



PUMPKIN FIESTA

by
Caryn Yacowitz

Most children know what a pumpkin is. The life of a pumpkin is varied: first the regular plant cycle: seed, plant, flower, fruit; then a jack-o-lantern; and then perhaps a pumpkin pie and/or roasted pumpkin seeds. Those pumpkins not chosen for jack-o-lanterns or pumpkin pie eventually rot, decompose, and return to the earth to provide seeds for new pumpkins.

These are great activities to use in the fall when there is an abundance of all types of pumpkins. To transition to these activities, talk about the life of a pumpkin and its characteristics. Pumpkins are members of the gourd family.

MATERIALS: Activity #1: "Pumpkin Patch Glyph" sheet, blank pumpkin glyph sheet, crayons, bulletin board space; Activity #2: pumpkin cycle sheet, crayons, paper plates (optional), pumpkin seeds (optional).

ACTIVITIES:

Activity #1: Have your students complete "Pumpkin Patch Glyph" by asking them the questions on the accompanying sheet. When all have completed their sheets, post them on a bulletin board with a key to the symbols used so children can analyze the data their class collected.

Activity #2: Have your children make their own "Pumpkin Circle". Talk with your students about what a seed needs to grow: sun, rain/water, and soil. Talk about the difference between dirt and soil; dirt is something we don't want versus soil is something plants need. You may wish to use the sheet or use paper plates. For paper plates: Fold the plate in half; open it up and fold it in half again the other way. Open it up and the plate is divided into four quarters! Have your students label each quarter according to the sheet (for Prek - I make labels for them on the computer). Have them draw or paste illustrations on each quarter to show the cycle.

Optional Activity for older students: to move to percentages, string 100 colored beads on a piece of yarn or string in groups of ten -- you don't have to have ten different colors, but you should have ten of one and then ten of another for ease in counting. Tie the ends of the yarn together and place on the floor in a circle shape. In

the center of this circle, cross two pieces of rope (about 20 feet long). You are going to make a pie graph. Have your students stand in a circle around the beads. Have them stand with the people who like the same kind of treat as they -- all the caramel apples, all the popcorn balls, all the candy corn, all the other. Extend the ropes so that they stretch between the groups; straighten your ropes and you have a pie graph. The place where the rope intersects the 100 bead circle marks off the various percents. Count the number of beads and there is your percent!

SOURCE: Activity #1: O'Connell, Susan R. Glyphs: Data Communications for Primary Mathematicians. Torrance, CA, c1997. ISBN#1564176630 Good source for glyphs for various occasions and to support various books.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 1.10, 1.11

NCTM: 1a, 1c, 2a, 2c, 3a, 4a, 4c, 4d, 4e, 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b, 6d, 10a, 10b, 10c, 10d, 11a, 11b, 13c

SCS: A1, C2, C3

Hubbell, Will. Pumpkin Jack. [* Hub] Morton Grove, IL Albert Whitman & Company, c2000. ISBN#0807566659 In the course of one year, a jack-o-lantern, discarded after Halloween, decomposes in the backyard and eventually grows new pumpkins from its seeds.

Levensen, George. Pumpkin Circle; The Story of a Garden. [635 Lev] Photos by Shmuel Thaler. Berkeley, CA: Tricycle Press, c1999. ISBN#1582460043 Rhyming text and photographs follows a pumpkin patch as it grows and changes from seeds, to pumpkins ready to harvest, to jack-o-lanterns, and then to seeds again.




Yacowitz, Caryn. Pumpkin Fiesta. [* Yac] Illus. by Joe Cepeda. NY: HarperCollins, c1998. ISBN#06060276584 Hoping to win a prize for the best pumpkin at the fiesta, Foolish Fernando tries to copy Old Juan's successful gardening techniques, but without really watching to see how much effort and love she puts into her work. The book includes a recipe for pumpkin soup.

Pumpkin Patch Glyph



1. Have you ever eaten pumpkin seeds?

	yes	no
stem color	brown	green









2. Do you like pumpkin pie?

	yes	no	don't know
mouth			

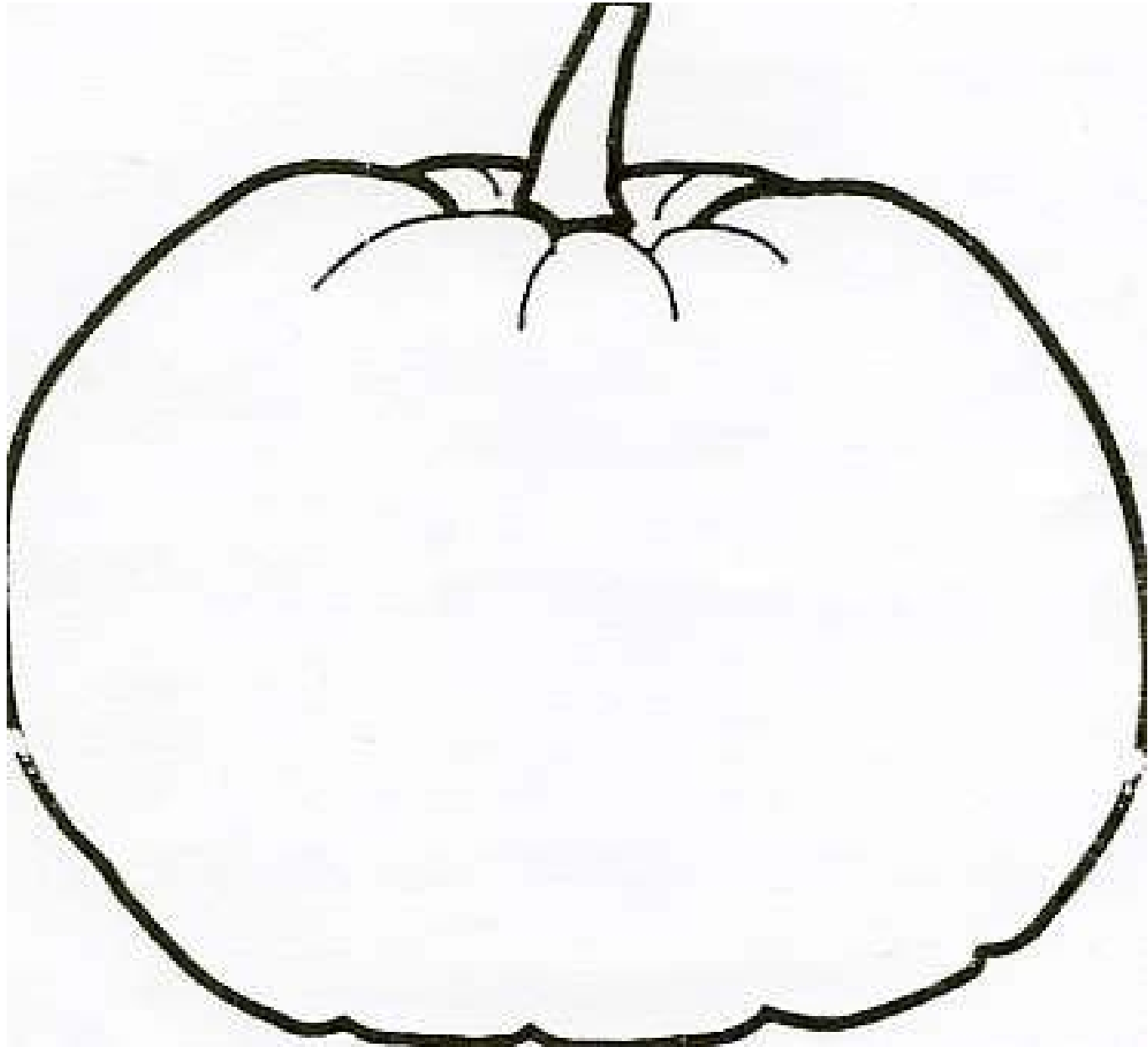
3. Do you like scary or happy jack-o'-lanterns?

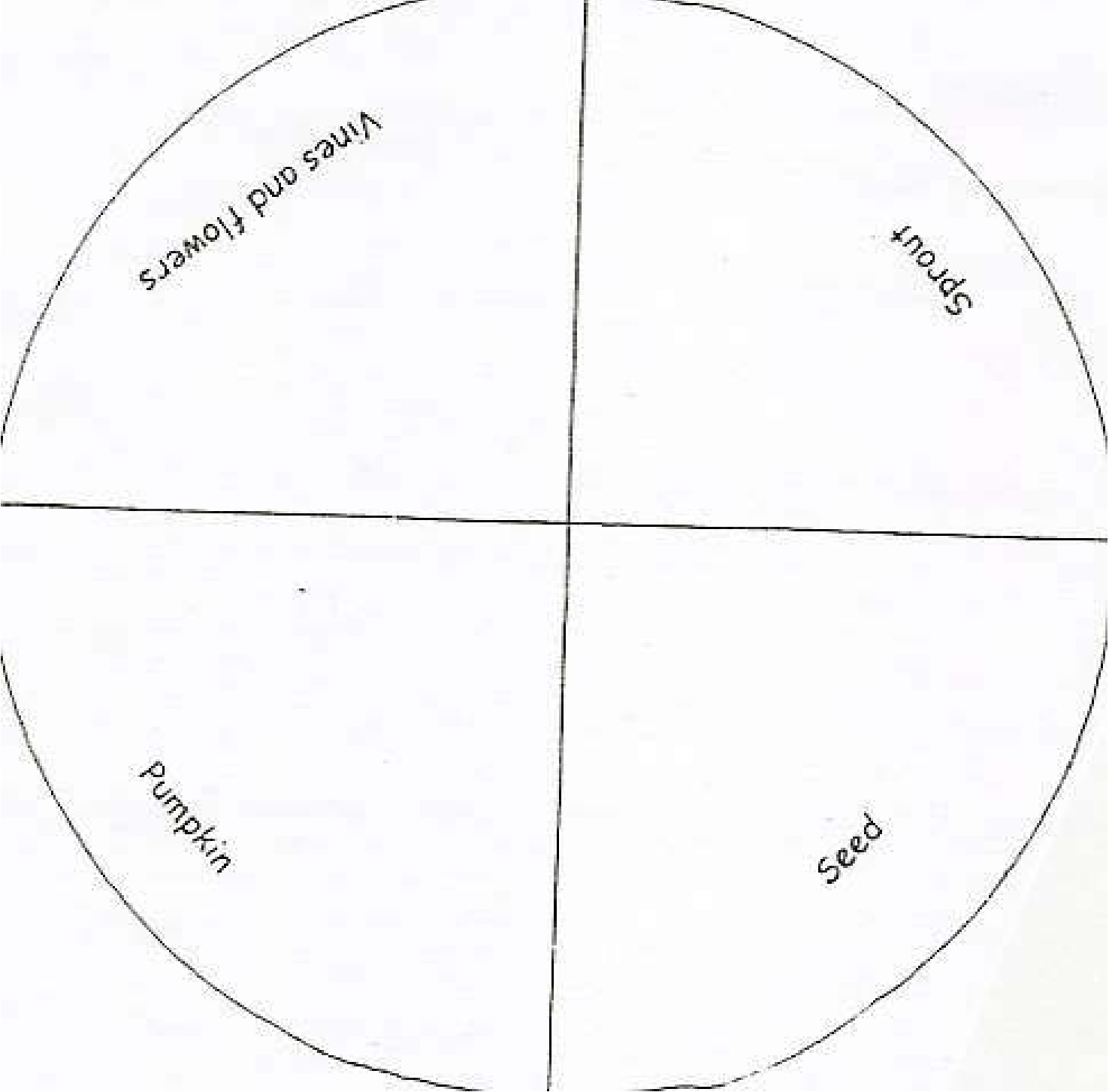
	scary	happy
nose		

4. What is your favorite fall treat?

	caramel apples	popcorn balls	candy corn	other
eyes	 	 	 	 

Now, color your pumpkin.





Vines and flowers

Sprout

Pumpkin

Seed