



The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin

By Joe Troiana and Susan Banta

The Spookley the Square Pumpkin song can be found here.

http://jeffzahnmusic.com/spookley_the_square_pumpkin/if_i_was_round.html

<http://www.spookley.com/>

http://www.spookley.com/for_kids.html The class can watch Spookley the Square Pumpkin video.

Vocabulary:

legend	gap	scene	patch	tottered
teased	dawn	hatched	polka-dot	flopped
wedged	blew	wrong	teetered	bruised
dense	budge	snapped	sown	vines
fright	capped	bay	variety	gawk
shell	gaze			

Multi-meaning words:

round	fair	filled	side	odd
odd	stack	bed	judge	curves
tight	blew	ton		

crash	crunch	bash	bang	slamming
thump	whack	crack	smack	

Language Arts:

Discuss with students the words that are past tense and have the -ed ending.

Discuss with students the contraction words. Make a list of them. Ex. can't can not

Discuss with students the fact that the book has many rhyming words – fright night
Away bay fro go

🎃 Students write stories and use the pumpkin shaped books to publish them. You may want to pick a specific theme or topic for students to write about.

Students create their own pumpkin. (See the Paper mache Pumpkins activity in The Arts section below.) Display the pumpkins in a “Classroom Pumpkin Patch” and assign a number to each pumpkin. Students then write a descriptive paragraph about their own pumpkin. From here you have a couple of choices: you can read each paragraph

aloud and have the students guess which pumpkin is being described, or you can have students swap paragraphs.

Students can create a journal of their pumpkin seeds. (See growing activity in the Science section below.)

Students write step-by-step directions on how to carve a pumpkin.

 Students can create a story about the “Day in the Life of a Pumpkin.” Here are two lined journal pages you can use with students.

Have students write pumpkin poems. (These could be displayed on a bulletin board.)

Students can write captions for the photos you take during the project.

Students create a pumpkin postcard. Depending on the age of your students you can have them create their postcards from a variety of point of views. There are several different options you can use to create the postcards:

1. Use an index card.
2. Visit Postcard Creator – allows you to create postcard and then print to add picture.
<http://www.readwritethink.org/materials/postcard/>
3. Send an E-Postcard form PBS for Kids (doesn't allow for as much personalization.)
<http://pbskids.org/wayback/summer/postcard/index.html>

Students write an adventure story. The story may have to do with a pumpkin or some other fall-related or Halloween-related character. Consider having students publish their work at KidPub. <http://www.kidpub.com/>

Students use a shape book for writing about fall – shapes related to the activity: apple and barn. http://www.eduplace.com/rdg/hme/k_5/shapebook/toc.html

Graphic Organizers – Use in a variety of ways before, during, or after reading.
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/>

- *My pumpkin is very special because* Students' stories might include information about
 - their pumpkin's special qualities/abilities;
 - its likes and dislikes;
 - its friends and family life;
 - a special problem it encountered; or
 - a day that didn't go so well.
- Older students might use this [Halloween Story Planner](#) to help them plan the characters and conflicts they will include in their stories.

Writing:

Students can design their own "new/legendary" pumpkin, give it a name, and write a short story about its life.

Have students write about the different feelings that "Spookley" experiences throughout the book.

Have the students write another ending to the story of "Spookley".

Have students write the story elements of the book: Characters, setting, problem, solution, and ending.

<http://teachersshare.scholastic.com/resources/13307> (lesson plan) Read The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin. Discuss throughout the story how Spookley was feeling and students can share similar experiences. At the end of the story, discuss how Spookley "saved the day." Students then create their own Spookley (jack-o'-lantern) out of large popsicle sticks glued together to form a square. Use orange and black paint or markers. Students can use green construction paper to cut out the top and stem, then glue it on. Brown or green ribbon can be used to create a vine look and also a hanger so the students can take them home to hang up around their house.

Math:

Make various vines from paper or cut green ribbon. Have the students put them in order from longest to shortest. Have the students measure the vines to see how long they are using inches and feet.

Discuss with students the various geometric shapes that are used to create the pumpkins in the story. What are the characteristics of each shape? Ex. a cube has four equal sides. Can the shape slide and/or roll? Ex. a circle can roll but not slide.

Discuss with students the differences between 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes.

- Once your students have collected the data for the three pumpkins, have them find the average for each category.
- Have students count the lines on each of the three pumpkins. After recording these numbers, students can also find the average number of lines per pumpkin.

- Challenge: Students take the total circumference of all three pumpkins together to calculate how many pumpkins they would need to travel around the Earth.
- To help students practice their measuring skills, they can measure the distance between lines on the pumpkin.
- While looking at your data, discuss odd/even numbers, along with divisibility rules, factors, etc.
- Create a graph of the pumpkin data collected. (See the activity suggestions in the Technology section below.)
- Students can practice their geometry skills. After students have completed their cleaning and counting, have them make suggestions of specific geometric shapes for the eyes, nose and mouth. You, or the students, can then draw those shapes on the pumpkin.
- Students create a Venn Diagram comparing two, or all three, of the pumpkins.
- Have students convert measurements between the standard system and the metric system.
- Provide students with a variety of objects that they can use to practice finding the circumference.
- BIG Pumpkins! - Read a chart and solve word problems about big pumpkins.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp323-03.shtml
- Pumpkin Puzzler - Students put their math thinking in writing with this pumpkin puzzler.
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp323-05.shtml
- Jack-o-Lantern Glyph - The glyph can be simply colored on the handout, using the legend, or students may cut construction paper shapes to create jack-o-lanterns. (PDF)
<http://www.mathwire.com/glyphs/jolglyph.pdf>
- Pumpkin Math - Each of these activities capitalize on students' love of pumpkins.
<http://www.mathwire.com/themes/themepumpkin.html>
- Pumpkin Glyphs - it uses pictures to tell a story about the data collected. This is a fun way for elementary students to compare information about themselves and their classmates.
<http://mrsschulmansspace.wikispaces.com/Pumpkin+Glyphs>
- Positive/Negative Math - This is a great way to teach symmetry and positive/ negative at the same time!

<http://www.kinderteacher.com/OctoberMathIdeas.htm>

Social Skills: Students can help identify Character Counts traits that Spookley displayed throughout the story.

Last year, Spookley the Square Pumpkin teamed up with PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center by lending his message of tolerance and kindness to a public service announcement promoting National Bullying Prevention Month in October. This year, they are teaming up to bring Spookley's messages directly into the classroom with a free digital teacher toolkit.

"*The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin* deals with advanced concepts of tolerance, diversity and acceptance in ways that are easily understood by early learners," said Julie Hertzog, director of PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center. "Teachers can use this toolkit to help prevent bullying before it even starts." PACER Center is hosting the online toolkit, which provides links to free resources that teachers can use for important character values education and for multi-subject learning. Teachers can register for the program at <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/activities/toolkits/spookley/>.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Discuss with students the celebrations and traditions that are used during Halloween.

Discuss with students the similarities and differences of each other and of accepting those differences.

Discuss with students the various emotions that Spookley feel throughout the book.

Discuss with students the time line using the life cycle of the pumpkin.

Discuss with students the cause and effect that happen in the story. Ex. the storm caused the pumpkins to roll. the pumpkins bumped into each other and caused the others to roll.

- Students create a timeline of a pumpkin's life cycle. (Software notes below.)

- Using reference books, the Internet, and/or magazines, students can learn about the history and/or the uses of pumpkins.
- Pumpkin Globe - Help students identify longitude and latitude on maps and globes to create a globe using a pumpkin.
<http://fga.freac.fsu.edu/resources/1994/pumpkin.htm>

- **SCIENCE**

Students can grow pumpkin seeds. They can journal and sketch the growing process of the seeds and plants.

(Here is a link to a site with growing tips:

<http://www.sadako.com/pumpkin/activities.html>)

- Students research the life cycle of a pumpkin.
- Pumpkin Science - This lesson gives English language learners a background in how plants grow. It also provides them with practice in estimating and in predicting outcomes.
<http://www.everythingsesl.net/lessons/pumpkinscience2.php>
- Leftover Pumpkin Experiments - Use this experiment to see how a pumpkin rots.
http://kidsactivities.suite101.com/article.cfm/leftover_pumpkin_experiments
- Pumpkin Science - A lesson for parts of a seed and a plant book.
<http://www.kinderteacher.com/PumpkinScience.htm>
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Discuss with students about the weather and the seasons, the characteristics of each season.

Discuss with students the different foods that you can use the pumpkin to make.

Discuss with students the various types of eco systems and habitats.

- **TECHNOLOGY**

Use software like Excel or Graph Club to have students create various types of graphs to show the pumpkin data they collected. If you don't have either of these software titles, you can use this free online resource: <http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/default.aspx>

- Students use Timeliner software to create a timeline of a pumpkin's life cycle.
- The Great Pumpkin Detectives - A WebQuest for Kindergarten students.
<http://www2.lhric.org/kat/PMPKS.HTM>
- Here are a few different online carving sites.
Virtual Pumpkin Carving (Flash Needed)- <http://www.ncs->

tech.org/pub/carve_pumpkin.swf

Spookathon.com - <http://www.spookathon.com/halloween/pumpkin-carver.php>

Virtual Carving -

<http://www.cyberhaunt.com/site/fun/attractions/pumpkin.html>

(You may want to see the "My Pumpkin Story" in the writing section above.)

- Pumpkin Multiples - You know your multiplication facts and you've been step counting for years. This game tests that knowledge by challenging you to choose multiples from a series of falling numbers. Use the arrow keys to move the ghost left and right.

<http://www.mathplayground.com/multiples.html>

- Students complete a Wacky Web Tale online (like a MadLib) that is related to fall and Halloween:

The Best Town in the World Has a Fall Festival:

http://www.eduplace.com/tales/content/wwt_056.html

A Detective for Halloween:

http://www.eduplace.com/tales/content/wwt_050.html

The Haunted Tower:

http://www.eduplace.com/tales/content/wwt_035.html

Why I Love Fall:

http://www.eduplace.com/tales/content/wwt_049.html

Main Wacky Web Tales page: <http://www.eduplace.com/tales/>
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- **THE ARTS**

Paper mache Pumpkins - Students paper mache a balloon to create their own pumpkin. Ask for students to brainstorm how they can create a stem at the top of the balloon. Once the pumpkin is dry, students can use orange, green and black paint to decorate their pumpkin. You can create a class pumpkin patch. (See the writing extension activity above.) We would love to see photos of your patch!

- Hang a Jack-O'-Lantern Mobile - Create unique pumpkin mobiles to hang from the ceiling.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp323-04.shtml

- Harvest/pumpkin Poems and Songs - This is a great collection of songs and they don't mention Halloween.

<http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/202.html>

- Pumpkin Crafts - Basic and fun crafts that are pumpkin-themed.

http://www.first-school.ws/theme/mini_theme/pumpkins.htm

- Pumpkin Seed Mosaic - An artistic way to use the pumpkin seeds you have counted.

<http://www.kinderart.com/sculpture/pumpkin.shtml>

- Pumpkin Sewing Card - Cute sewing card for little hands. Print on tagboard and laminate for longer use. (PDF)
http://www.abcteach.com/free/p/pumpkin_sewingcard.pdf
- Silly Pumpkins: Just for Fun (Or Fund-Raising) - Have fun -- and raise funds -- with pumpkins. Get decorating ideas too!
http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/03/lp323-01.shtml
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- **BULLETIN BOARDS**

Create a bulletin board to display your pumpkin stats – you can even tape up the strings from the measuring.

- 🎒 Students post the pumpkin shaped books/stories from the language arts section on a bulletin board. Use other cutouts and paper to decorate the board to create a pumpkin patch look. One great way to do this is to take long sheets of green butcher paper and twist it to create vines. (Use any of the pumpkin printables we have provided or ones available on the [Halloween Printables](#) page.)
- Post completed glyphs from the math section on a bulletin board.
- 🎒 Take photos of your students and print them out. Use the pumpkin shapes below, cutting out the mouth region and mounting your students' photos from the back side of the pumpkin. (It will appear that they are in the pumpkin.)



[Basic pumpkins activity page](#) (Color)

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[Pumpkin Coloring Page](#) (B&W)



[Jack-o-lantern Coloring Page](#) (B&W)

Here are a few recipes that you may want to use for the pumpkin seeds after you get done counting them.

<http://www.recipetips.com/recipe-cards/t--1938/roasted-pumpkin-seeds.asp>
<http://homecooking.about.com/library/archive/blv14.htm>

Pumpkins at Enchanted Learning - An incredible collection of activities and resources.

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/pumpkin.shtml>

Pump Up the Curriculum With Pumpkins - Jump into pumpkin facts and pumpkin lore. Try pumpkin science, pumpkin math, pumpkin writing.

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson028.shtml

Kindergarten Kapers Pumpkin Unit - A fun Kindergarten unit that includes songs, recipes and activities.

<http://cbauder.tripod.com/newpage21.htm>

Pumpkin Unit - A great collection of lessons geared toward 2nd grade.

<http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/elemath/mug2.html>

Pumpkins and More! - Learn the history of pumpkins, how they grow, fun, and more.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/pumpkins/>

Pumpkins Theme - This is a Kindergarten theme that includes activities across the curriculum.

<http://www.kinderthemes.com/pumpkins.html>

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