

## TEACHER MATERIALS - Pumpkins

<b>CONCEPTS:</b>	Life Science	- 1A - 1.3, 1.4, 2.5 - 1B - 1
	Social Studies	-change (historic p. 68) -culture (economic p.60) -empathy (economic p. 62)
	Language Arts	- vocabulary
	Art	
	Mathematics	- counting

**BACKGROUND:** The life cycle of the pumpkin is easy to follow. The seeds, plants, and fruit of the plant are quite large. Children are quite attracted by pumpkins. This is a good Halloween time lesson.

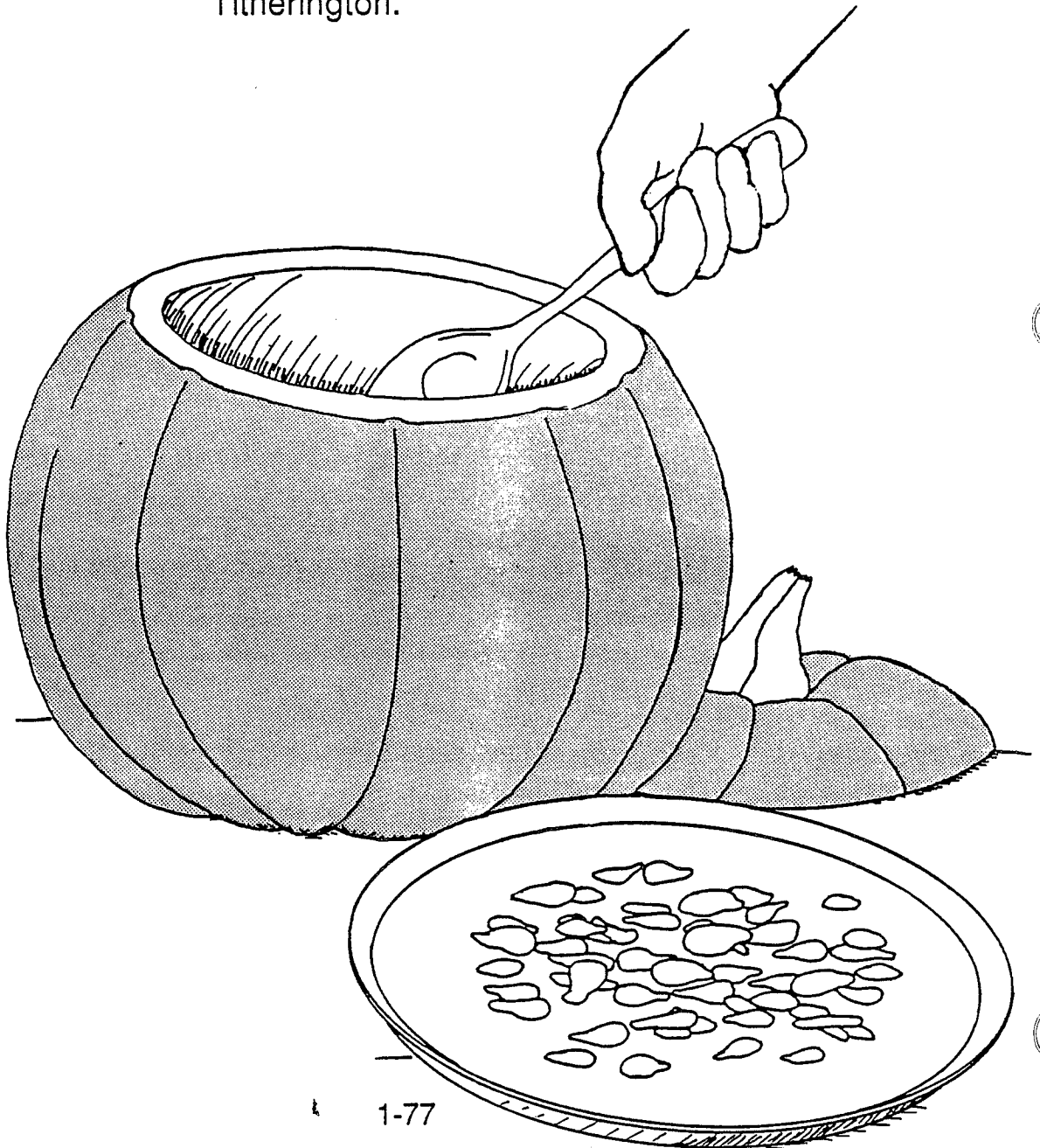
For Halloween information on how the traditions began see the information pages (pp.1-78 through 1-80.)

- ACTIVITIES:**
1. Have the students read pages 3 and 6 in "Great Pumpkins" and complete the dotted words.
  2. If you cannot bring real pumpkins into the classroom or take the students to real pumpkins here are some good substitutes. Have the students make papier mache pumpkins, or paper bag pumpkins following instructions on pages 1-81 through 1-86.
  3. Make a pumpkin patch bulletin board following the language arts lesson on pages 1-1 through 1-8.
  4. Have the students make "Pumpkin Pencils" following the instructions on pages 1-87 through 1-92.
  5. Have the students make pumpkins seeds for the class to eat following the instructions on pages 1-93



through 1-94.

6. Have the students make pumpkin puppets following the directions on pages 1-95 through 1-98.
7. Have the students make jack-o-lantern puppets following the directions on page 1-99 through 1-101.
8. Read the book Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington.



## Jack-o-Lantern and Halloween Information

Halloween, as Americans celebrate it today, is a combination of a wide range of social customs, religious rites and harvest celebrations. As the population of the U.S. continues to change so will the flavor of holidays such as this one. This information is given to provide you with some background on the traditions of this holiday. Please use it to explore other cultural traditions surrounding harvest celebrations or segments discussed here. Encourage your students to describe their own culture and its traditions regarding this holiday or those like it.

Halloween or All Hallow's Eve is the evening preceding the Christian feast of Hallowmas or All Saints' Day. The Celtic Druids of the British Isles (especially Ireland and Scotland) began a practice of celebrating the day that Saman (the Lord of Death) called forth the souls of the wicked who had died the previous year. These spirits were thought to play tricks. The Druids did not wish these 'evil spirits' to overcome them and so, lit large bonfires to keep them away. The ancient Celts considered this the last evening of the year and keeping away evil spirits was key to assisting a Happy New Year.

When the Romans invaded Britain they brought with them their festival to honor Pomona the goddess of fruit (or fruit trees.) The Roman festival was held on November first. With their celebration came the honoring of the harvest and fruits.

These two traditions are the foundation for many of the traditions we associate with Halloween. Stories of witches, goblins, black magic, black cats, ghosts, and evil doing spirits mixed with pumpkins, stalks of cornstalks, gourds, and bobbing for apples clearly show the two traditions.

### Individual Halloween Traditions:

**Jack-o-Lanterns and wearing ugly masks** - In the Middle Ages, when both disease and fear ran rampant, people were convinced that evil spirits made one ill. Many practices were followed to ward off evil spirits. The Jack-o-Lantern is a combination of several of these practices.

People carried a wide range of objects to stay healthy. Some of these

are discussed in the New York Agriculture in the Classroom Grade 4 notebook. They included stinky herbs, strings of garlic or even ugly faces. Often they would have stone or wooden carvings of human heads adorn doorways or rooftops to scare away evil spirits. (You still see these on old European buildings today.) They also had special lamps created to scare away evil spirits at night....when it was most dangerous. As an extra precaution people wore ugly masks when carrying these lanterns. It was thought that if they did encounter evil spirits the mask would prevent the spirit from recognizing them. The poor could not afford fancy lanterns or lamps so they would carry a burning coal in a turnip as a torch. If the turnip was large enough they may have carved out an ugly face themselves.

One Irish legend has it that a very stingy fellow named Jack died. He was barred from heaven because of his evil deeds. Instead, the devil gave him a burning coal to carry as a light. He couldn't carry it in his hand so he stuffed it into a turnip that he had been eating. Poor Jack then wandered the earth carrying his frightening light searching for a place to rest. Jack may or may not have found a resting place but his burning, flickering light did...in a pumpkin and we named it after him. The Irish found the pumpkin from America to be perfect to honor this tradition. Hence, that's why Americans traditionally light Jack-o-Lanterns with the flickering light of a candle rather than an electric light. That is also where the tradition to carve out a frightening face came from.

**Witches and Black Cats** - Since evil spirits were abroad on this night it was only natural to assume that they would be particularly powerful. In medieval Europe people believed that witches would inhabit the bodies of animals on this night particularly the black cat. Therefore, black cats and witches were put to death if found on this day ...in those times. Persecution of witches also came to America and continued well into the 1700's.

**Brooms** - Witches were said to travel from place to place by flying on their brooms. Therefore, rituals included broom burning at the bonfire. In fact, to detain witches already in the air, straw was set afire and thrown skyward. It was hoped that the burning straw would set a flying witch on fire by lighting the straw of her broom as she flew overhead.

**Ghosts** - The obvious connection is the spirits wandering as they were called together by the Lord of the Dead. People would gather close to make sure they did not encounter a ghost while alone. They would gather at the bonfire, tell stories of spirits, make strange noises and play games. The idea was to create as much merriment as possible as well as noise. The merriment was to make them forget how frightened they were that the spirits were out to 'get them' this night. The noise was to scare the evil spirits away and to show that they were not scared. The game of bobbing for apples appears to have grown out of this revelry.

**Fortune telling** - Because the spirits were about, it was thought that this was the time to seek their help with the future. Most of the rituals practiced in this regard are not commonly practiced today.

**Trick or Treat** - By the mid 1700's the tricks and pranks associated with the holiday had begun. In fact at the turn of this century they were often a great deal more damaging and dangerous than today's tricks. Of course, the pranks were blamed on the rambunctious spirits abroad. At the start of the roaring twenties the pranksters had gotten quite out of hand. You may even see some old movies with this as a theme. Civic organizations formed committees to keep the children and teens off the street, indoors at parties.

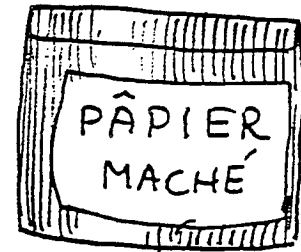
**Today** - Today, of course, children should only eat pre-wrapped and sealed candy, have their goodies x-rayed, or only trick-or-treat at the homes of friends and family.

Have the students relate the harvest time traditions of their nationality or race. Hold a harvest celebration. Discuss how various religions approach the topic of spirits, life after death, honoring ancestors, etc.



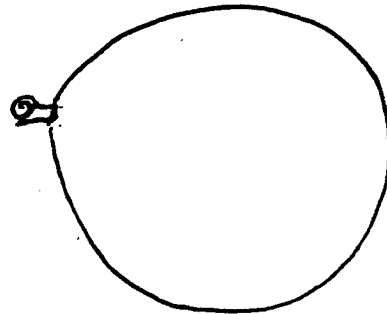
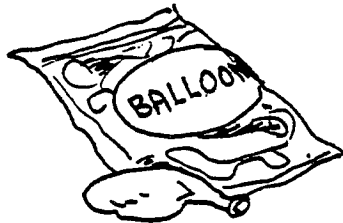
# PÂPIER MACHÉ PUMPKINS

**MATERIALS:** small round balloons  
newspaper  
pâpier maché or wall paper paste  
starch  
paper towels  
green construction paper  
orange and black paint  
knife



**ACTIVITY:** Have the students:

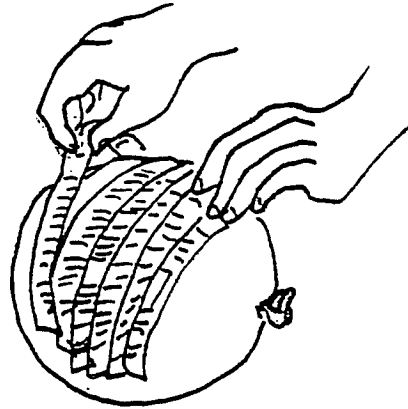
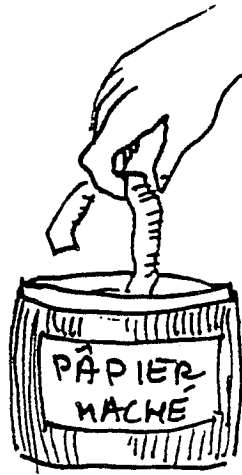
1. Inflate the balloons to the size of a grapefruit.



2. Pâpier maché over it with three layers of newspaper.
  - A. Tear newspaper into strips.

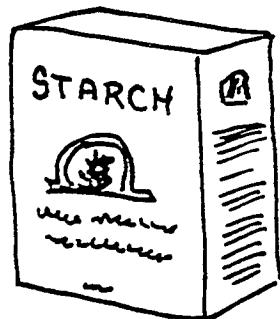
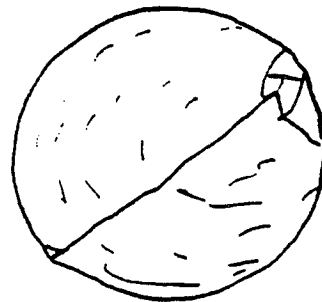
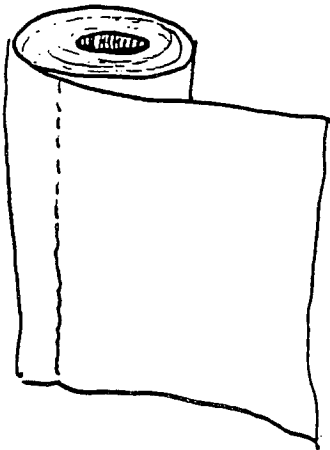


B. Dip strips into papier maché mixture or wallpaper paste -- lay on balloon.

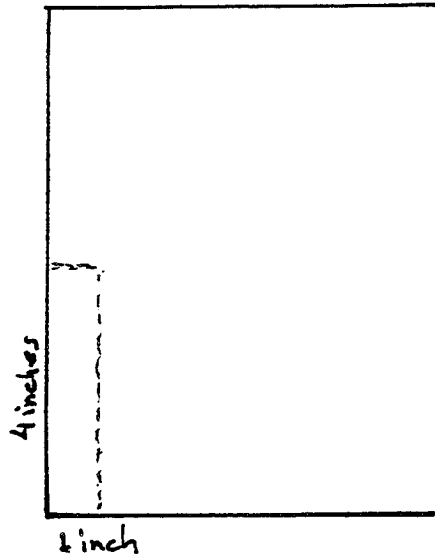


C. Let each layer dry before adding the next.

3. The fourth layer should be made with the same process but by using paper towels and starch.



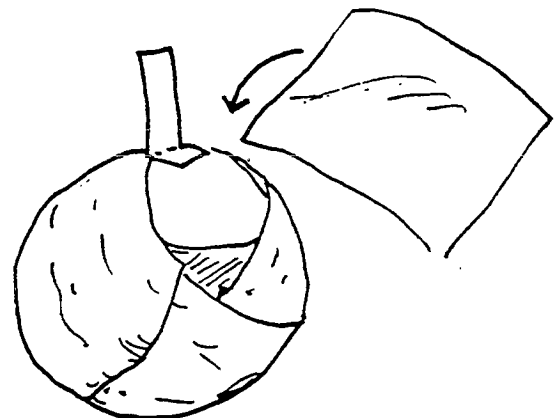
4. Cut out a green stem from the construction paper -- a 4 to 5" by 1" long strip.



5. Fold over 1" and place this inch where you'd like the stem to be.

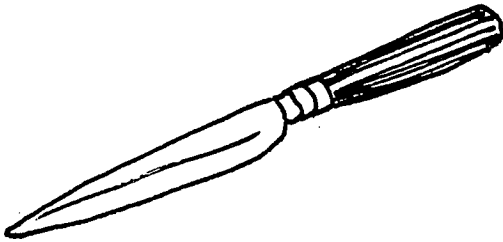


Layer over the folded portion to fasten the stem to the pumpkin.

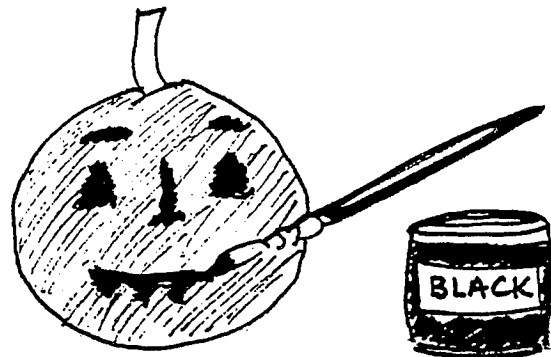
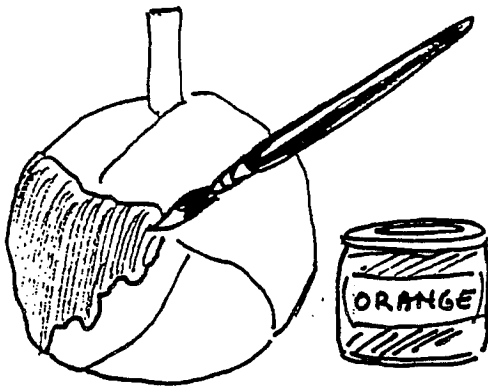




6. When dry, paint the pumpkin orange and if desired paint a jack-o-lantern face.



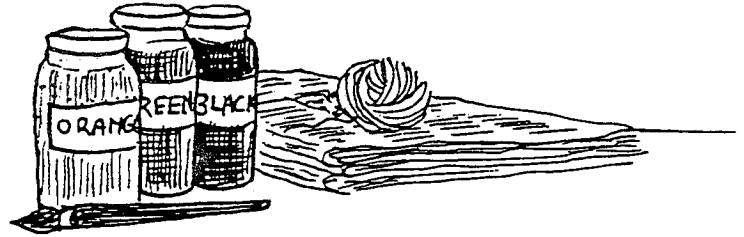
7. To make your pumpkin a holding container, cut out one of the "eyes" in the jack-o-lantern. It could be used to hold paper clips, rubber bands, pencils and pens, or as a bank.



8. Explain to the students that the pumpkin is the fruit of the plant and holds seeds.

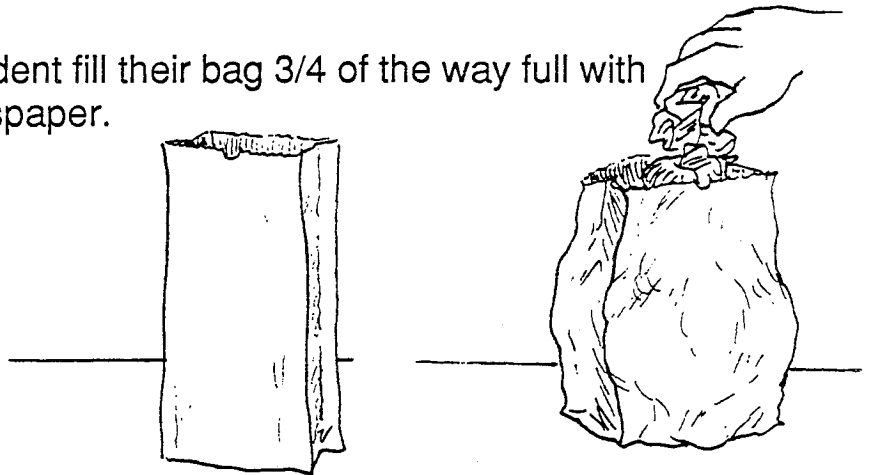
# Paper Bag Pumpkins

**Materials:** paper lunch bags  
tempera paints  
yarn or string  
newspaper

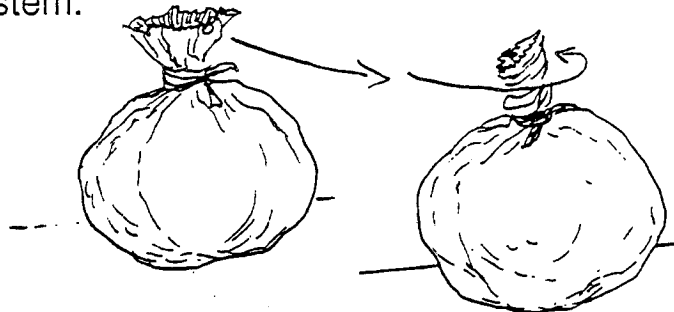


**Activity:** 1. Have each student write their name on the bottom of their bag.

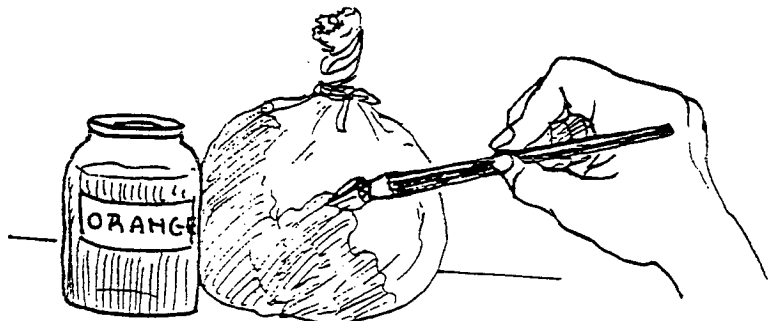
2. Have each student fill their bag 3/4 of the way full with crumpled newspaper.



3. Tie the top shut with the string or yarn. Leave part of the bag at the top to be used as the stem. Twist the top until it resembles a stem.



4. Paint the bag orange below the tie and green or brown above the tie. Let it dry.



5. Make a Jack-o-Lantern Face in black paint. Let it dry.



6. Sing a song using the "Paper Bag Pumpkins" and entertain the school. Here's an idea.:

(sung to the tune of frere Jacques)

**Jack-O-Lantern  
Jack-O-Lantern**

**See me glow,  
See me glow.**

**I am just a pumpkin.  
I am just a pumpkin.**

**Ho Ho Ho!  
Ho Ho Ho!**

**Jack-O-Lantern  
Jack-O-Lantern**

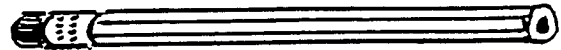
**See me glow,  
See me glow.**

**I'm a scary pumpkin.  
I'm a scary pumpkin.**

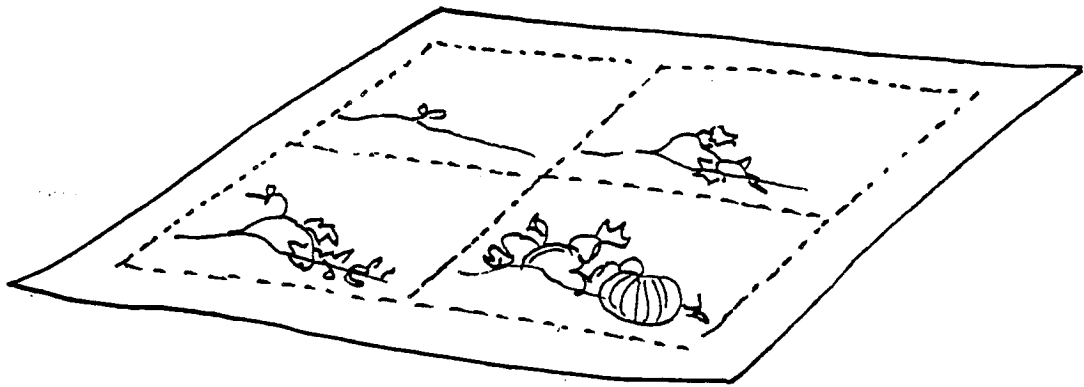
**Boo, Boo, Boo!  
Boo, Boo, Boo!**

## PUMPKIN PENCILS

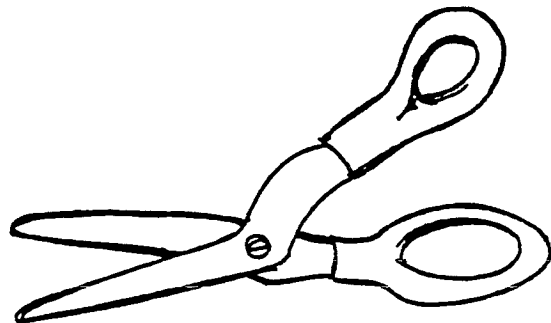
**MATERIALS:** 4 blank index cards (per student)  
1 pencil (per student)  
- unsharpened  
paste  
copies of the life cycle of the pumpkin  
scissors  
crayons



**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Make copies of the life cycle of the pumpkin which follows on page 1-90.



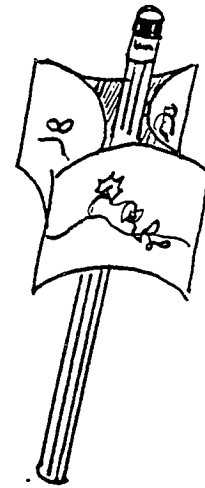
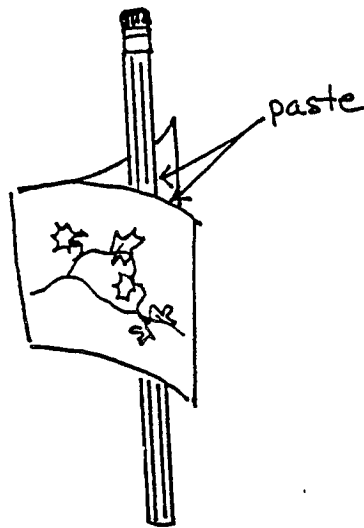
2. Have the students color and cut out the 4 pictures and paste them onto cards.



3. Using the pencil as the center, paste the 4 cards together -- back to back to back . . . in sequential order.

- [1] seedling
- [2] growing vine

- [3] flowering vine
- [4] pumpkin



4. Once dry, twirl the pencil and watch a mini-movie appear.

or

5. Have the students present a story - one frame at a time using the pictures on pages 1-91 through 1-92 using the extra frames not needed for the pencil pictures.

frame 1. A pumpkin seed is planted.

frame 2. It begins to grow.

frame 3. The plant is a vine. It grows and grows.

frame 4. Yellow flowers grow on the vine.

frame 5. A pumpkin grows from the flower. First it is green.

frame 6. Then it gets ripe. It is now a big orange pumpkin.

frame 7. Pumpkins are made into Jack-O-Lanterns and the seeds are eaten.

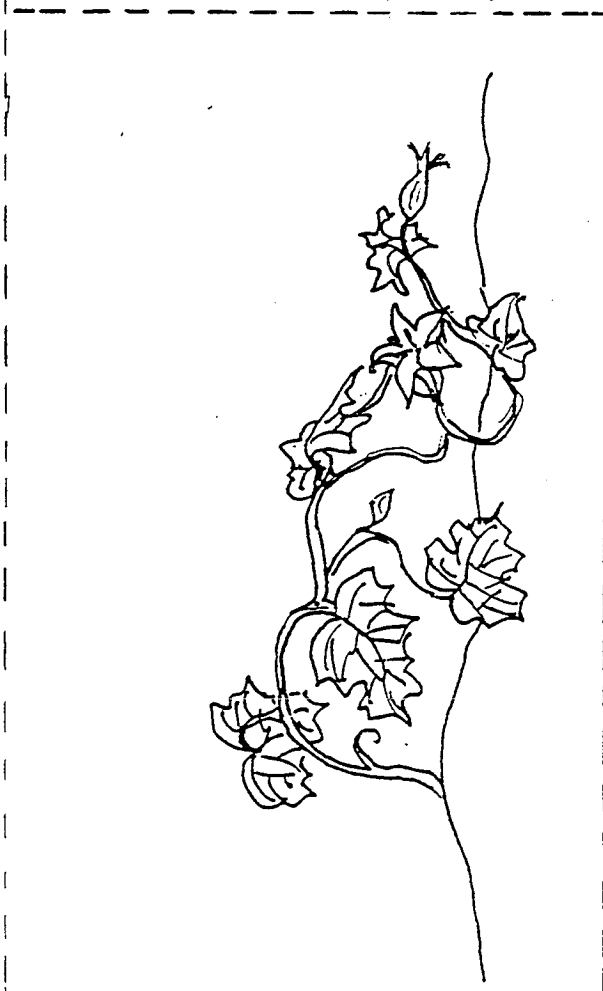
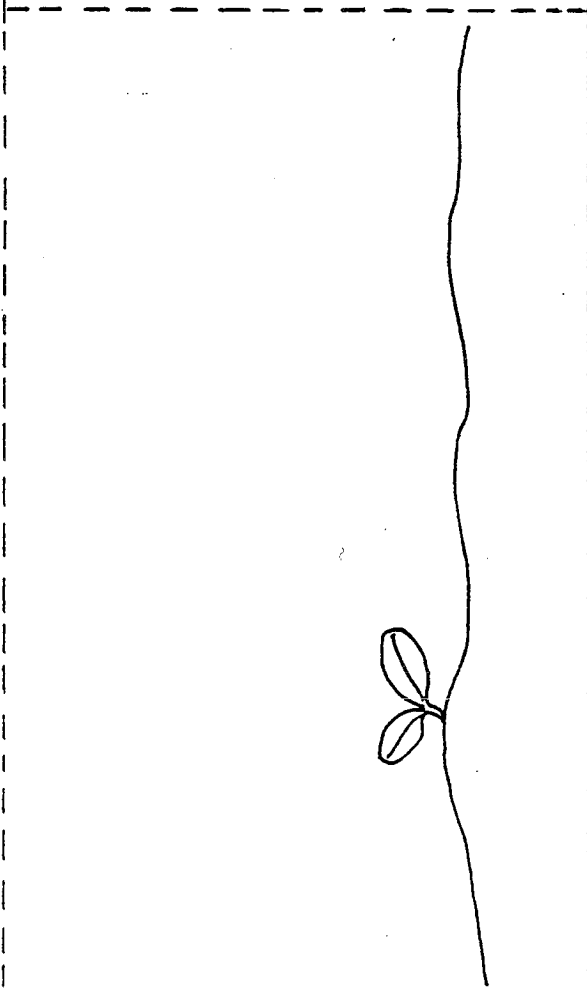
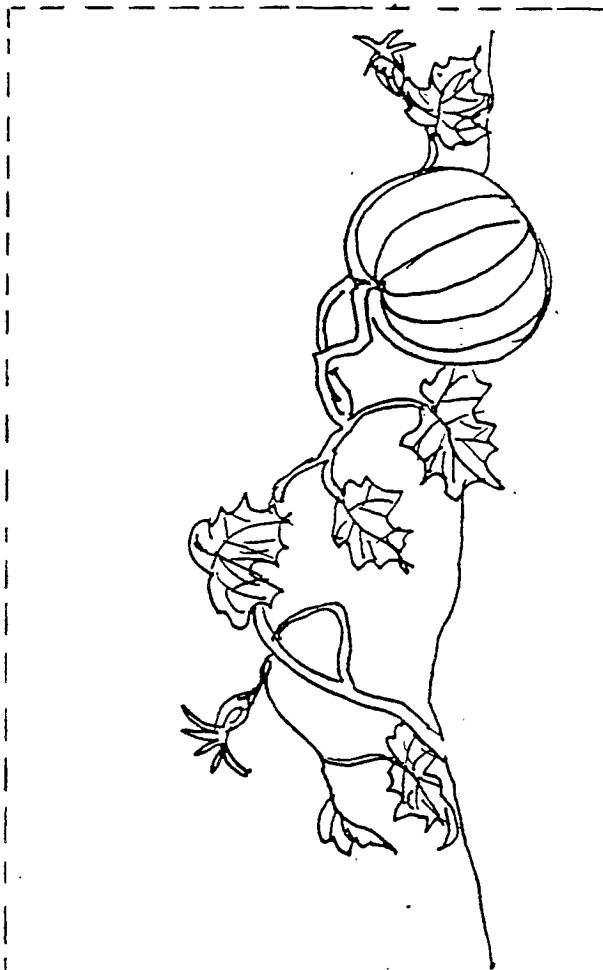
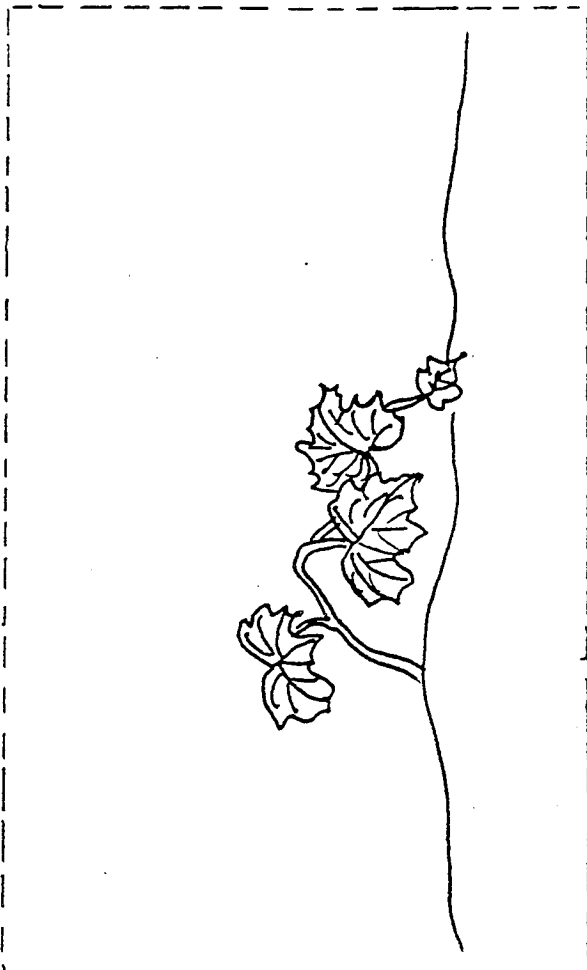
frame 8. Pumpkins are also made into pies, cookies, and muffins.

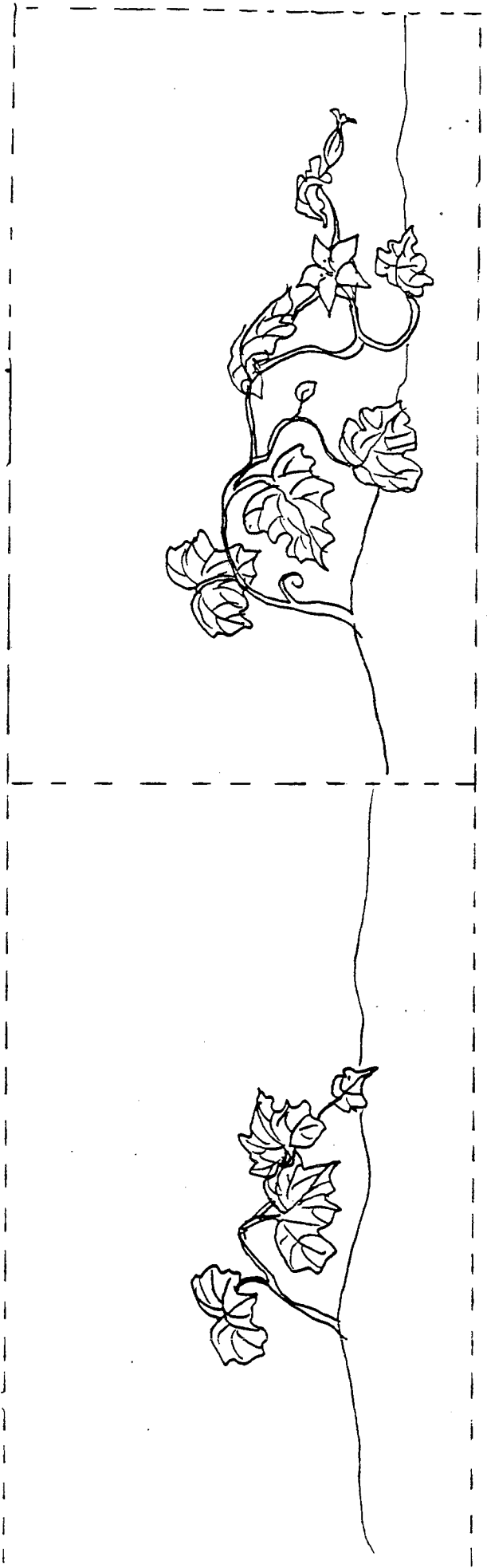
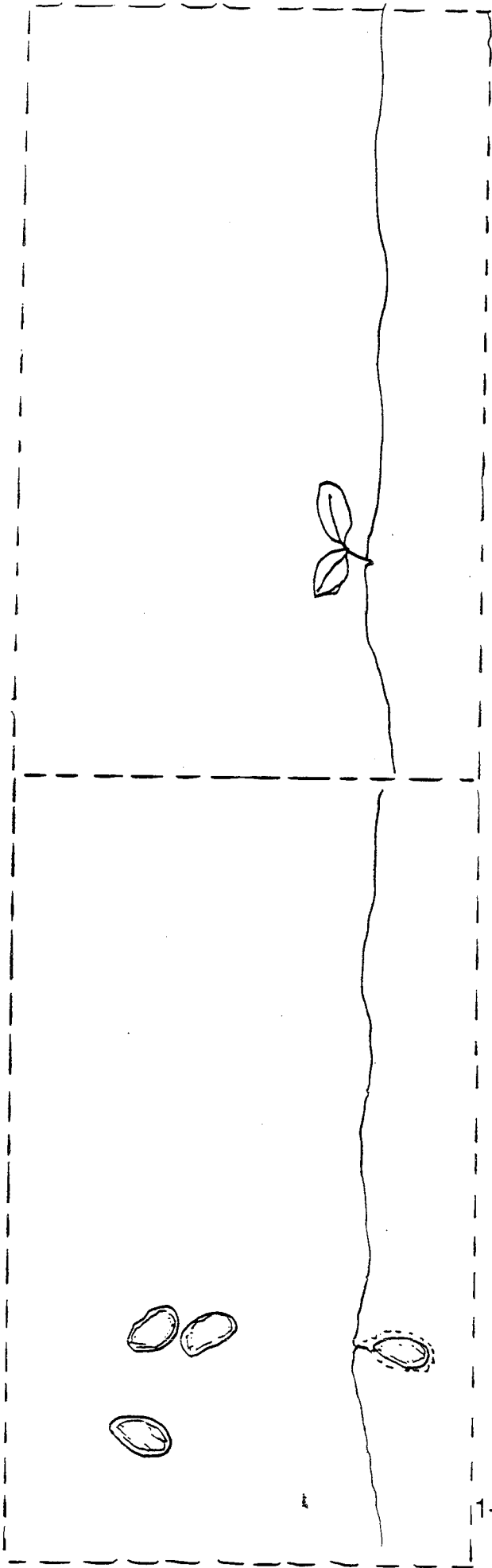
**The idea to include the story was adapted from piloting teacher Mary Jane Decker's suggestion.**

5. A whole series of sequences can be produced using any theme.

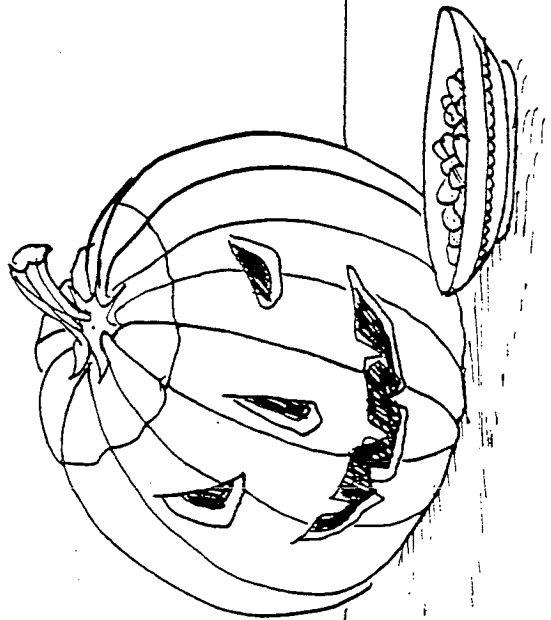
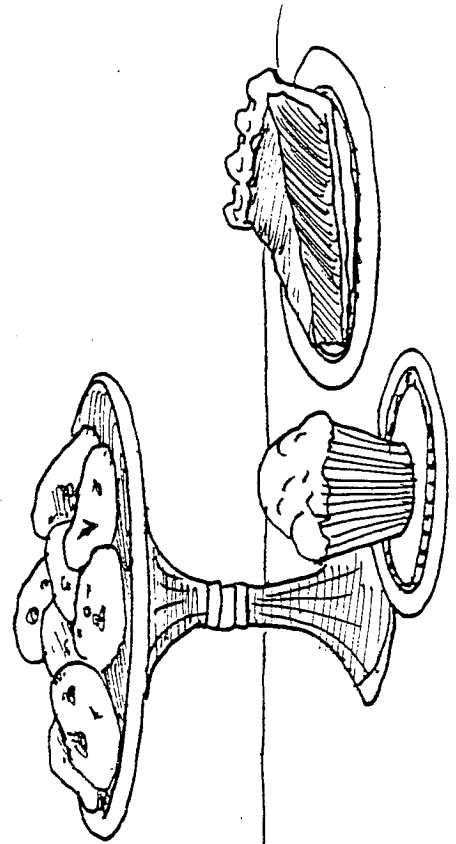
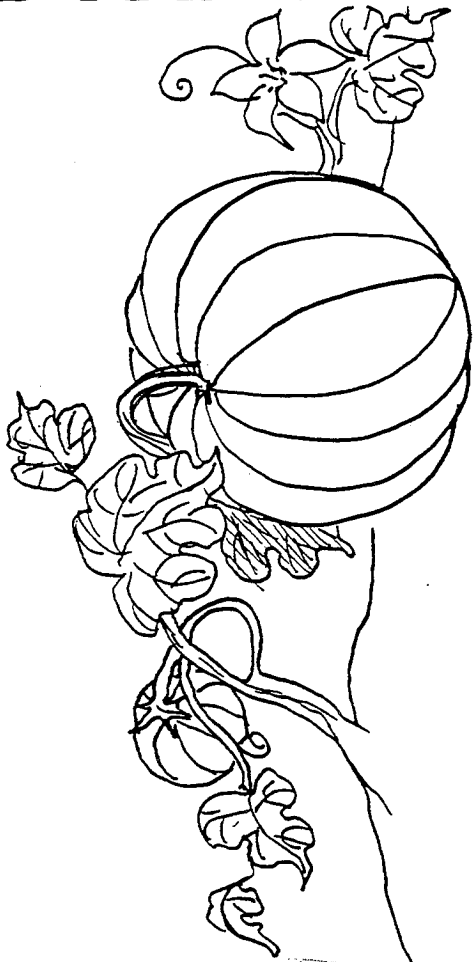


6. If pencil pictures is too difficult for your students assemble the frames into a booklet using the additional pages - including seeds and products.







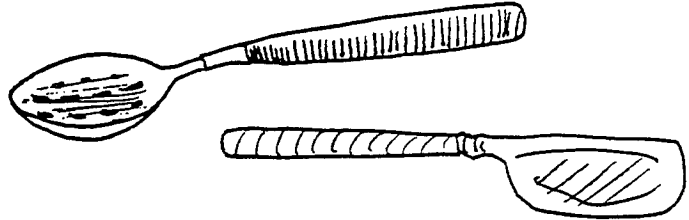


## PUMPKIN SEEDS

### MATERIALS:

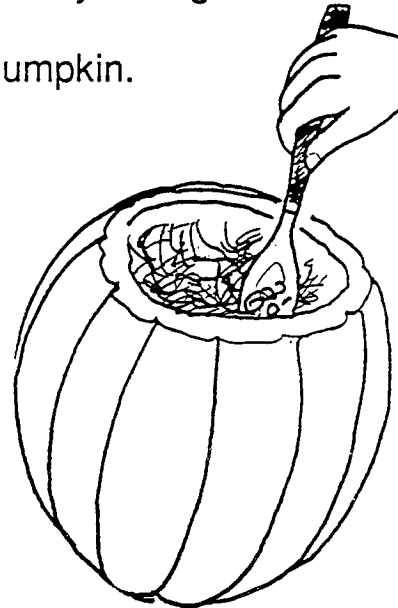
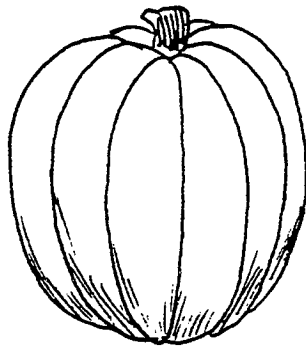


1 pumpkin -- any size (a squash will also do)  
large utensils for scooping out seeds  
colander  
water  
salt  
oven  
baking tray



### ACTIVITY:

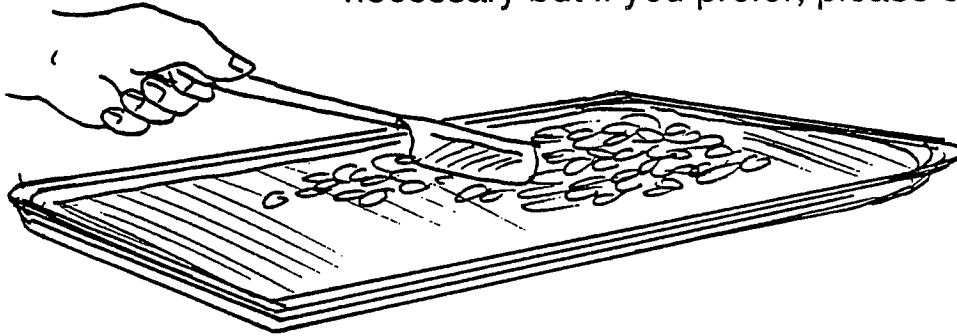
1. Have the students guess how many seeds they will find in the pumpkin before you begin.
2. Remove seeds from pumpkin.



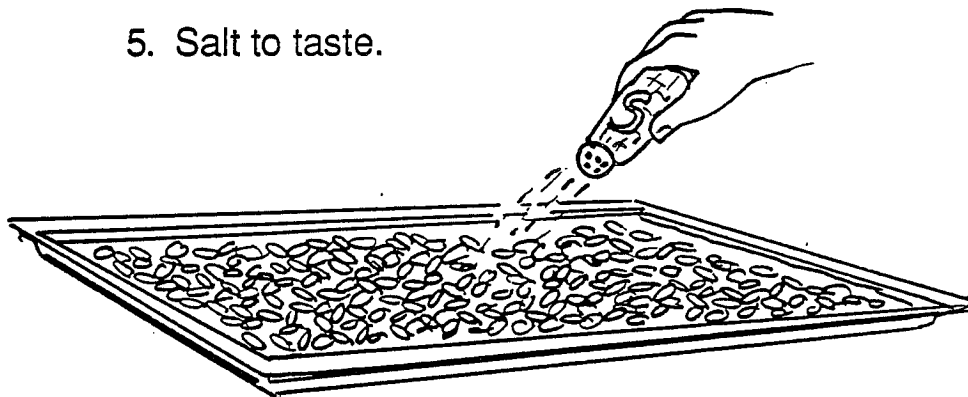
3. Wash seeds through colander and remove all vegetable matter. Count the seeds.



4. Spread the seeds 1 layer thick on baking sheet.  
(Some people butter or grease the sheet. It is not necessary but if you prefer, please do so.)

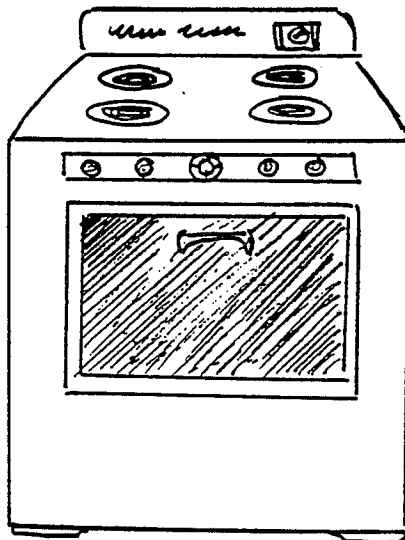


5. Salt to taste.



6. Bake at 350°F 5 to 10 minutes -- until just turning brown. (If the oven is not properly adjusted it could take as long as 15 minutes.)

**WATCH CAREFULLY!** They burn easily.



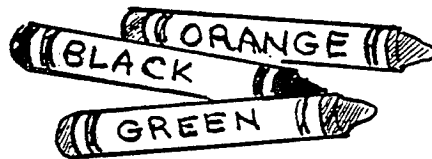
6. Break open seeds and eat the "meat."

## PUMPKIN PUPPETS

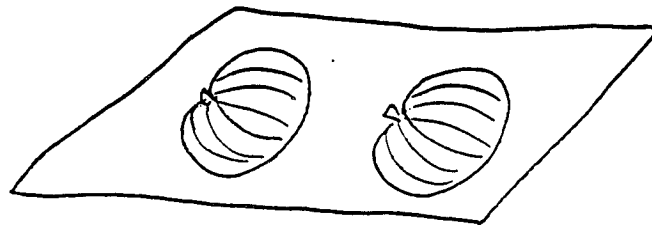
**MATERIALS:** 2 copies of pumpkins for each student, on orange construction paper  
popsicle sticks  
glue  
scissors



**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Have the students either:  
A. Color copies of the pumpkins provided or

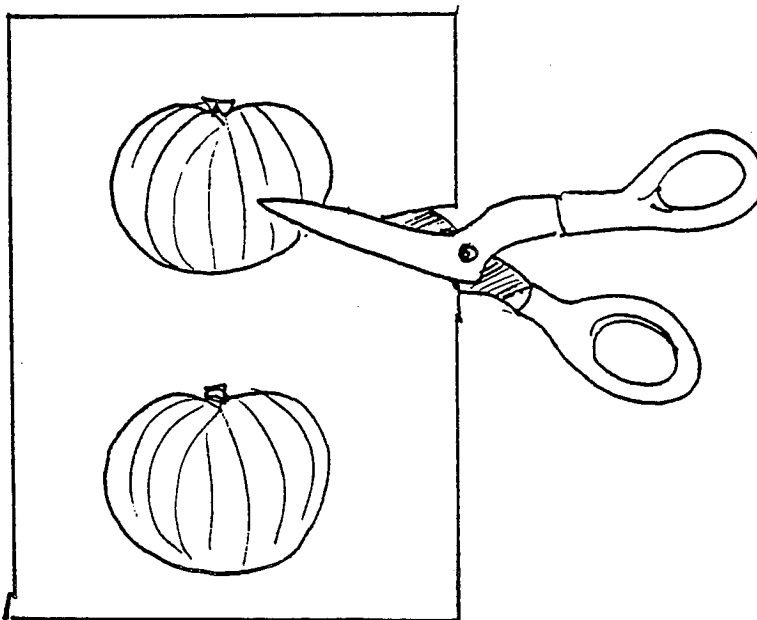


B. draw their own pumpkins on construction paper.



Each pumpkin needs to be the same size.

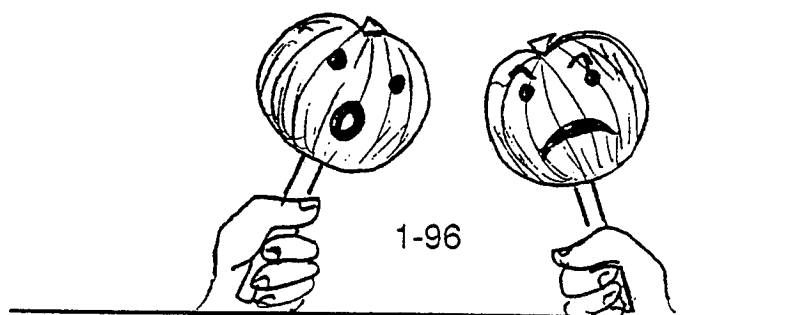
2. Cut out the pumpkins.

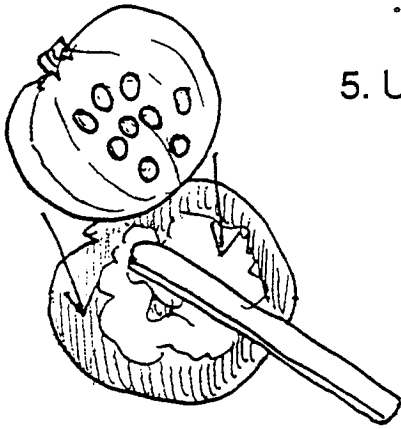


3. Glue pumpkins back to back with the popsicle stick in the center.



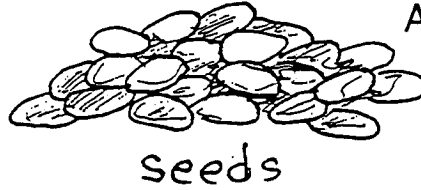
4. Stage your own pumpkin play or use it to choreograph a song about pumpkins.





5. Use the "Pumpkin Puppets" for Math lessons.

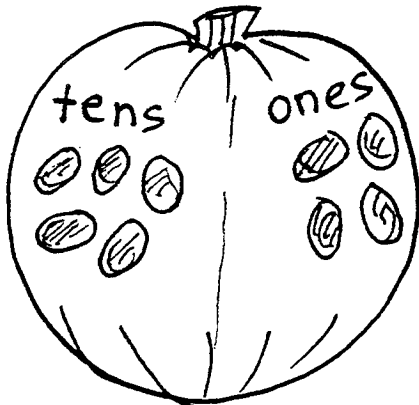
A. Counting-



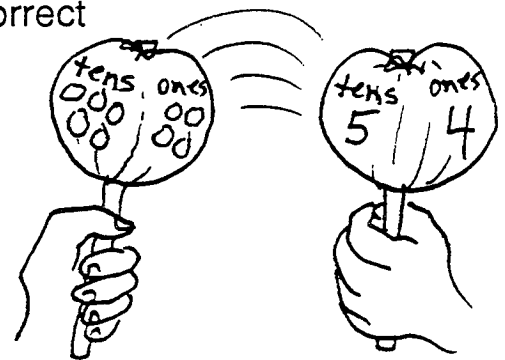
A1. Glue seeds on one side for counting.

A2. Write the correct number on the opposite side. Use these as pumpkin "Flash Cards."

B. Place value- B1. Place seeds in a 'tens' column and 'ones' column.

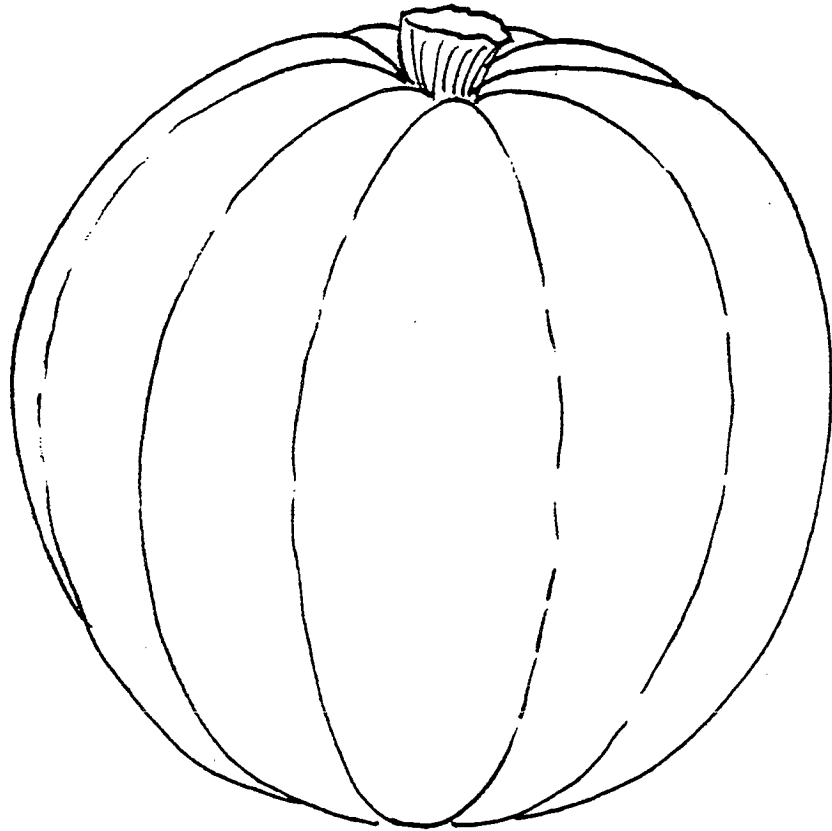
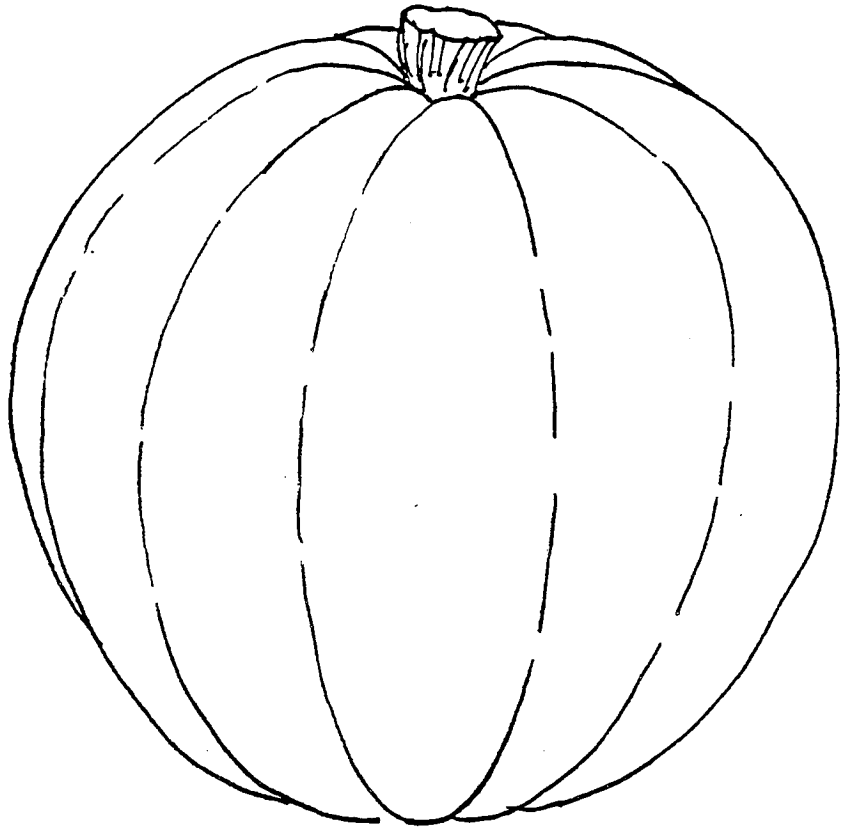


B2. Have the students total each and write the correct number on the opposite side.



6. Use the expressions happy and sad, drawn on the puppets, for the students to express their feelings or approval or disapproval.

7. Use the puppets to create a story. Have each child contribute a word or sentence. Ask them to tie the story into the expressions on the puppet.

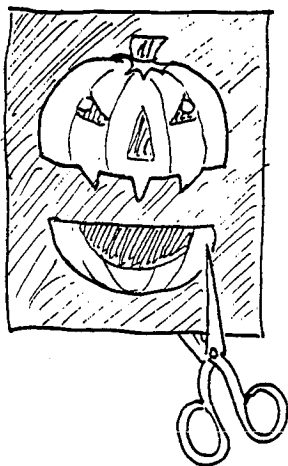
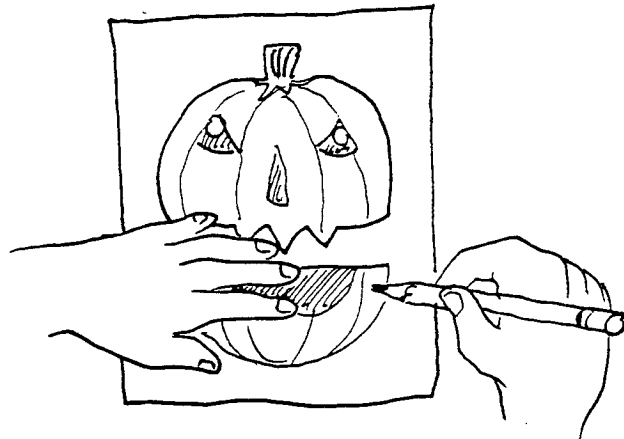


# Jack-O-Lantern Bag Puppet



**MATERIALS:** Jack-O-Lantern patterns  
scissors  
oaktag - file folders or  
orange construction paper  
brown or white paper lunch bags (one for each student)  
paste  
black marker or crayons

**ACTIVITY:** 1. Reproduce the jack-o-lantern pattern on page 1-101 either onto orange construction paper or paste it onto oaktag.

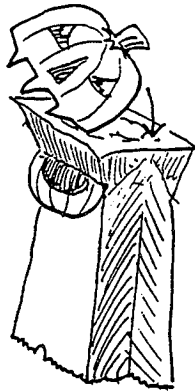
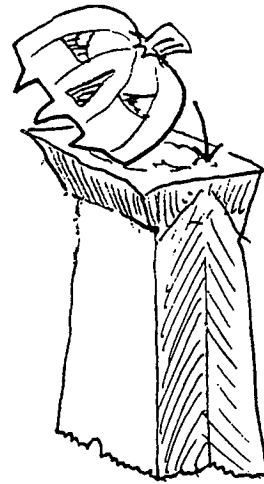


2. Have the students color it and cut it out.

3. Give each student a brown or white paper lunch bag.

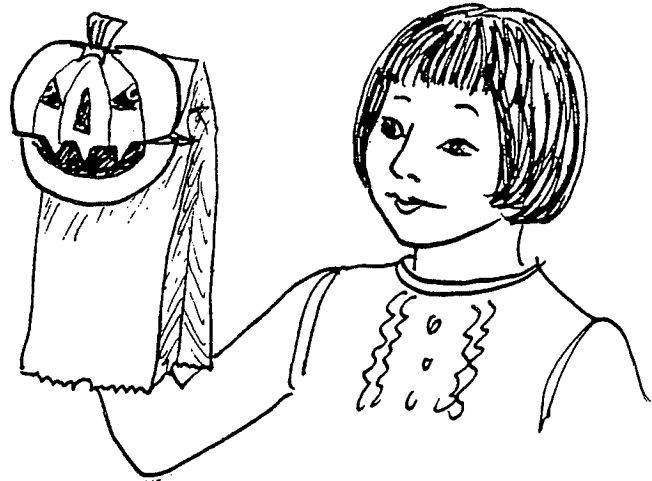


Students will paste the face onto the bottom of the bag as shown in the illustration.



4. Have the student color the mouth. Then paste the mouth under the flap of the bag so that it overlaps with the face when the flap is closed.

5. Use the puppets to put on a play, tell stories, etc. One suggestion is the "5 Little Pumpkins" song.



The Pumpkin Bag Puppet idea was contributed by piloting teacher Jan Beales.

# Jack-O-Lantern Puppets

