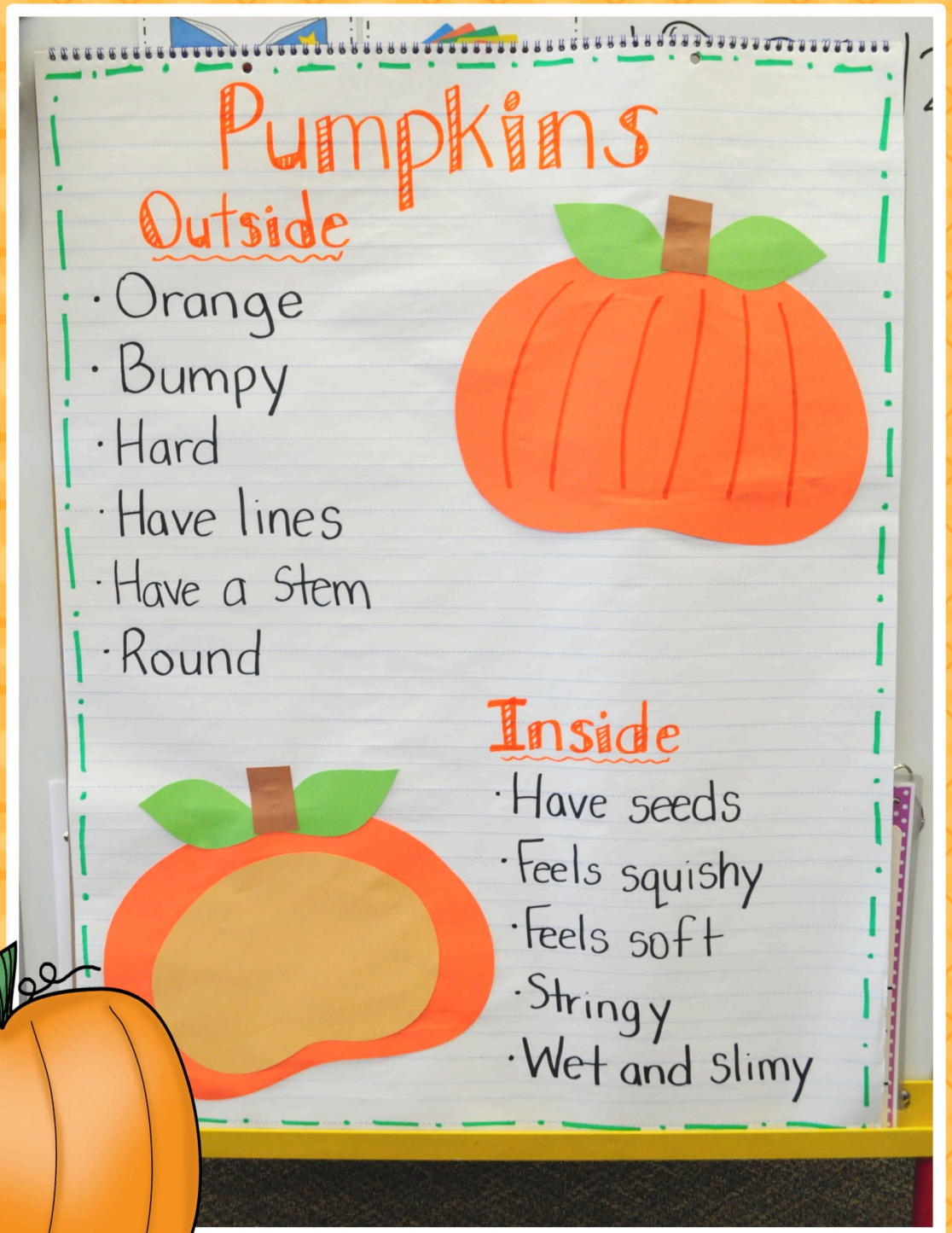
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Clipart by Scrappin Doodles and Ashley Hughes.





# PUMPKIN SCIENCE!



# Outside - Inside a Pumpkin

## Materials:

- Anchor Chart (pictured above)
- Small-Medium Pumpkin
- Knife for Carving
- Construction Paper (use included template for tracing, orange should be doubled up to make 2 pieces for each)
- Scissors, Glue, Stapler
- Short piece of yarn for each child
- About 10 pumpkin seeds for each child
- “What’s Inside?” Templates

This lesson works best with the class sitting in a circle. Explain that we are going use our senses to explore the outside and inside of a pumpkin. Elicit prior knowledge by asking what students know about pumpkins, how they look and feel, etc.

Pass the pumpkin around the circle and invite students to describe the OUTSIDE of the pumpkin. Encourage students to describe how it looks and feels. Record their observations in the “Outside” section of the chart.

Next, have students predict how the inside will look and feel. Then cut the pumpkin open and allow them to observe/smell/feel the INSIDE (have them wash their

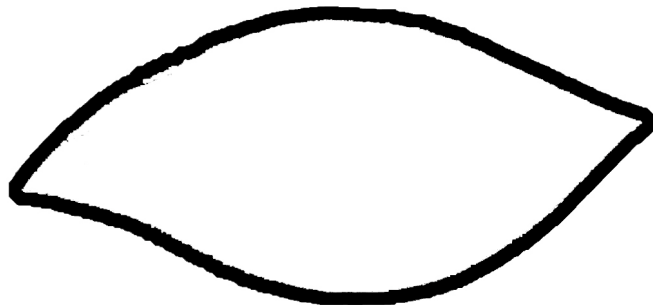
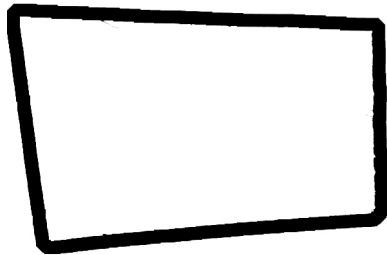
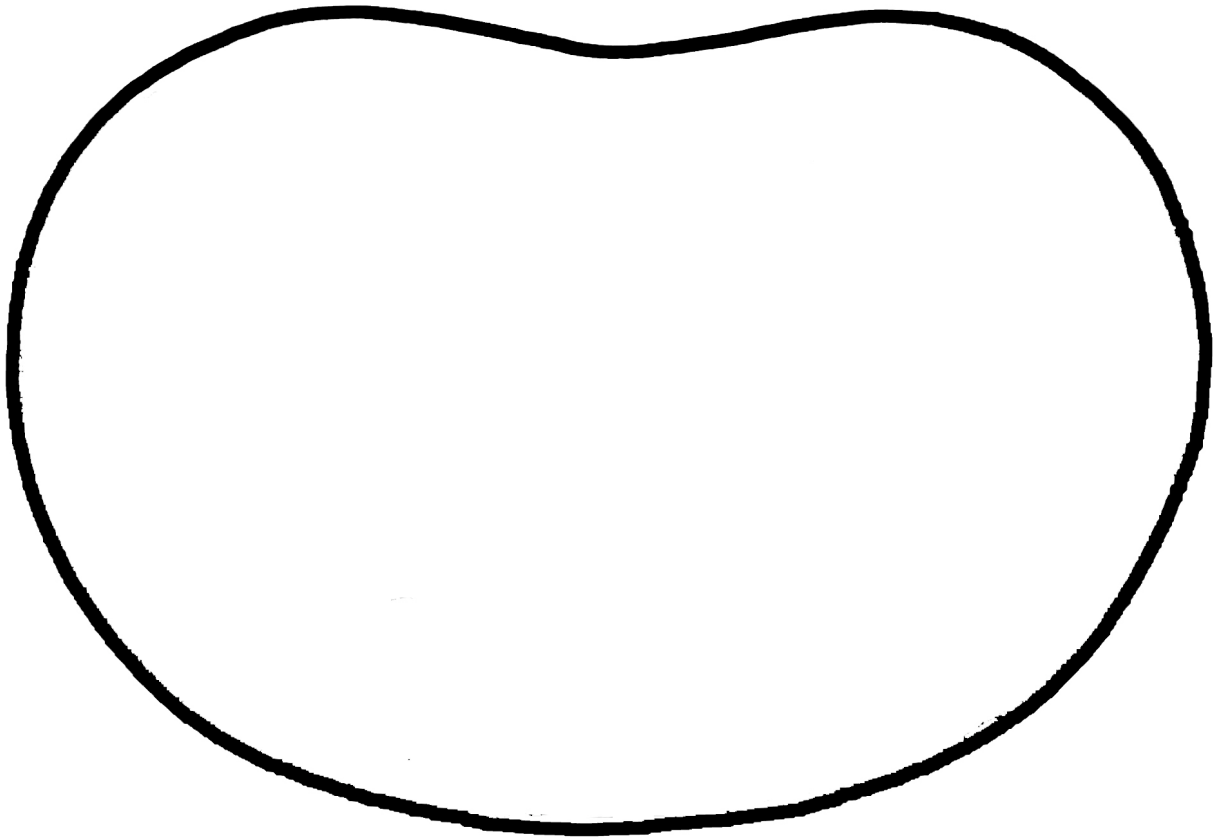
hands after). Record their observations on the “Inside” section of the chart. Review the chart and explain the craft that will be completed next.

Optional: You can have students complete the included pumpkin web using descriptive words from the chart.

“What’s Inside” Craft Instructions: Prep by tracing the pumpkin shape on orange (doubled up to make two pieces for each child), trace the stems on brown, and trace the leaves on green. Print and cut out the “What’s Inside?” templates for each child. Cut yarn into short lengths.

Students will cut two pumpkin shapes, a leaf, and a stem. As they finish cutting, ask them what they will find inside (string, seeds). Hand out yarn and seeds for students to glue on one piece of the orange. On the other piece, they will glue the “What’s Inside” label. They will glue the stem and leaf on top. When complete, staple the two pieces together or attach with a brad fastener.

# "INSIDE a PUMPKIN" craft TEMPLATE



What's  
INSIDE?

What's  
INSIDE?

What's  
INSIDE?

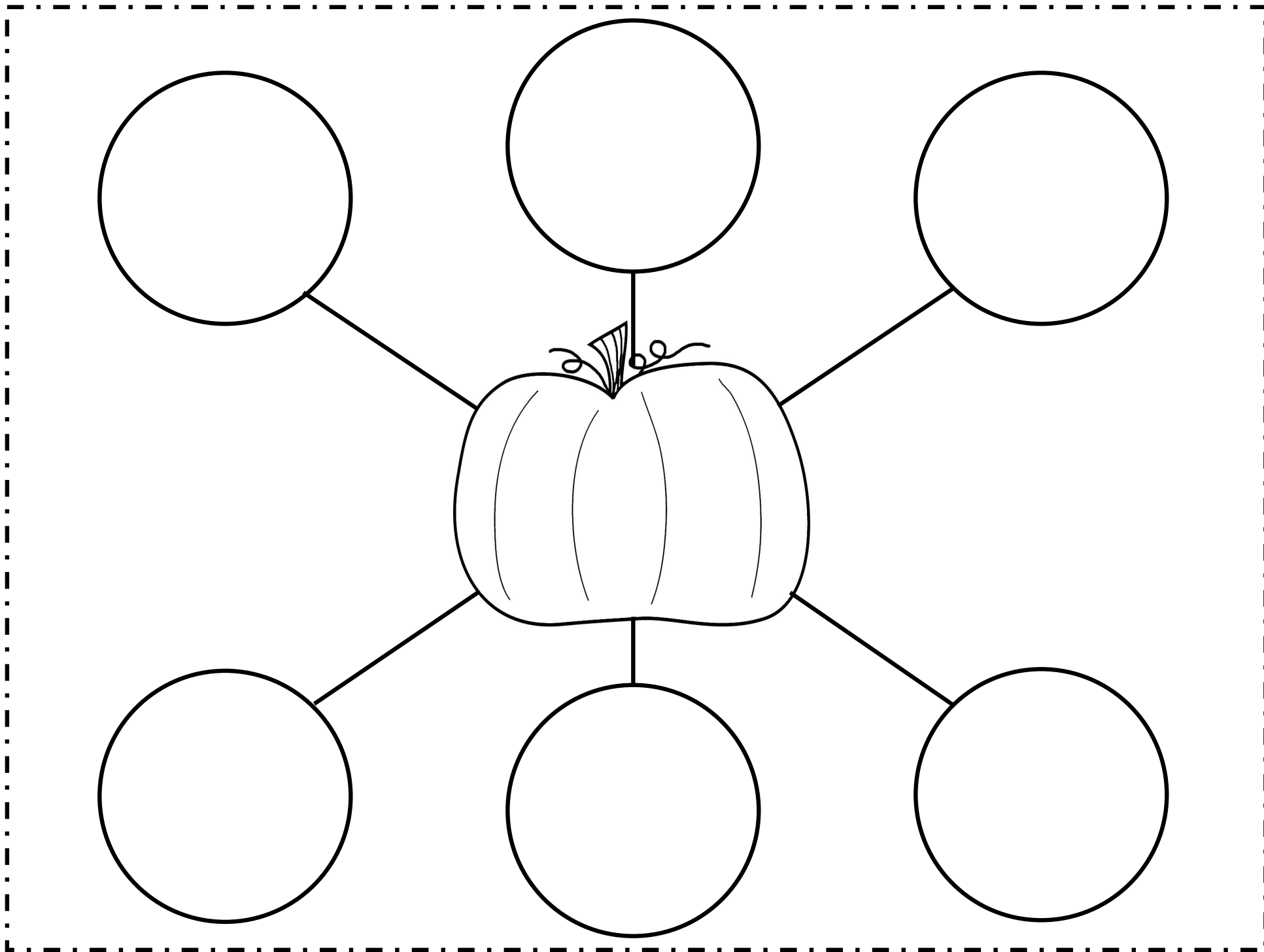
What's  
INSIDE?

What's  
INSIDE?

What's  
INSIDE?

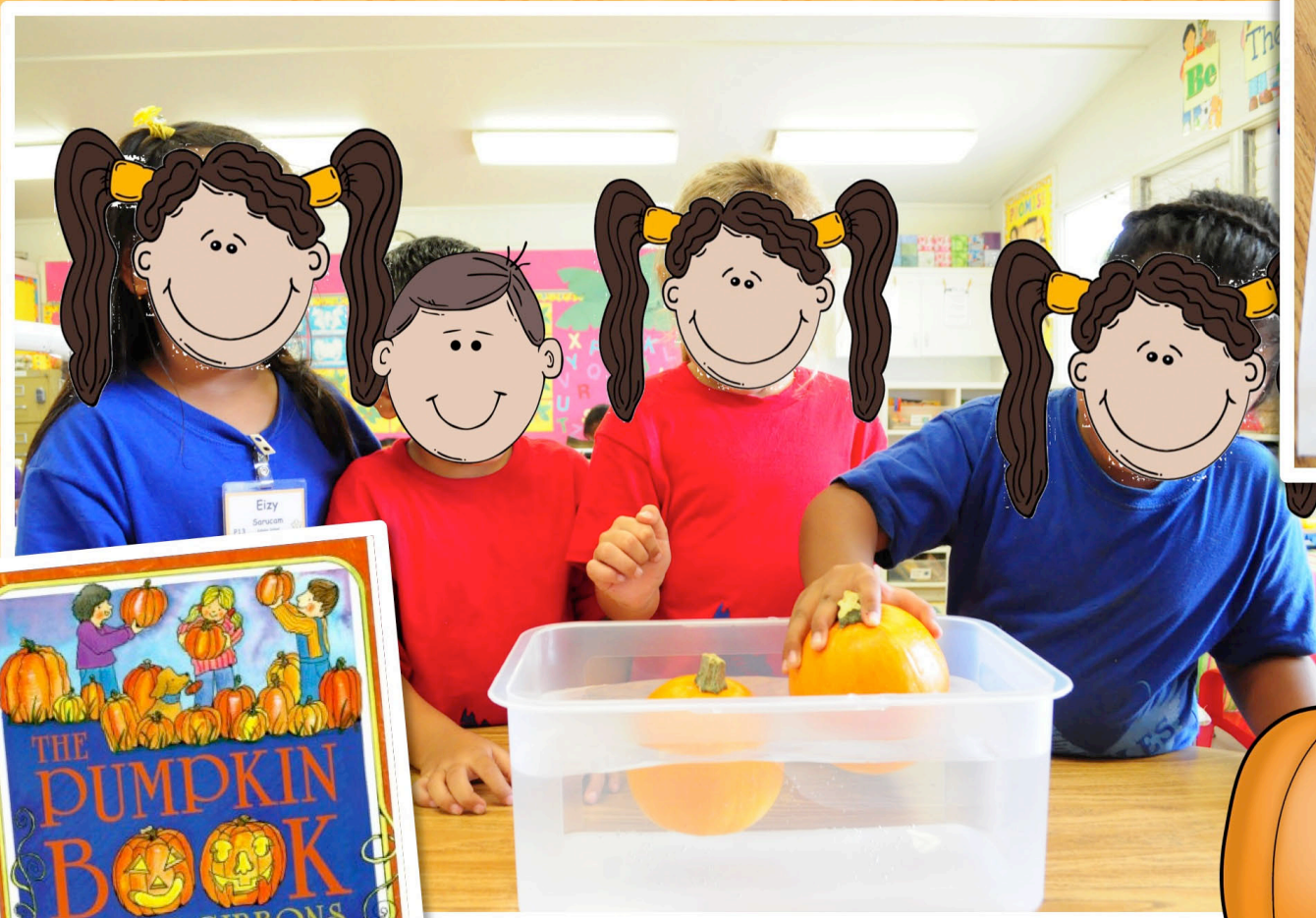
What's  
INSIDE?

What's  
INSIDE?






# PUMPKIN Investigation



keniya PUMPKIN INVESTIGATION


THIS IS MY PUMPKIN:




MY PUMPKIN IS...

SMALL MEDIUM LARGE


MY PUMPKIN IS 4 CUBES TALL.




MY PUMPKIN HAS 2 SEEDS.




MY PUMPKIN HAS 1 LINES.




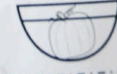
I think MY PUMPKIN WILL...

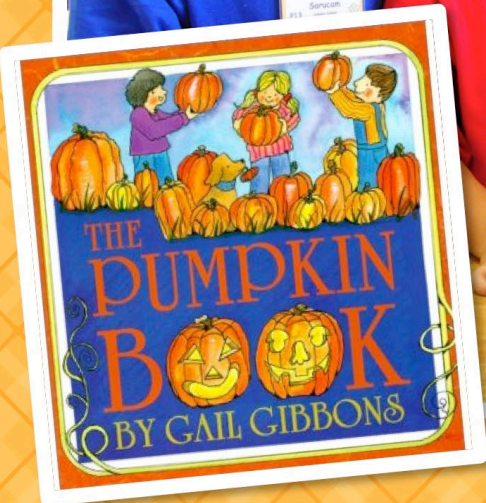
FLOAT 

SINK 

MY PUMPKIN DID...

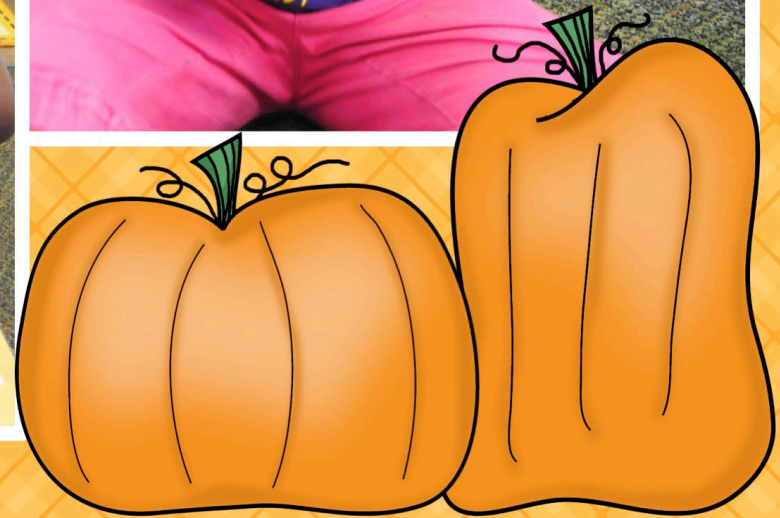
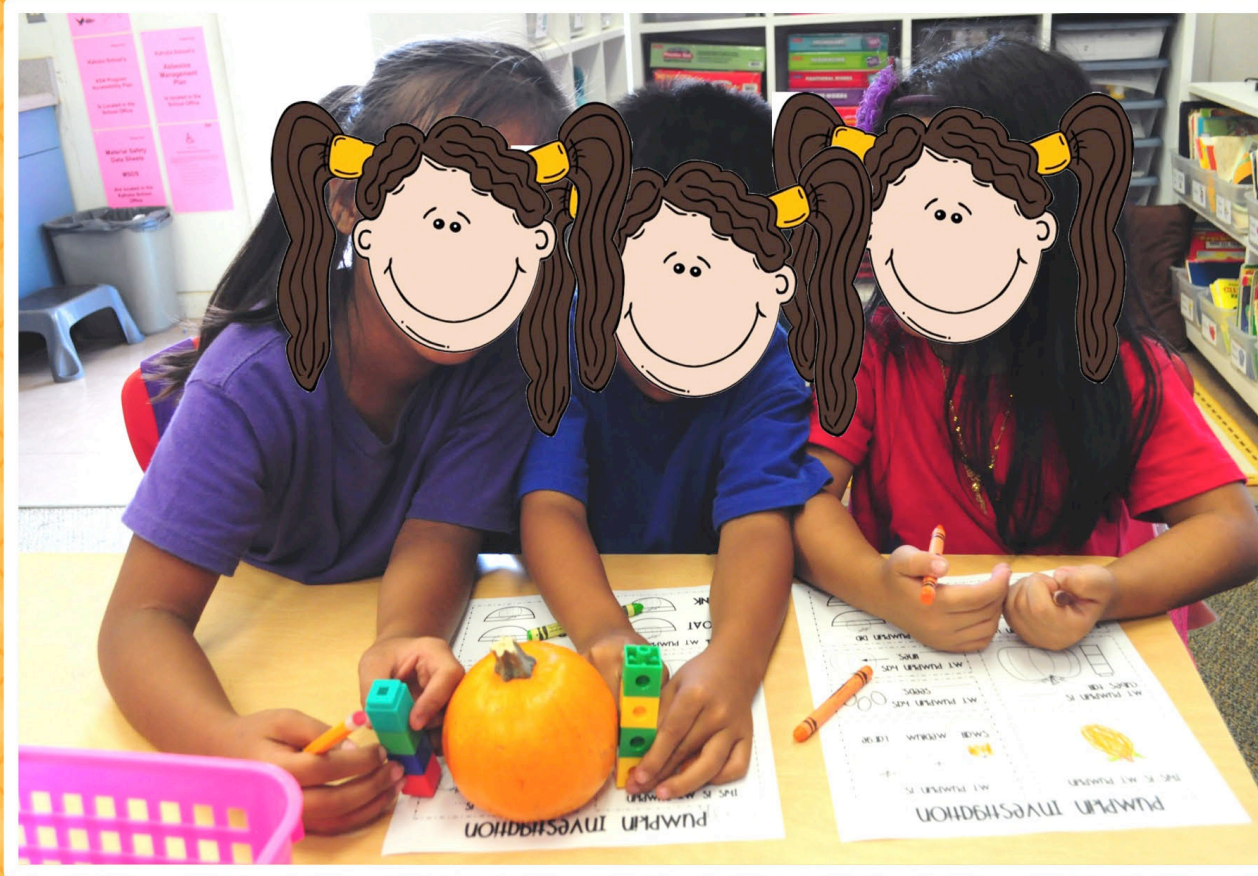
FLOAT 

SINK 





# MORE Investigating!

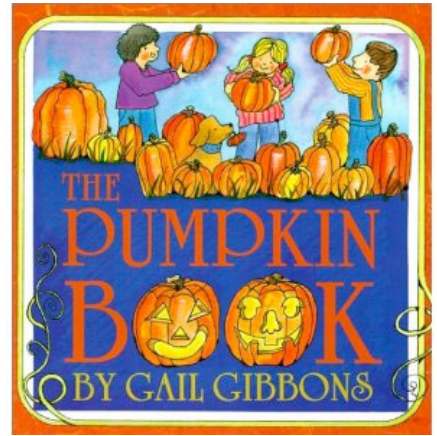




# Pumpkin Investigation

## Materials:

- “The Pumpkin Book”
- Mini-Pumpkins (1 for each pair)
- Pumpkin Exploration Sheet
- Linking Cubes (for measuring)
- Plastic tub of water
- Knife for carving



Read and discuss the book. Then divide students into pairs and give each pair a mini-pumpkin and investigation sheet. You can model how to complete the investigation using your own pumpkin ahead of time, but I find it best to model step-by-step on the ELMO as students follow along with their own pumpkins.

NOTE: I usually do the pumpkin seed counting on a different day, but you may want to do it the same day. You will have to cut each pumpkin open for the children. We then divide our seeds into groups of ten for easy counting! Have fun!

# PUMPKIN Investigation

THIS IS MY PUMPKIN:

MY PUMPKIN IS...

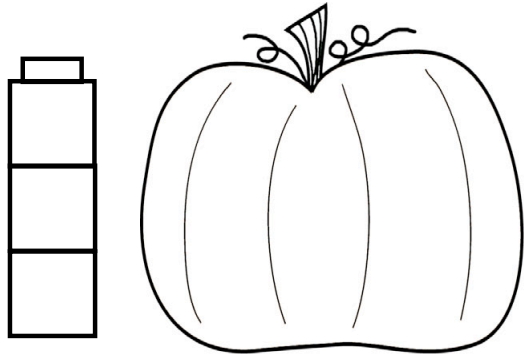


small

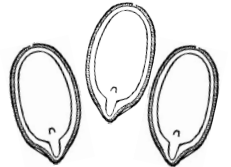
medium

large

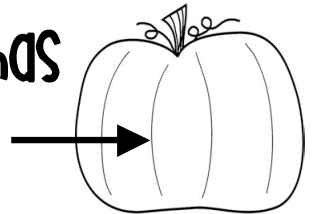
MY PUMPKIN IS \_\_\_\_\_  
cubes tall.



MY PUMPKIN HAS  
\_\_\_\_\_ SEEDS.

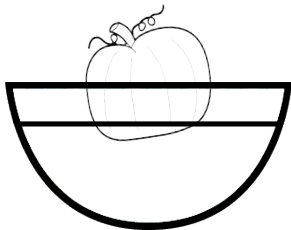


MY PUMPKIN HAS  
\_\_\_\_\_ LINES.



I think MY PUMPKIN Will...

FLOAT

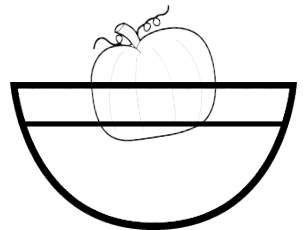


SINK



MY PUMPKIN Did...

FLOAT

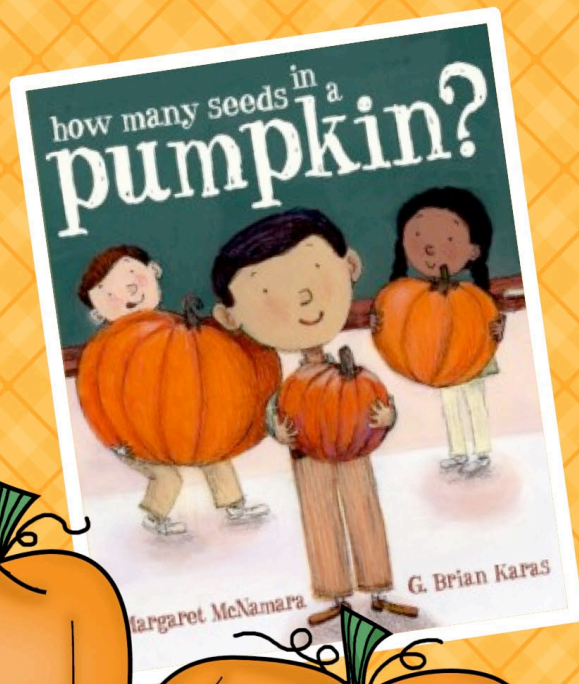


SINK






# HOW MANY SEEDS?



## How Many Seeds?



Estimate:

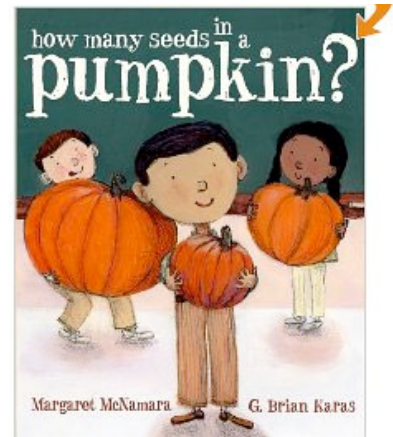
10	9	15	11	100	
Marielle	La'akea	Kerijay	Jelly-Anne	Hope	
50	30	80	40	31	70
Kekaimalu	Arwin	J-Dynn	Kauhikoa	Jada	Leo
60	100	12	10	5	
Rachel	Marielle	Eizi	Gervin	Nolan	

Our Pumpkin has \_\_\_\_ Seeds!

# Pumpkin Seed Estimation

## Materials:

- “How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?”
- Chart (pictured above)
- Pumpkin
- Knife for carving
- Plastic cups for separating seeds



Read the story. Then show students the class pumpkin and have them predict how many seeds they think are inside. Record students' predictions on the chart paper.

Ask students to think of different ways the seeds could be counted (2's, 5's, 10's) and which would be the fastest (10's). Divide the class into groups and give each group a handful of seeds and some plastic cups. Have them put groups of ten seeds in each cup. When finished, collect the cups of seeds and gather the class again. As a group, count the cups of seeds by tens. Record the actual amount on the chart. Refer back to the predictions to decide who was closest. You may want to give a prize to the closest prediction!

NOTE: You might want to have the pumpkin pre-cut and have the seeds removed and cleaned ahead of time.



# PUMPKIN LIFECYCLE



How does a pumpkin grow?

seed sprout vine flower green pumpkin pumpkin

We plant the pumpkin seed.

The sprout grows up through the earth.

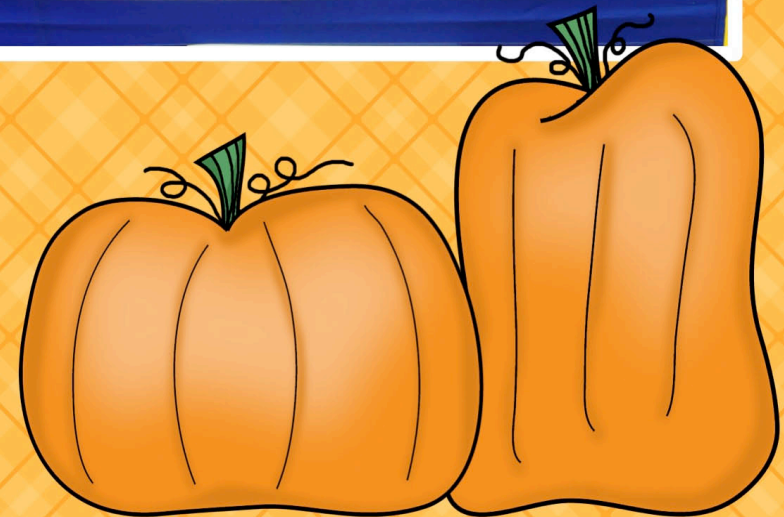
The plants grow into long vines.

lower buds appear on the vines.

small green pumpkins begin to grow.

the pumpkins grow larger and turn orange.

seed sprout vine flower green pumpkin orange pumpkin

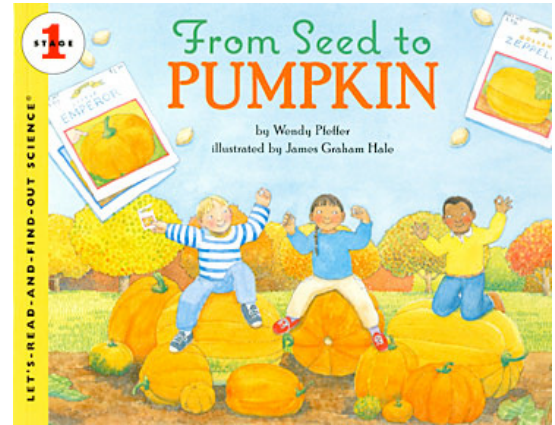




# Pumpkin Lifecycle

## Materials:

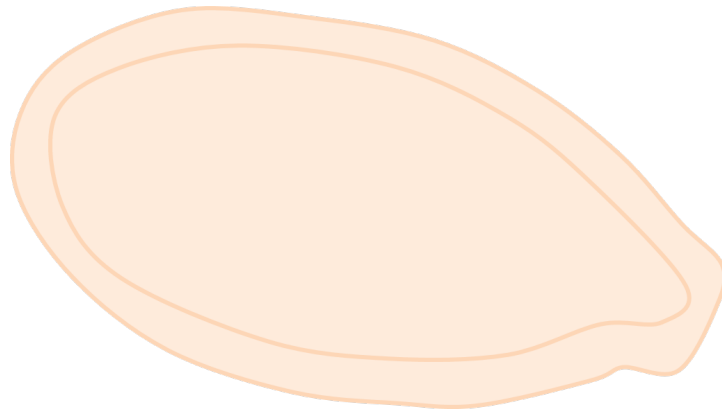
- “From Seed to Pumpkin” Book
- Pumpkin Lifecycle Cards
- Sentence Strips & Pocket Chart
- Pumpkin Lifecycle Booklets (or)
- Lifecycle Cut & Paste Templates
- Scissors, Crayons, Glue



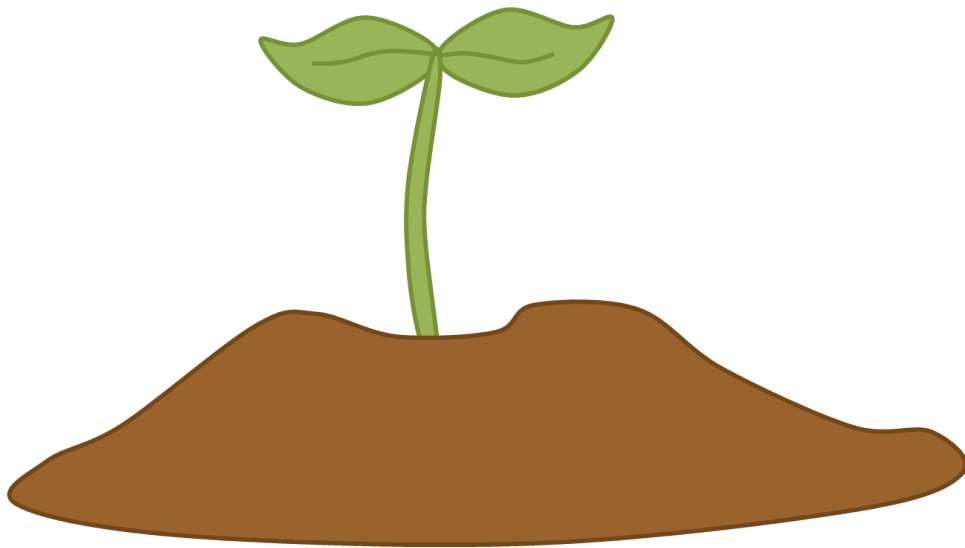
You may want to pre-program sentence strips with the title “Pumpkin Lifecycle” and each stage of the lifecycle.

Read and discuss the book. Invite student participation in describing what is happening at each stage. After, have students help sequence the lifecycle in the pocket chart using the sentence strips and picture cards.

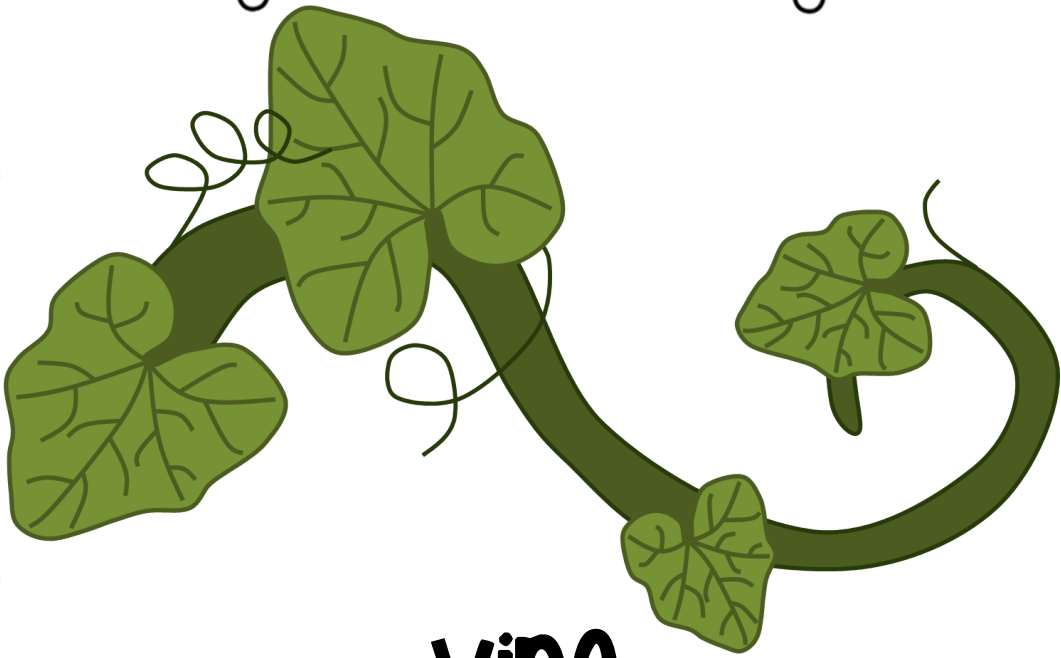
For independent practice and assessment, you may choose from one of the following three activities included: Pumpkin Lifecycle Booklets, Sentence Strip Lifecycle, or Cut & Paste Lifecycle.



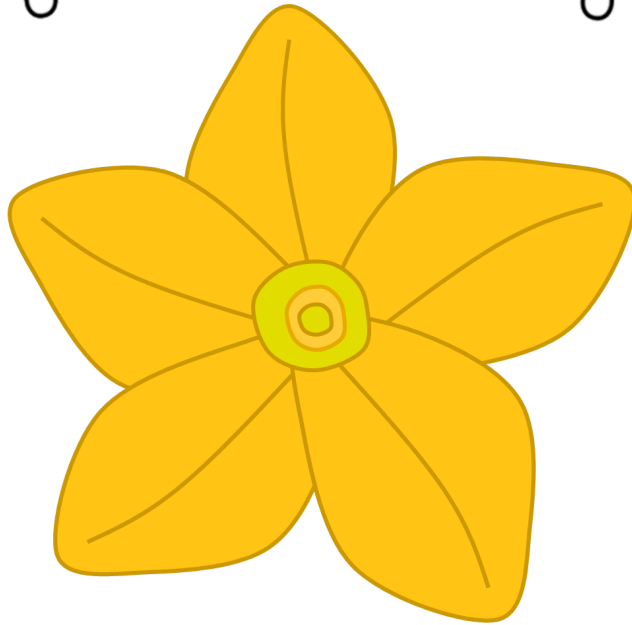
**seed**



**sprout**

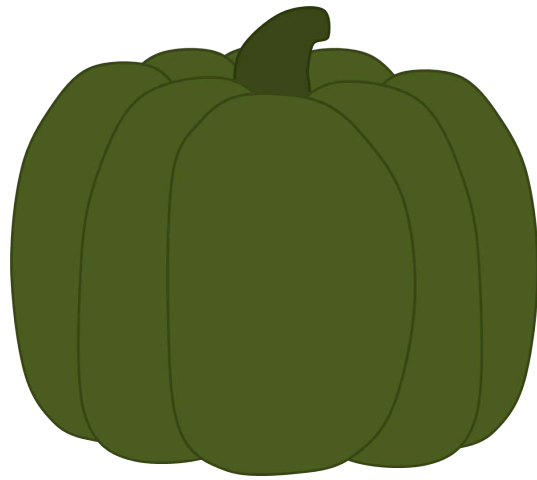


**vine**



**Flower**





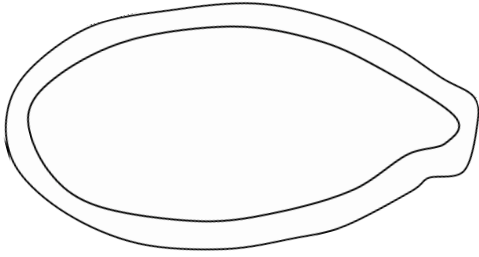
**Green PUMPKIN**



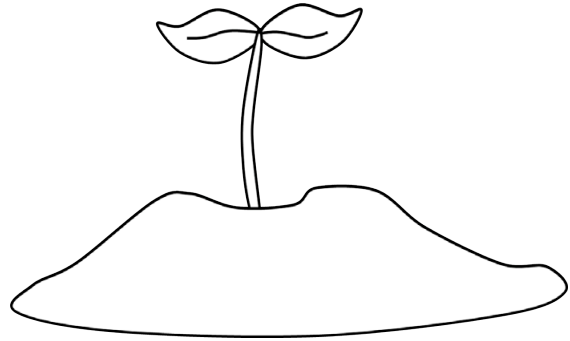
**Orange PUMPKIN**

# PUMPKIN Lifecycle Sequencing

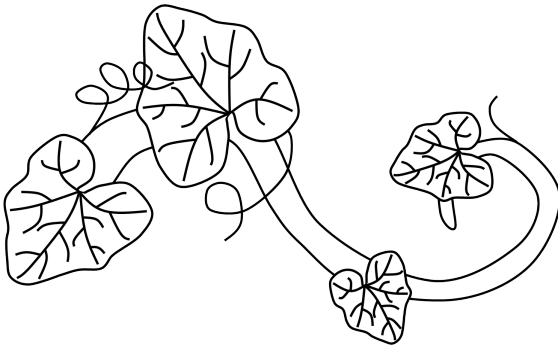
Cut and paste in order on a sentence strip.



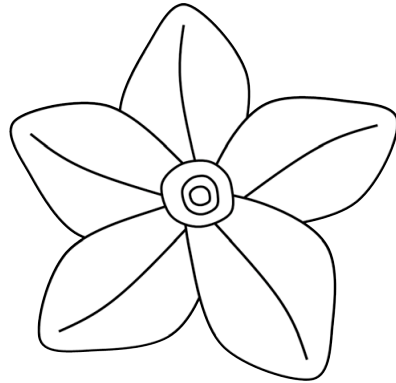
**SEED**



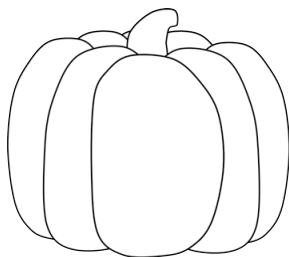
**SPROUT**



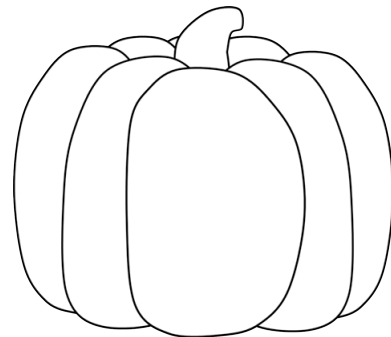
**VINE**



**FLOWER**

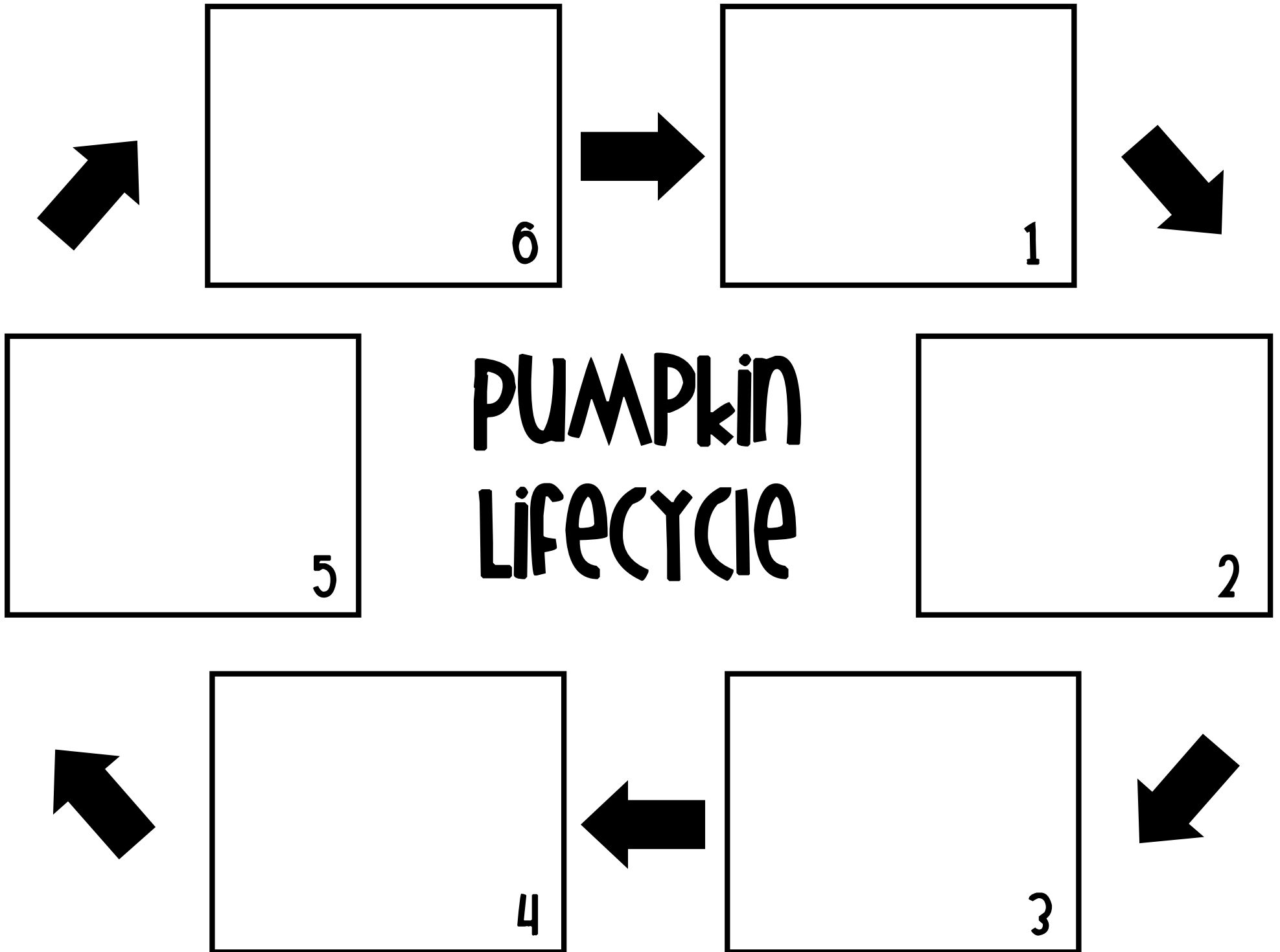


**Green PUMPKIN**

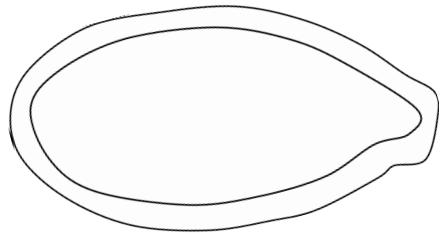


**PUMPKIN**

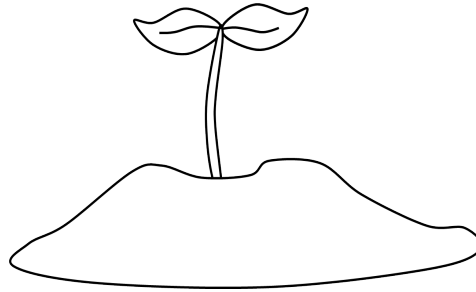
# PUMPKIN LIFECYCLE



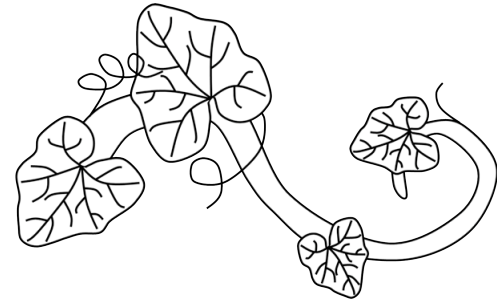




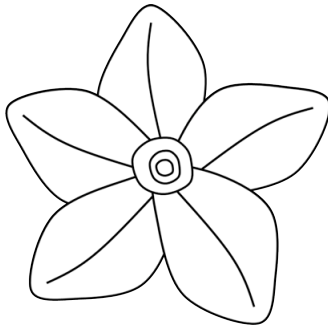
**seed**



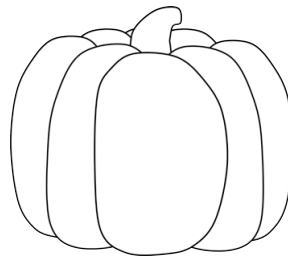
**sprout**



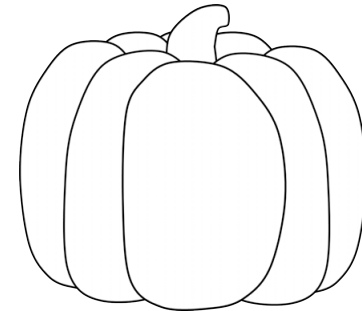
**vine**



**flower**



**green pumpkin**



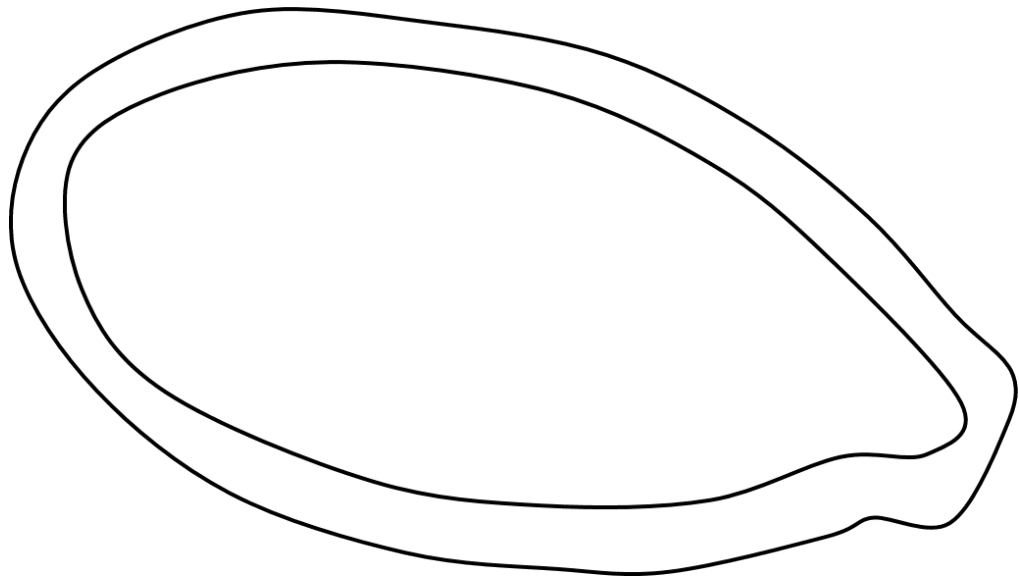
**pumpkin**



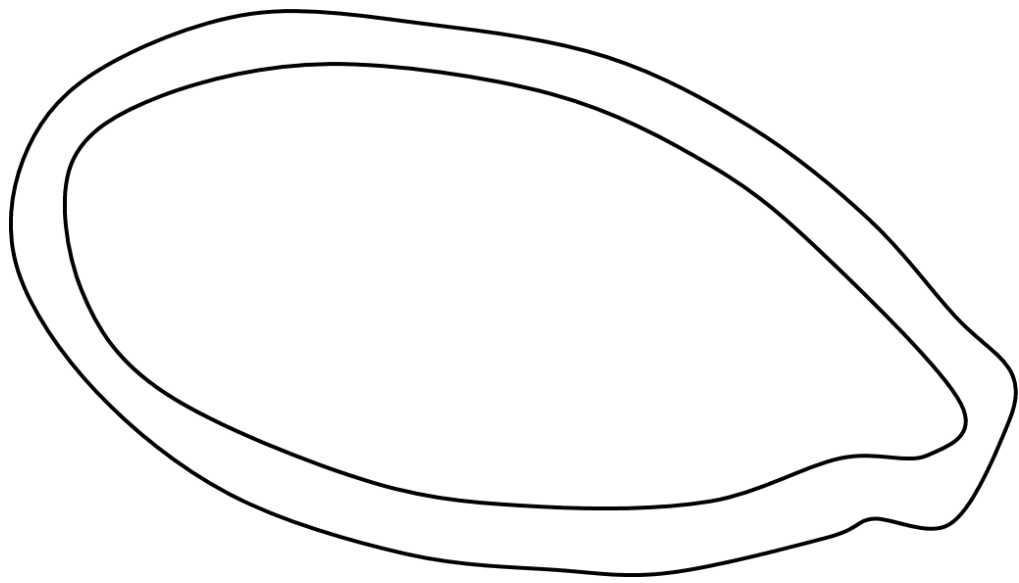
BY \_\_\_\_\_



BY \_\_\_\_\_

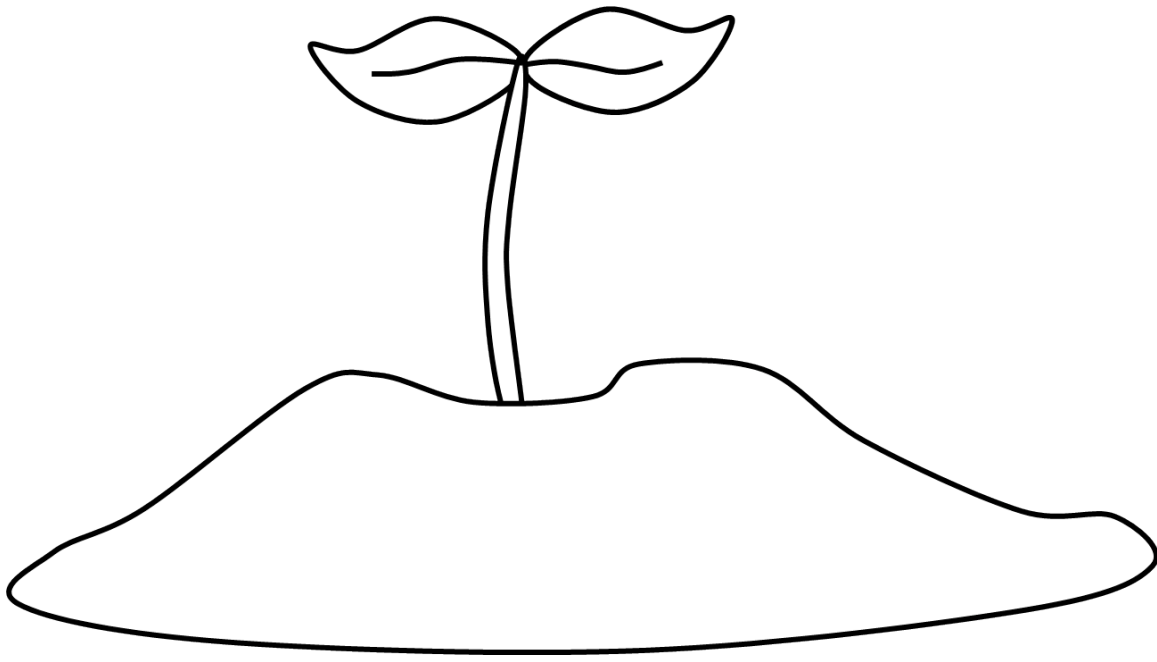


I see a seed.

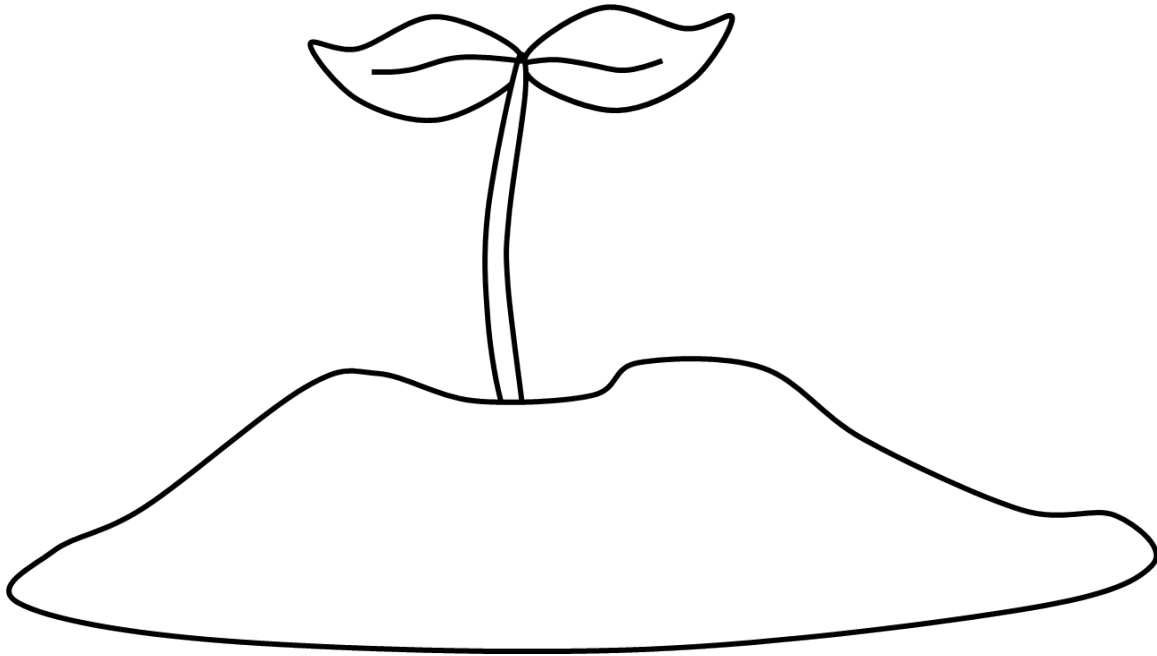


I see a seed.

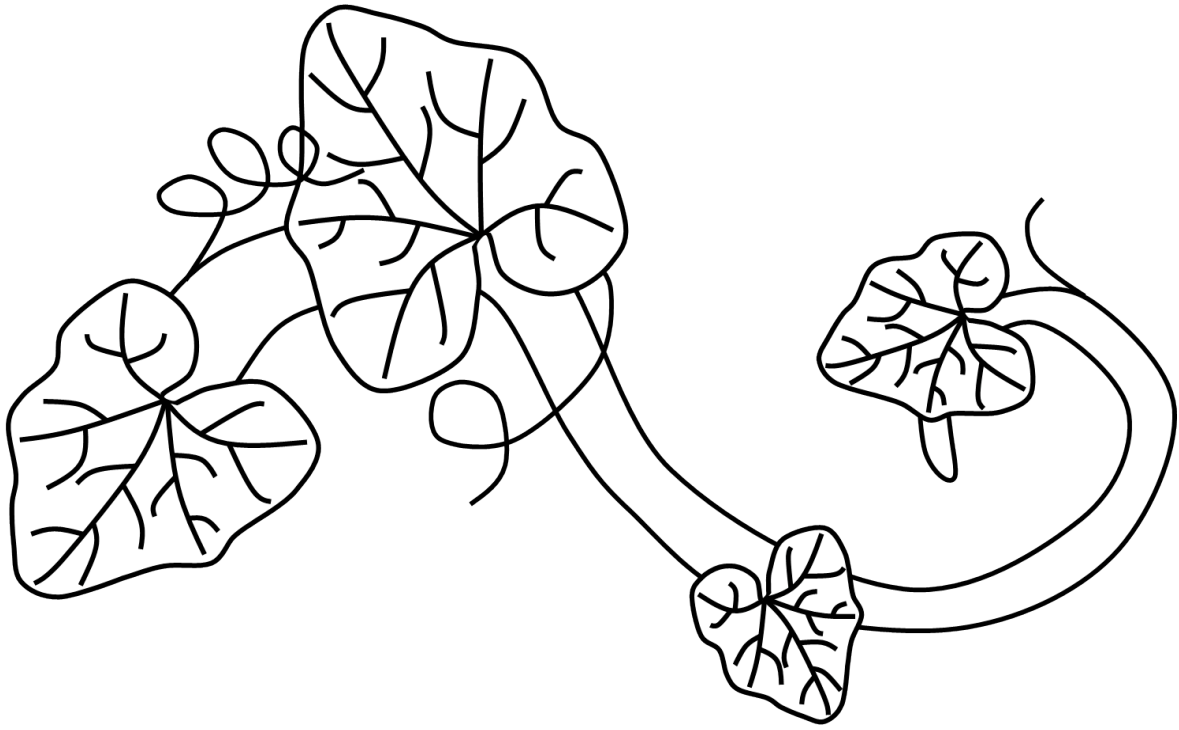




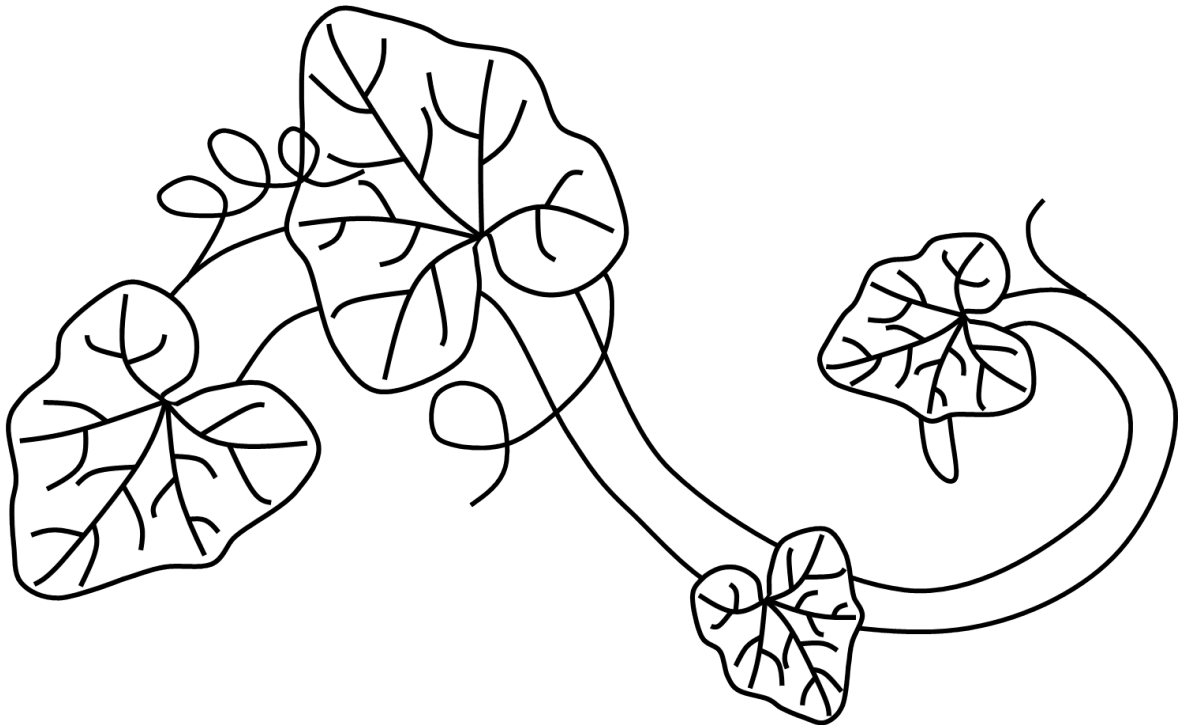
I see a sprout.



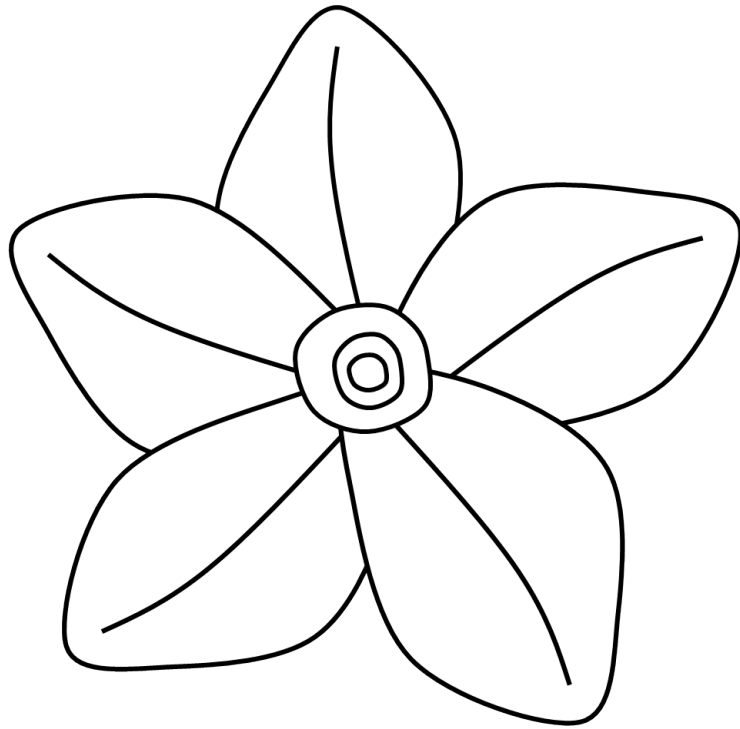
I see a sprout.



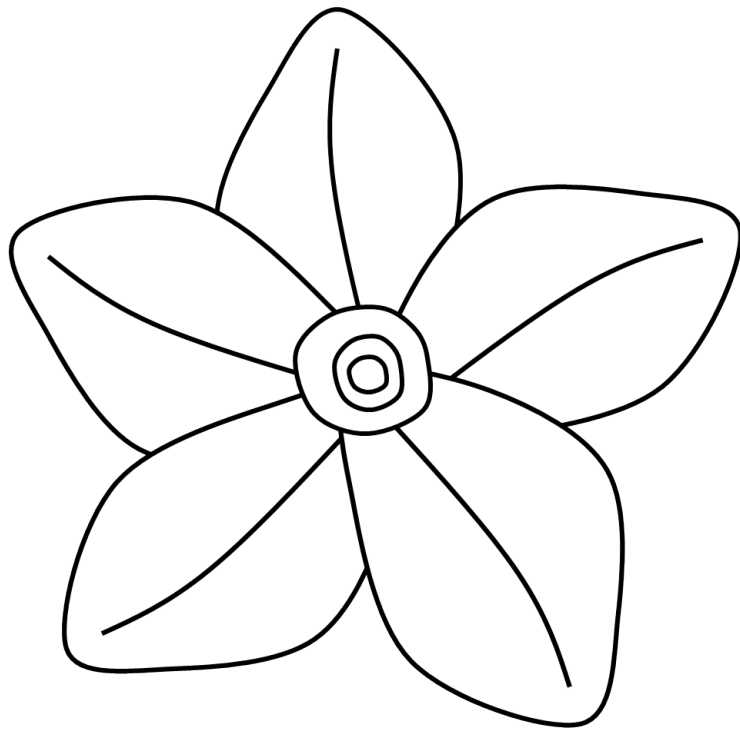
I see a vine.



I see a vine.

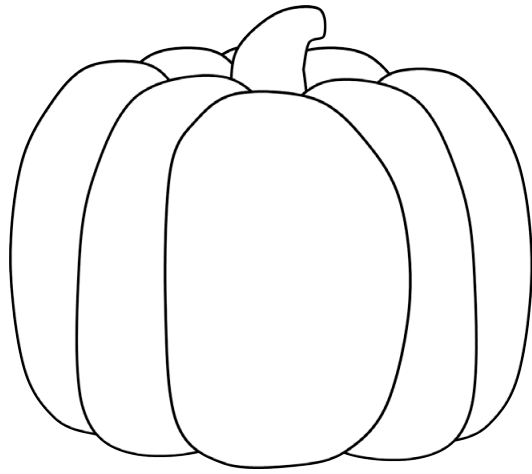


I see a flower.

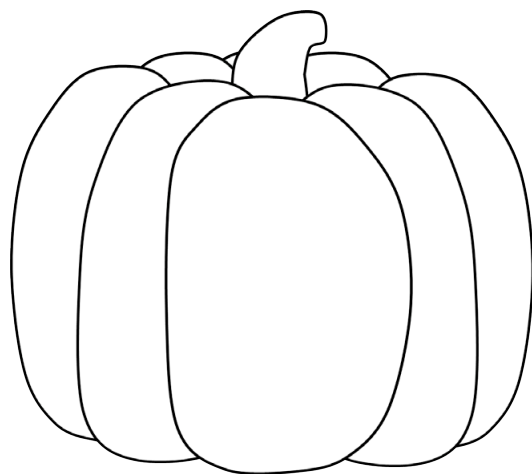


I see a flower.

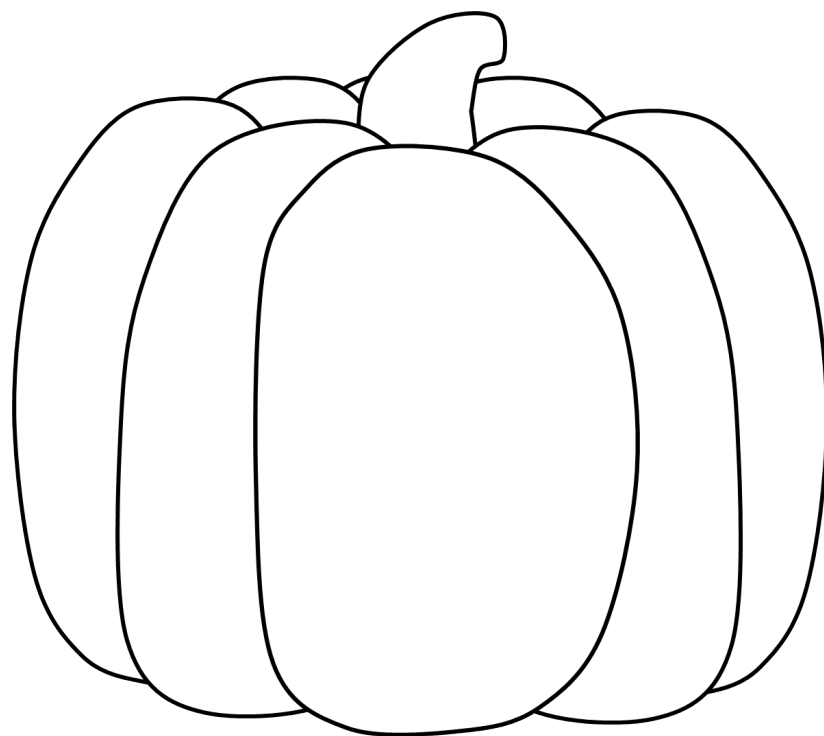




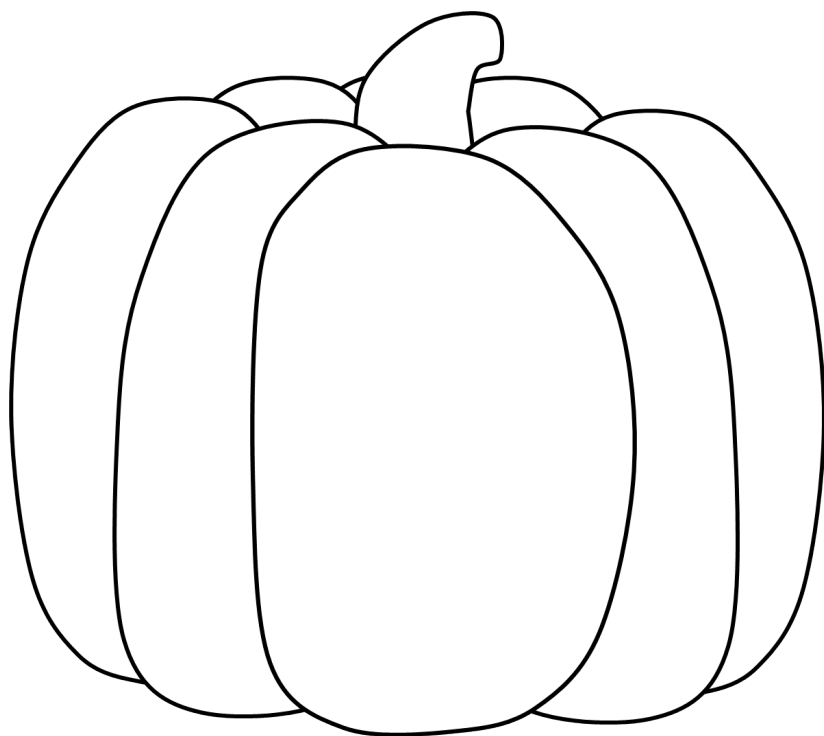
I see a green pumpkin.



I see a green pumpkin.

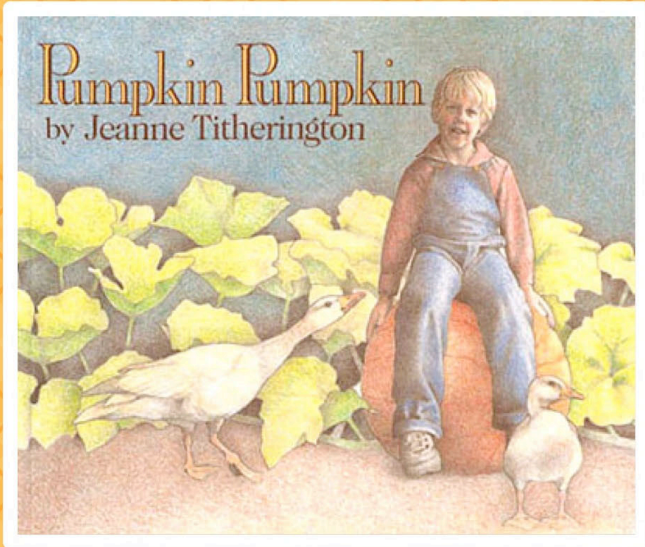


I see an orange pumpkin.



I see an orange pumpkin.

# Planting PUMPKINS

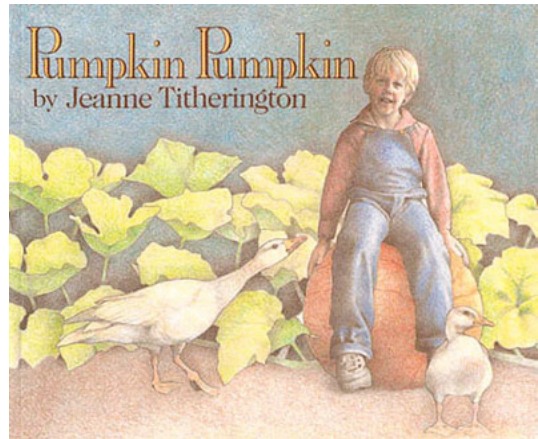




# Growing Pumpkins

## Materials:

- “Pumpkin Pumpkin” Book
- Mini-Pumpkin Seeds
- Potting soil
- Small Plastic Tub
- Pumpkin Patch Sign (optional)
- Observation Sheets

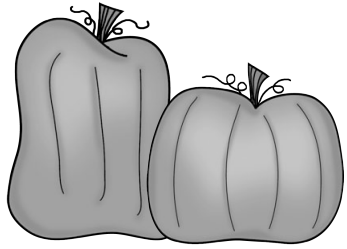


Read the story. Discuss: Where do pumpkins come from? What do they need in order to grow? What will we need to do first in order to grow a pumpkin? Show the students the seeds and reveal that we will be planting our own pumpkins!

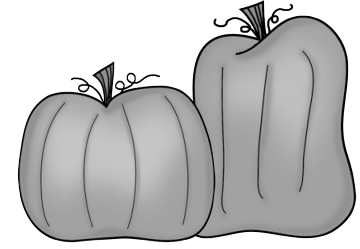
Planting Instructions: Everything you need to know about planting pumpkin seeds can be found on this site:

<http://pumpkinnook.com/howto/germinat.htm> – germinate

Follow-Up: Have students draw their observations over time using the included recording sheet.



# Planting PUMPKINS



We planted pumpkin seeds! We made observations as our pumpkins grew.

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

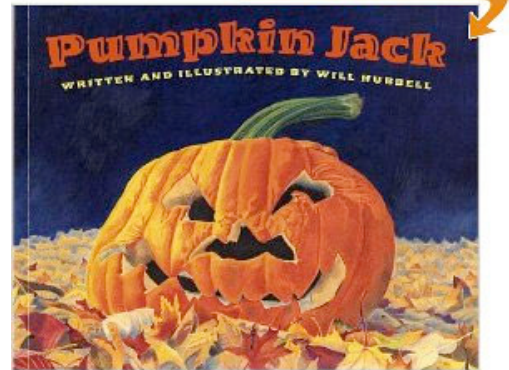
DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

# Pumpkin Jack

## Materials:

- Jack O' Lantern
- Clear Plastic Tub
- Soil
- Chart Paper
- Observation Sheets



Ask students to predict what might happen to our Jack O' Lantern over time and record their predictions on chart paper. Read aloud and discuss the story.

Bring out the plastic container with soil and place the pumpkin inside. Cover. Have students draw their initial observations in their science journals. Then have them draw and write their observations over the next several weeks.

NOTE: I have not yet completed this experiment, but I have been warned that it may get smelly!





# PUMPKIN JACK



We conducted an experiment to see what would happen to our pumpkin over time.

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

DAY \_\_\_\_\_

Pumpkin Patch Signs:



# PUMPKIN craft

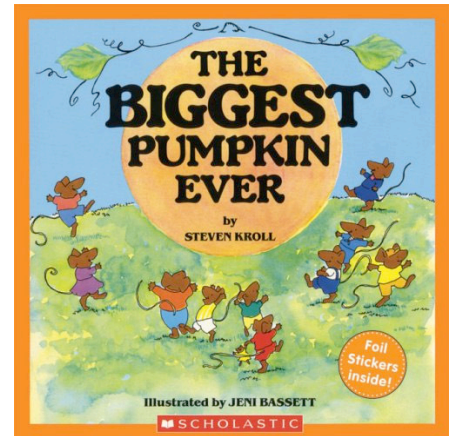




# Pumpkin Plate Craft

## Materials:

- Fiction Pumpkin Story (optional)
- Paper Plates
- Orange Paint
- Sponges or Paint Brushes
- Black, Brown, and Green Paper
- Green and Orange Streamers
- Scissors & Glue



Have each student paint a paper plate orange. Leave to dry. When dry, give students green, brown, and black pieces of paper. Have them cut out a leaf, stem, and jack o' lantern face. They will glue the pieces onto their pumpkin. Finally, give each student two orange and two green streamers to glue at the bottom.

Optional: Hang in the windows for a bright Halloween display! The kids love when the streamers start blowing in the wind!