

How a Pumpkin Grows

Name _____ Date _____

Words to Know

seed: a small part of a plant that can grow into a new plant

vine: a long stem that creeps along the ground or climbs

pollen: a yellow dust that flowers need to make seeds and fruit

1 A pumpkin starts as a flat, white seed. A farmer plants the seed in warm soil in late spring or early summer.

2 The seed takes in water. A tiny sprout pushes up out of the soil. Two small, round leaves open up.

3 The plant grows a long vine. The vine creeps along the ground. It grows big, wide leaves.



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4 Next, yellow flowers open on the vine. Bees fly from flower to flower. They carry pollen. A flower that gets pollen from a bee can grow into a pumpkin.

5 At first, the pumpkin is small and green. It grows bigger and bigger all summer. In the fall, most pumpkins turn orange.

6 It takes about three or four months for a seed to grow into a big pumpkin. Then it is ready to pick!

7 Inside every pumpkin are lots of new seeds. Each seed could grow a new pumpkin plant.

How a Pumpkin Grows: questions

What does a pumpkin start as?

A pumpkin starts as ...

What do bees carry from flower to flower?

Bees carry ...

What color is a pumpkin at first?

At first, a pumpkin is ...

Why are bees important for pumpkins?

Bees are important because ...

Main idea and details

In the text
Main idea
Detail
Detail
Detail

How a Pumpkin Grows: answer key

Question	Answer
What does a pumpkin start as? (in the text)	A flat, white seed.
What do bees carry from flower to flower? (in the text)	Pollen.
What color is a pumpkin at first? (in the text)	Green.
Why are bees important for pumpkins? (thinking)	They carry pollen, and a flower needs pollen to grow into a pumpkin.

	In the text
Main idea	A pumpkin grows from a seed to a sprout, a vine, a flower and then a pumpkin full of new seeds.
Detail	The seed sprouts and grows a long vine.
Detail	Bees carry pollen to the yellow flowers.
Detail	The small green pumpkin grows all summer and turns orange in the fall.

About this reading: an original informational text for grade 1 about plants, 148 words, fact-checked. Questions start with what the text says, then ask students to think.

Pumpkin Life Cycle

Number the stages from 1 to 6.



Flower: yellow flowers
open on the vine.



Seed: a flat white seed
goes into the soil.



Orange pumpkin: the
pumpkin grows big and
turns orange. Inside are
new seeds.



Sprout: a tiny plant
pushes up with two
leaves.



Green pumpkin: a small
green pumpkin grows
where a flower was.



Vine: the plant grows
long vines and big leaves.

Draw the pumpkin life cycle as a circle

Pumpkin Life Cycle: Key

row 1: 4 · row 2: 1 · row 3: 6 · row 4: 2 · row 5: 5 · row 6: 3