



# Pumpkin, Pumpkin



**Purpose:** Students will create an artistic project while learn about pumpkin plants.

**Background:** Pumpkins are native to the Americas and are related to the cucurbit (gourd) family. This means that the pumpkin is related to plants like watermelon, cucumbers, and zucchini squash. What do all these plants have in common? The plants have a fleshy and leathery skin surrounding the fruit. They also contain a lot of seeds. Some are small but most are large. Some have hollow insides like gourds and pumpkins, and some are solid like watermelons and cucumbers.

## Pumpkin Facts:

- Pumpkin production is not big in Florida, but producing watermelons, cucumbers and zucchini squash are.
- Seminole pumpkins can be grown in Florida, traditionally grown by the Calusa, Creek, and Miccosukee people.
- Seminole pumpkins have a similar flavor to butternut squash, but they are sweeter.
- There are specific pumpkins for carving and specific pumpkins for food.
- Many pumpkins can be stored for up to a year but with the humid Florida climate they can only be stored for around 3 months.

**Materials:** orange or white paper plates (2 per student), construction paper (brown, light and dark green, yellow, orange), yarn (brown or green) 5 pieces 6-8” long, scotch tape, scissors, stapler

## Activity:

1. Use cardboard patterns to trace each shape out of proper paper or copy directly onto proper paper. (seed-brown, leaf-dark green, blossom-yellow, small pumpkin-light green, large pumpkin-orange)
2. Tape 1 piece of yarn to inside of paper plate. (eating side)
3. Staple 2 plates together (top or eating sides together) at edge. Leave opening about 1/3 diameter of plate. Yarn should be extended out of the opening.
4. Staple and tape each side in order with yarn in between each piece.
5. Once assembled, stack shapes nicely and place in opening of pumpkin. Starting with seed, slowly pull shapes out of pumpkin as story is told about how pumpkins grow.

