



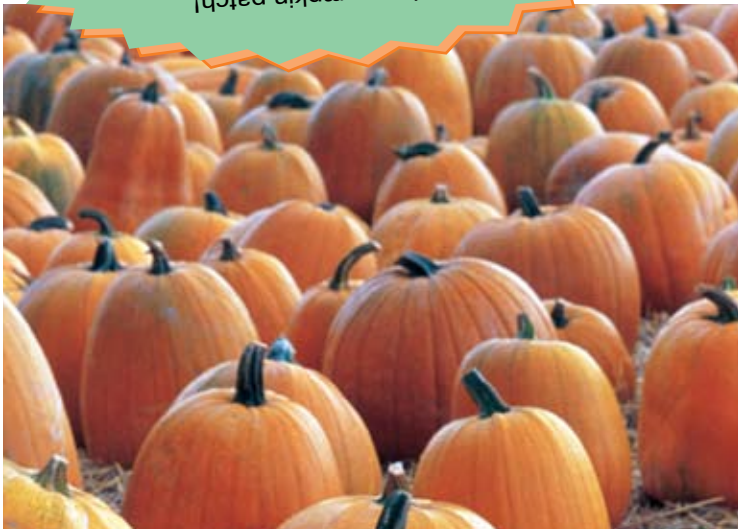
#1 in Pumpkins

Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world! In fact, they grow 90% of the pumpkins used for processing. Most of that processing takes place in **Morton, Illinois** – The Pumpkin Capital of the World.



Q: How do you mend a broken Jack-o-lantern?

A: With a pumpkin patch!



Pumpkin Blossom: Pumpkins grow on a vine. Through pollination, they start by growing inside a flower. Insects help pollinate pumpkin blossoms.



Mid Season Pumpkin: After pollination, a tiny green pumpkin starts to grow at the base of the flower. Over time, this bud grows in size and changes in color from green to yellow, and finally to orange.



Mature Pumpkin: Pumpkins are harvested when they are a deep, solid orange color and the rind is hard.

Pumpkins on Parade

Throughout Illinois, people celebrate pumpkins. In the months of September and October there are a variety of exciting pumpkin activities all over the state. Have you ever picked your own pumpkin out of the field? Many pumpkin farms in Illinois have acres of land for you to explore and pick your own perfect pumpkin right out of the patch. You can also discover the many varieties of pumpkins; some pumpkin farms have over 400 varieties!

Take the day and travel to one of Illinois' 71 pumpkin farms or even join in a festival. No matter where you end up, between the petting zoo, corn maze, shops and food, you are sure to enjoy all of the activities Illinois pumpkin farms have to offer. To find a pumpkin farm near you, go to www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/pumpkinfarms.cfm.

Trick or Treat, Smell My Feet

Did you know that trick or treating started in Ireland, too? People would leave treats for evil spirits who went door to door looking for food. If the spirits were not happy with the treats, they would play tricks on good people. Today, trick or treating means dressing up as spirits, ghosts and other creatures to get treats like candy and gum.

When it comes to candy and snacks, Illinois is a very sweet place to live. There are many candy and snack-making companies in Illinois. Illinois farmers grow many of the ingredients needed to make your favorite candy and snacks. Read the sentences below and follow the directions.

1. If you have visited a pumpkin patch, color the pumpkins orange. If you have not visited a pumpkin patch, color them red.
2. If you know where Tootsie Rolls are made, color the hay bales yellow. If you do not know where they are made, color them brown.

3. If you go trick-or-treating, color the scarecrow's hat purple and the face yellow. If you do not go trick-or-treating, color the hat blue and the face orange.
4. If you know where the Pumpkin Capital of the World is, color the leaves orange. If you do not know, color them green.
5. If you like pumpkin pie, color the rake brown. If you do not like pumpkin pie, color the rake green.
6. If you know where Kitchen Cooked chips are made, draw corn stalks in the background. If you do not know where they are made, draw a sun in the sky.
7. Butterfingers and Baby Ruth candy bars are made in Franklin Park, Illinois. If you have eaten a Butterfinger, color the scarecrow's pants blue and the shirt green. If you have not eaten one, color the pants red and the shirt orange.



Pumpkins and Halloween

Are Turnips Scary?

Have you ever carved a face into a pumpkin? Do you know how this tradition got started?

Jack-o-lanterns started centuries ago in Ireland.

People carved frightening faces into turnips, put a candle in them, and placed them in their windows to scare away an evil ghost. The ghost was called *Jack of the Lantern*.



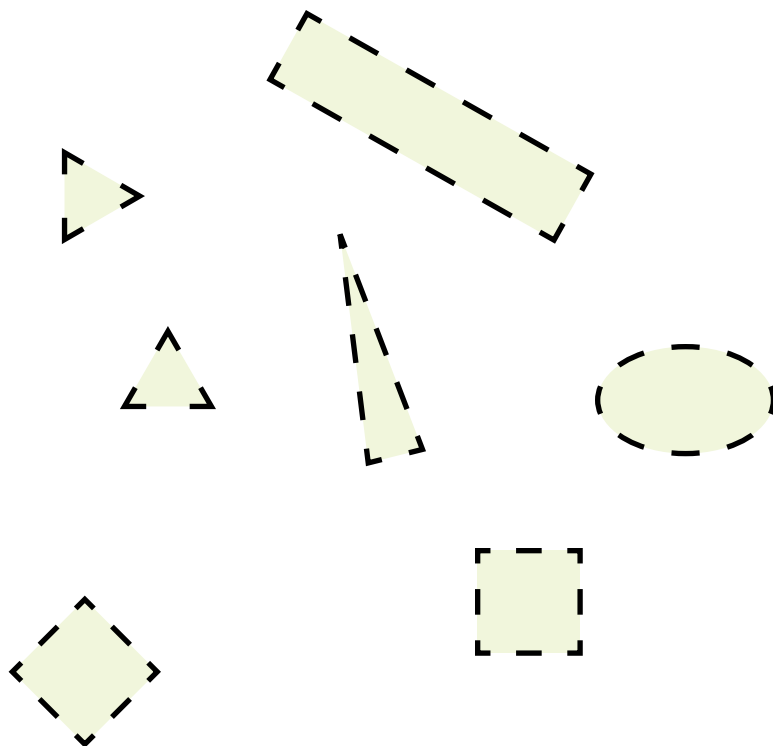
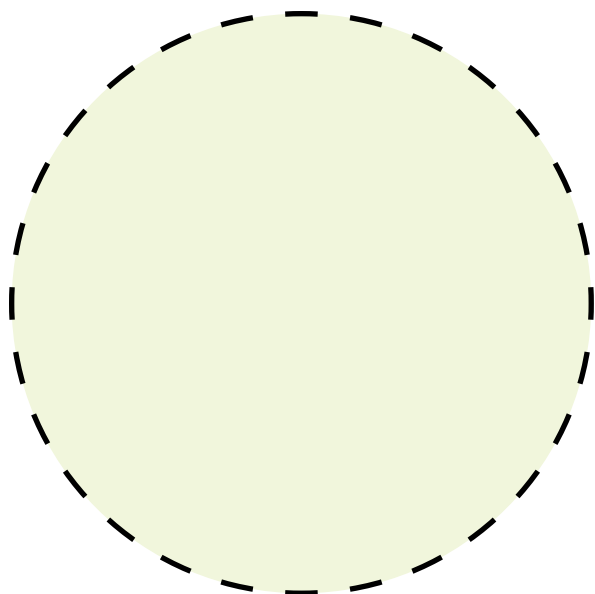
Can you guess what they found when they got here to America? That's right, pumpkins! Pumpkins are larger and easier to hollow out than turnips. An American tradition was born.



This Jack-o-lantern Is Shaping Up

Cut construction paper into these shapes to make a paper jack-o-lantern.

(Psst, here's a secret. Try overlapping these shapes to create new shapes.)

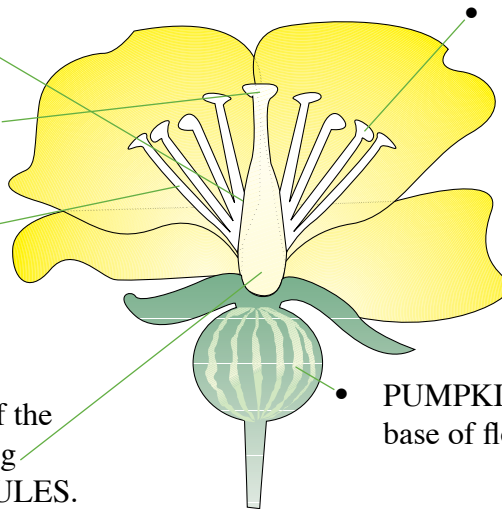


Pumpkins and Farming

Where Do Pumpkins Come From?

Did you know that pumpkins start to grow inside of flowers? Pumpkin plants have two type of flowers. One is a male flower and the other is a female flower (see illustration). If you cut a pumpkin flower in half, you would see many different parts.

- In the center of the flower is the **PISTIL**.
- The sticky part at the top of the pistil is the **STIGMA**.
- The parts of the flower around the pistil are the **STAMENS**.
- At the bottom of the pistil are tiny egg cells called **OVULES**.



Stamens make yellow powder called **POLLEN**.

PUMPKIN starts at base of flower.

Farmers Make New Kinds of Pumpkins

Sometimes pollen comes from a flower on a different pumpkin plant. This is called **CROSS-POLLINATION**. Cross-pollination can be harmful to some plants, but it is good for pumpkins. It can make them healthier and tastier.

Sometimes farmers cross-pollinate pumpkins on purpose to create a brand new kind of pumpkin. If a farmer takes pollen from a small yellow pumpkin and puts it on the flower of a large orange pumpkin, it might make a pumpkin that has seeds for a small orange pumpkin.

Different types of pumpkins are called **VARIETIES**. You probably see many varieties around Halloween. Some are small, colorful, and good for decorations. Some taste sweet and are good for pies. One variety is even white! It makes a neat ghost-looking jack-o-lantern.



This issue of Ag Mag has been provided by:



Answers to coloring activity: (2) Chicago IL, (4) Morton IL, (5) Bushnell IL

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