

Pumpkins!

Estimation and Dissection

You will need:

- Newspaper or Shower Liner
- Fan-fold Pumpkin Book, printed for each child
- Yarn or String
- Scissors
- Scale
- Bucket or Sink of Water
- Sharp Knife or Carving Set
- Large Spoon or Scoop
- Bowl or Colander
- Olive Oil
- Salt
- Rimmed Baking Sheet

Preparation:

- Wash the exterior of the pumpkin to remove pesticides and pat dry.
- Line the area with newspaper or a shower liner.

Estimation & Dissection:

Give each child the fan-fold pumpkin book.

1. Point out the stem of the pumpkin. Explain that this is where the pumpkin was attached to the vine. Review the life cycle of the pumpkin.
2. Count with the children to see how many creases the pumpkin has. Record the information in the book.
3. Have the children feel the pumpkin. Ask them to describe what they feel. Remind them that this is the skin of the pumpkin.
4. Have children cut a string that they think would go around the pumpkin. Allow each child to see if they were correct. Use a string to measure the circumference of the pumpkin. Record that information in the book.
5. Allow the children to guess how much the pumpkin weighs. Weigh the pumpkin and record the information in the book.
6. Ask the children if they think the pumpkin will sink or float. Test the pumpkin and record the information in the book.
7. Have the children estimate how many pumpkin seeds are inside the pumpkin. Slice the pumpkin open. Allow each child to reach inside the pumpkin. Scoop out the strings and seeds. Remind the children that this is called the fibrous strings or the brain of the pumpkin. Count the seeds. Record the number in the book.
8. Invite the children to taste a portion of the pumpkin from the underside of the cut. Remind the children that this is the pulp. Ask them to describe the taste.
9. Clean, dry and cook the seeds with oil and salt.
10. Roast the remainder of the pumpkin and then scrape out the pulp to use for cooking.



How many creases does the pumpkin have?

What is the circumference of the pumpkin?

What does the pumpkin weigh?

Does the pumpkin float?

How many seeds does the pumpkin have?

How does the pulp taste?
