

How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

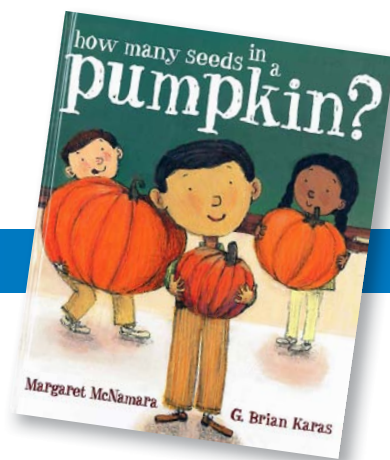
Themes: Fall, Counting, Estimation

Grade Level: K to 1st grade

Book Brief: With the help of his teacher, Charlie discovers that good things really do come in small packages.

Author: Margaret McNamara

Illustrator: G. Brian Karas



TIME TO READ!

Before reading, make connections: Have you ever carved a pumpkin with your child before? What was it like inside? When do you usually see pumpkins?

While reading, make predictions: Let your child guess which pumpkin holds the most seeds. Have them explain their reasoning.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Based on the number of hands, how many kids are in Mr. Tiffin's class?
- ◆ Why do you think the class lines up by size?
- ◆ Is this classroom like your classroom at school?
- ◆ Did you learn anything new about pumpkins?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

PUMPKIN PUDDING PIE

Ingredients: graham cracker square, vanilla pudding cup, 1 T. pumpkin pie mix*, whipped topping

Crumble graham cracker into bottom of a bowl. Mix the pumpkin pie mix into the pudding cup until blended. Spoon mixture on top of the crumbled graham cracker. Top with whipped topping.

**If only making one pudding pie, use the rest of the mix to make a real pumpkin pie. Let your child help measure and mix ingredients. Discuss the smell, taste, and texture of the real pie.*

SEED ART

Materials: clean pumpkin seeds, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, bowls, newspaper

Pour alcohol into bowls. Put a few drops of food coloring in each bowl. The more food coloring you use, the darker the seeds will be. Place seeds in each bowl and let them sit until they reach the desired color. Drain and place on newspaper to dry overnight. Use the colored seeds to create pictures and patterns.

PUMPKIN PATCH

Visit a local farm that grows pumpkins in the fall. Look at the pumpkin vines. What do you notice about them? Estimate how many pumpkins are grown at the farm. Count how many pumpkins are in one row or in the pumpkin bin. Ask an employee how long it took for the pumpkins to grow. If there's no pumpkin patch near you, look at the pumpkins at a local grocery store or farmer's market.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PUMPKINS

Pumpkins, Ken Robbins (2006), *Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden*, George Levenson (2002), *Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie*, Jill Esbaum (2009), *The Very Best Pumpkin*, Mark Kimball Moulton (2010).



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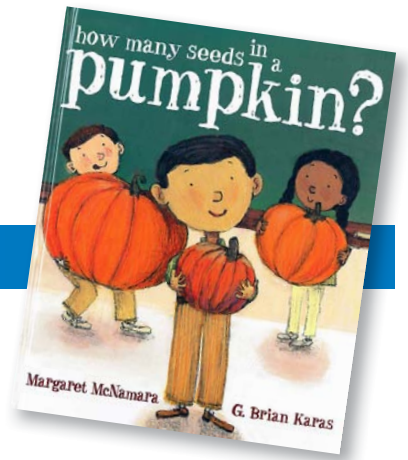
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Content Connections: Math, Science



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have children predict what the book will be about based on the title

and the front cover illustration. What do you notice about the pumpkins the children are holding? Where are they?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk. Ask the students to guess which pumpkin will have the most seeds based on the illustrations.

Prior Knowledge: How many students have ever scooped out a pumpkin? What was inside? What did it feel like? What kind of plant is a pumpkin? Why is it full of slimy pulp?

Vocabulary: blackboard, smocks, caps, slimy, stringy

Purpose for Reading: "As we read, focus on making connections. How does Mr. Tiffin teach his class to count? How are the strategies his class uses to count like ones we use in our class?"

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Why do you think the children line up by size?
- ◆ What is another word for guessing an amount?
- ◆ Which pumpkin do you think holds the most seeds? Why?
- ◆ Why is Charlie the only student in the tens group?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "What strategies did Mr. Tiffin's class use that we also use in our classroom? Give some examples of when we use them and why."

Extending Our Thinking: Ask these open-ended questions: "What can you *infer*—or figure out—about Robert from the story?" "Why did Mr. Tiffin choose those particular pumpkins?" "Which group would you have been in? Why?" "Does Charlie change from the beginning of the story to the end? How?" "What did you learn about pumpkins from this story?"

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE

PUMPKIN PROPERTIES

Materials: pumpkins, scale, ruler or measuring tape, paper

Place students in small groups and ask them to be scientists by observing a pumpkin. Encourage them to look at, touch, smell, weigh, and measure the pumpkin. Have them draw a sketch of their group's pumpkin. Record their responses on a class chart labeled "Our Pumpkin on the Outside." As a class, have students guess what the pumpkins will be like inside based on the story and past experience. Cut the top off each group's pumpkin. Have students explore the inside of the pumpkin using their senses. Record their responses on a class chart labeled "Our Pumpkin on the Inside." Weigh the pumpkin without the seeds and compare to previous weight.



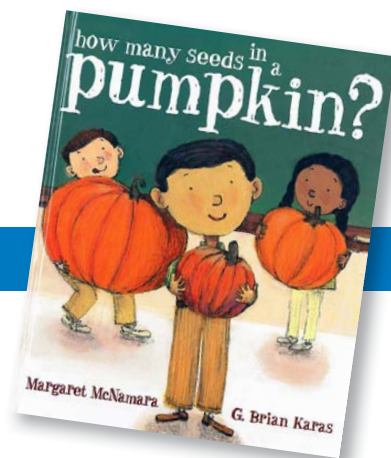
TECHNOLOGY (E)BOOK 'EM

Visit <http://itunes.apple.com/cn/app/maria-counts-pumpkins-laz/id341378571?mt=8> to download a free app for *Maria Counts Pumpkins*, a Level A reader. Maria is sitting on the steps of her apartment building when her relatives decide to stop by and bring her pumpkins. She quickly runs out of room to sit!

ENGINEERING PUMPKIN ROLL

Materials: at least 2 pumpkins, small hill or foam board/wood to make a ramp, scale, measuring tape

Explore the laws of gravity with a pumpkin roll! Use at least two pumpkins, which should be round enough to roll easily. Weigh and measure each pumpkin with the students. If you do not have a small hill, you can make a ramp from wood or foam board and blocks.



Have students predict which pumpkin they think will reach the bottom of the ramp first and explain their reasoning. Try several "runs" of this experiment to allow all students to participate and to accurately determine the fastest pumpkin. Compare results to student predictions and discuss. Why did the race turn out the way it did?

ART SEED ART

Materials: pumpkin seeds, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, bowls, newspaper

Pour alcohol into bowls. Put a few drops of food coloring in each bowl. The more food coloring you use, the darker the seeds will be. Place seeds in each bowl and let them sit until they reach the desired color. Drain and place on newspaper to dry overnight. Use the colored seeds to create pictures and patterns.

MATH PUMPKIN PROBLEM SOLVING

Use die-cut pumpkins to write personalized pumpkin problems. Use during small group math so problems can be differentiated. Let each student pick a pumpkin problem card to read to the small group to solve either alone or together. Encourage multiple strategy use and ask students to share solutions.

Sample Problems:

Level 1 - Jaden has 1 pumpkin. His mom brings home 2 more pumpkins. How many pumpkins does Jaden have?

Level 2 - Kristina has 8 pumpkins. Her brother has 2. How many pumpkins do they have together?

Level 3 - Radha needs 7 pumpkins. She has 4. How many more does she need?



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A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Fall, Counting, Estimation

Grade Level: K to 1st grade

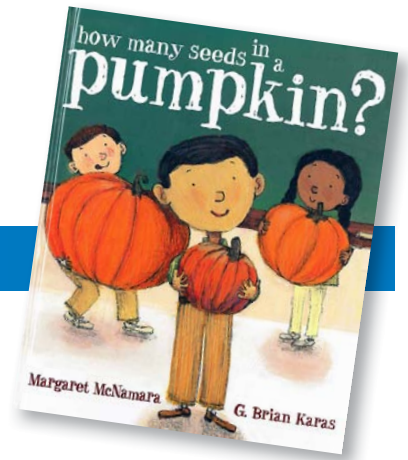
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TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask how many of the children have ever cut open a pumpkin. Let children share what they found inside. Explain that today they are going to read about a little boy who finds out that being small isn't a problem.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Bring in a couple of pumpkins. Like in the story, let the children dig out the seeds, separate them from the pulp, and wash them to use for the following activities.

PUMPKIN PROPERTIES (AGES 5-12)

Ask children to make observations about the outside of the pumpkin using their five senses. Record their responses on chart paper. Cut off the pumpkin top and let each child take turns scooping out the pulp. Again, ask them to use their five senses to observe the inside of the pumpkin. Record their responses. Compare the inside and outside: What is the same? What is different?

PUMPKIN SEED SNACK (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: 2 cups of pumpkin seeds, 2 T. butter, 2 T. soy sauce, salt

Let children help you measure out two cups of seeds. Melt butter in a skillet on medium heat. Add soy sauce and pumpkin seeds. Stir until brown. Sprinkle with salt. Let cool, then eat.

SEED ART (AGES 5-12)

Materials: pumpkin seeds, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, bowls, newspaper

Pour alcohol into bowls. Put a few drops of food coloring in each bowl.

The more food coloring used, the darker the seeds will be. Place seeds in each bowl and let sit until the desired color is achieved. Drain and place on newspaper to dry overnight. Let children use the colored seeds to create pictures and patterns.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PUMPKINS

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TECHNOLOGY LINK FOR KIDS

www.rif.org/kids

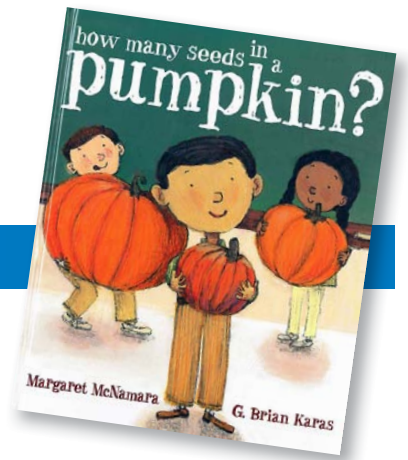


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A RIF VOCABULARY SCAFFOLD



contest: something you win, a bunch of people trying to beat each other, a competition



medium: not big but not small, in the middle



to scoop: to dig, get a big spoonful of something



messy: dirty, not neat



pulp: the soft, squishy parts inside a fruit or vegetable



to peer: to look at closely



stem: the part of a plant a fruit, vegetable, or flower grows out of



chilly: cool, cold



row: a line, things put next to each other neatly



vine: a long, thin plant that grows on the ground or climbs up trees and buildings

