

4-H at Home

ON THE GO LESSON

INCLUDED SUPPLIES

- 2 Paper plates
- Green yarn
- Images of the pumpkin life cycle
- Life cycle story of a giant pumpkin

ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES

- Paper hole punch
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Markers or crayons

BACKGROUND

Anyone who has grown giant pumpkins will agree, the life cycle of a giant pumpkin is fast, enormously strong, and furious. Some giant pumpkins can reach up to 2,600 pounds! Many things are needed to grow a large pumpkin, including a giant pumpkin seedling, and preparing the soil so it has the correct nutrients. Giant pumpkin record holders also share that they mound the soil over the vine to create a double root system. Most of the prized pumpkins are at least 10 feet from the main root. Check out the life cycle of this giant pumpkin using the handout provided. Then create your own model of the life cycle of a pumpkin, and create a fun jack-o-lantern.

DO REFLECT APPLY

Have the students draw a jack-o-lantern face with a black marker or crayon on one of the paper plates. Color the rest of the jack-o-lantern orange and color the second paper plate as well. Staple the paper plates together around the edges with the orange sides facing outward. Make sure to leave enough space on the top of the pumpkin to store the pumpkin life cycle parts and strings inside the pumpkin.

Color the pumpkin life cycle images using the appropriate colors. Cut them out and punch a hole at the top of each one. Thread the piece of yarn through the holes punched in the newly created paper patterns. You may need to carefully tie a simple knot at the top of each plant piece to secure it in place. The seed, leaf, flower, green pumpkin, and orange



INCLUDES

2 PAPER PLATES | GREEN YARN | PUMPKIN LIFE CYCLE IMAGES
PUMPKIN LIFE CYCLE STORY

4-H PROJECT AREAS

AGRONOMY | HORTICULTURE



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pumpkin should be tied together in sequential order. Carefully slide the string of plant parts into the top of the jack-o-lantern. Staple the pumpkin stem to the back of the jack-o-lantern. Now you can describe the whole life cycle of the pumpkin by slowly pulling the seed, leaf, flower, and growing pumpkins from the jack-o-lantern.

- *What is the life cycle of a pumpkin?*
- *Does every pumpkin seed grow to be a giant pumpkin?*
- *What is needed to grow a giant pumpkin?*
- *What else has a similar cycle?*

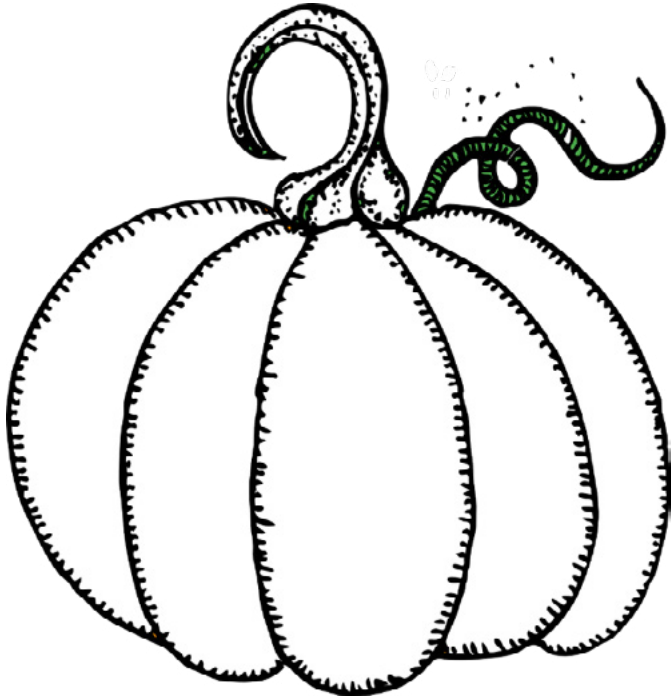
Adapted with permission from Utah State University Cooperative Extension Spooky Adventures 5-Day Camp, Life Cycle of a Giant Pumpkin

LEARN MORE

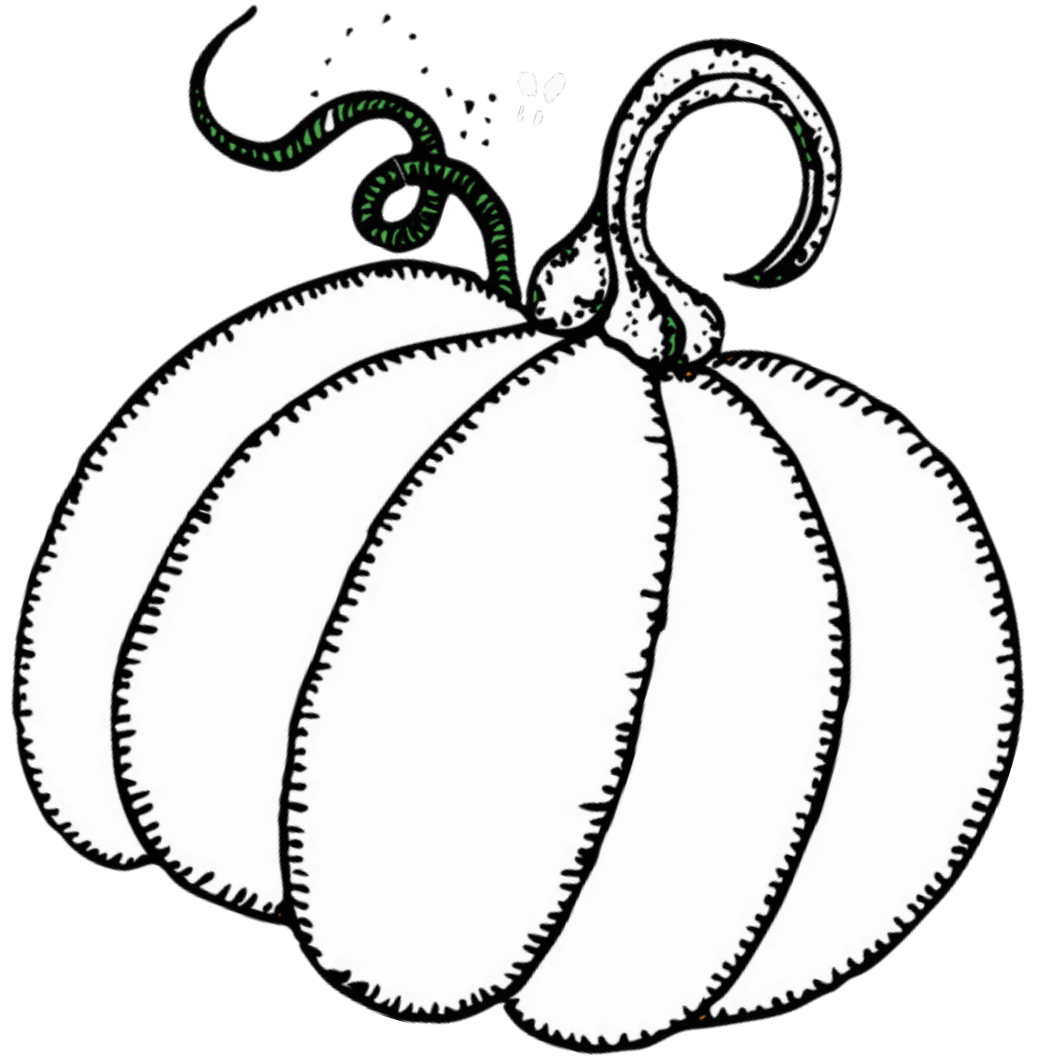


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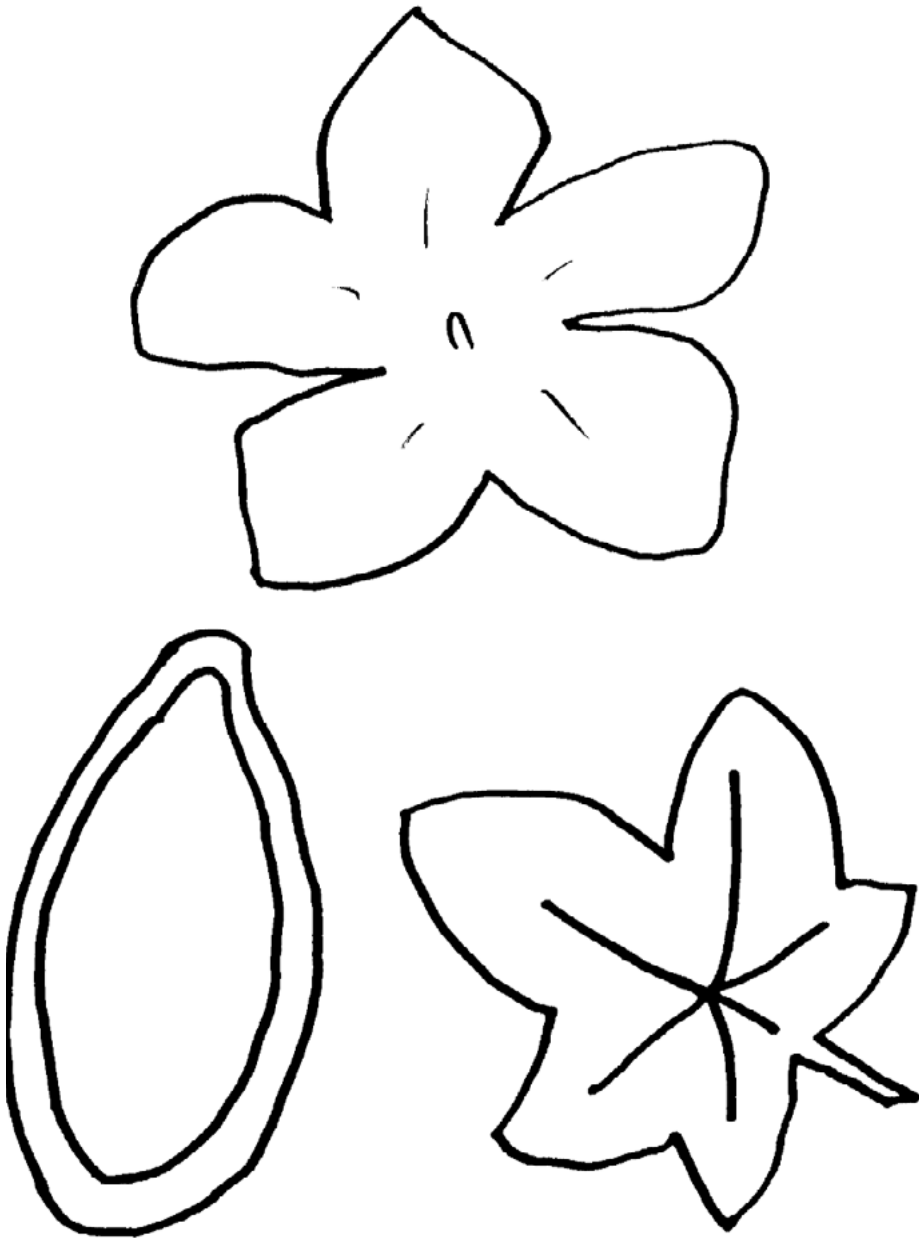
Small pumpkin: Color green



Medium pumpkin: Color orange

LIFE CYCLE OF A GIANT PUMPKIN

Day	Date	Event
1	April 24	Plant seeds indoors.
9-10	May 5	Happy birthday! Seeds sprout from the soil.
20	May 12	First true leaves appear.
22-25	May 15	Transplant to the garden.
25-36	May 15-30	Provide evening cover to protect young seedlings from cold
51	June 15	The 'Battle of the Bugs' begins.
70	July 1-14	Pollination time
73	July 2	Pollination is successful
75	July 9	Switch to a higher phosphate fertilizer or supplement
80	July 14	Build shade cover for fruit
81	July 15	Water often, daily if needed, and fertilize weekly
100	August 4	The skin takes on a more rigid texture, ribs begin to form
111	August 15	Bright yellow skin is slowly darkening. Will it turn orange?
126	August 30	Shorter hours of sun slows growth.
141	September 15	Cooler weather and shorter days slow growth.
156	September 30	Pumpkin is mature and orange!



Flower: Color yellow, Leaf: Color green, Seed: Color brown