

Pumpkin Party!

A virtual lesson to enjoy at home.

Read Aloud!

Pumpkins grow from seeds that sprout into vines. Yellow flowers grow on the vines and form small, green fruit. Over time, the green fruit turns yellow, then orange. The fruit is a pumpkin!

Not all pumpkins are orange. Pumpkins can be yellow, green, white, tan, and even blue. Pumpkins can be little or big. Jack Be Little and Baby Boo are examples of small pumpkins. The Atlantic Giant is a big pumpkin—it can grow up to 1000 pounds!



Pumpkins originally came from Mexico. The oldest pumpkin seeds found there are 7000 years old! In Mexico, the word for pumpkin is “calabaza.” Nowadays, pumpkins grow almost all over the world. You can grow pumpkins, too. Plant the seeds in late June or early July to have pumpkins in time for Halloween.

THE PUMPKINS IN EMILY'S PLAY GARDEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN PICKED, BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHER FUN THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE GARDEN! NOT AT THE ARBORETUM? TAKE A NATURE WALK AND SEE HOW MANY PUMPKIN-COLORED THINGS YOU CAN SPY.

Make a Pumpkin Planter!

1. Hollow out a small pumpkin. Save the seeds to roast later.
2. Fill the pumpkin with potting soil, leaving about an inch of space at the top.
3. Place a pansy or other fall-blooming plant inside your soil-filled pumpkin.
4. Keep your pumpkin planter outside in a sunny spot and water as needed. After the first frost, you can plant the entire pumpkin in the ground. Voilà—pumpkin compost!



Click here to sing the "Pumpkin Polka!" This song is loosely based on "The Penguin Polka," by Teresa Jennings.



Snack Time!

There are so many yummy ways to enjoy pumpkin! Use pumpkin puree to make muffins, bread, or pie. For an even healthier treat, toss clean, dry pumpkin seeds with a little olive or canola oil and some sea salt. Roast the seeds in a single layer at 300 degrees for about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Created by Jenny Houghton for



ADKINS ARBORETUM

DID YOU KNOW? OVER 1 BILLION POUNDS OF PUMPKINS ARE GROWN IN THE UNITED STATES EVERY YEAR. ON AVERAGE, EACH PUMPKIN HAS ABOUT 500 SEEDS.