



Halloween is one of the favourite celebrations for children - and teachers. There are lots of art opportunities, ways to correlate Halloween with the concepts you are teaching throughout the curriculum, a party, decorations, costumes and the excitement of the children to make the time great fun.

These are ideas from teachers. They were first seen in the Share-One, Share-Two and Share-K magazines that we published many years ago. Good ideas, however, never grow old!

Have fun!

Pumpkin Learning, Pumpkin Art

The children make paper bag pumpkins. They stuff a brown lunch bag and tie the top with a green pipe cleaner. Then they paint the bags orange and the 'stems' green. I make a bulletin board of a pumpkin patch. The children paint the vines and I staple their paper bag pumpkins onto them. Sometimes I add plastic grass (basket grass) to the board. It makes a 3-D pumpkin patch. Tip: If you don't paint faces on them they can stay in the hallway during November, too!



Pumpkin Mosaics

Give each child a paper plate, a sheet of orange construction paper, brown construction paper to make a stem, and green construction paper for the leaf. Show children how to tear orange paper into tiny pieces, then glue the pieces onto the bottom of the paper plate. Ask them to cover the bottom of the plate completely in orange. After they have finished, they may add the stem and leaf near the top of their pumpkin. They could also use torn pieces of black construction to add facial features.

Try carving the pumpkin on its side so the stem becomes the nose!

Stack different sized pumpkins with knitting needles between them to stabilize them to make an orange 'snowman' ...or a BOOman...or You can make up a story about how the three jack o'lanterns were scared and came up with a disguise.

Have the children paint paper plates orange. When dry, have each child glue on pieces of black construction paper for the facial features. You could try using glue to paint the facial features and sprinkle glitter, or various items (i.e. buttons, beans, noodles, pebbles) on the glue.

Collect pumpkin seeds from inside a pumpkin. Let them air dry and have the children use the pumpkin seeds to make a collage.

Make a pumpkin mural. Roll out long sheets of butcher paper and encourage children to draw pumpkin vines, flowers, sprouts, and green and orange pumpkins. You could use light brown paper so the back looks like soil, but the children's work still shows up. It makes a nice backdrop if you want to display the next project.

Read *The Pumpkin Book* from Scholastic or another book that tells the sequential story of the pumpkin from seed to fruit and back again.

Make a pumpkin story wheel. The pumpkin's life cycle forms a perfect activity is making a story wheel. Start with a circle and divide it into eight sections. In each section write part of the story. You will have to combine some of the pages. The students illustrate the sections and then cut out the wheel. Fasten the wheel to a paper plate in the middle with a brad. You could use orange styrofoam plates that are available this time of year, but white paper plates work, too, as the children can colour the edges with crayon. Staple a piece of green or brown construction paper to be the stem. Read the story wheel together by reading the section that is by the stem and then turning the wheel so that the next section is on top.

A Pumpkin Unit

You could start the unit with a mystery box. Decorate a large box and place a pumpkin inside. Have students ask questions and determine what you have hidden.

Have the students estimate the pumpkins weight, then actually weigh the pumpkin.

Have the students determine whether or not the pumpkin will float and test it out with a large tub of water.

Estimate the circumference of the pumpkin by having the students cut a piece of yarn that they think will fit around the pumpkin. Sort pieces by too short, too long and just right.

Estimate the number of seeds in the pumpkin. Open the pumpkin and clean it out. Wash, dry and save the seeds.

To keep the pumpkin fresher longer, wipe out the inside with bleach to retard the growth of mold. If you carve a jack-o-lantern face, rub the edges with petroleum jelly to retard shrinkage.

Count the pumpkin seeds into groups of ten and then put the tens together into hundreds to determine the total.

Soak some pumpkin seeds over night, cut them open and the students can see the tiny plant embryo inside the seed.

Have each student plant a pumpkin seed in a ziploc bag with a little dirt and water. Zip the bags tight, hang them up somewhere and they require no further maintenance. The bags will fog and then clear up and you can explain to your class how it is similar to clouds and rain. The ziploc bag is like its own little world. The other really awesome aspect of the bags is that you can see the seeds open and the roots grow down and the sprout grow up. Send the plants home shortly after they sprout, because they need to be transplanted.

Then we eat! Roast pumpkin seeds by spreading oil on a pan, spreading out seeds in a single layer, adding a little salt and paprika for colour, and roast at 400 degrees until brown. It only takes about 10 or 12 minutes. At a pumpkin recipe web site it said to roast them at 200 degrees for 1 hour. The children can write the steps for this process.



Make 'pumpkin pie in a baggie'. Pre-cook pumpkin chunks. Give each child a ziplock baggie and some pumpkin chunks. Add sugar, a bit of cream, cinnamon and nutmeg (you may want to try this first to see the amounts needed for the amount of pumpkin you are giving putting in each baggie), and then seal the baggie. The student mashes the pumpkin by squeezing the baggie until the ingredients are blended. The pumpkin is squeezed onto a graham cracker and squirt a bit of whipped cream on top.

A Pumpkin Glyph

If you haven't done glyphs with your class, this is a simple one to start. Start with a pumpkin shape. The students will decorate the pumpkin according to their answers on the following questions.



1. Have you ever eaten pumpkin seeds? If yes, stem is brown. If no, stem is green.
2. Do you like pumpkin pie? If yes, smile for mouth. If no, frown for mouth. If you don't know, crooked/zigzag mouth.
3. Do you like scary or happy jack-o-lanterns? If Scary, make a square nose. If happy, make a triangle nose.
4. What is your favorite fall treat? If caramel apples, triangle eyes. If popcorn balls, circle eyes. If candy corn, triangle eyes BUT turn them upside down. If it's some other item, square eyes.

These can be displayed along with little stories interpreting the glyph for others to read. Be sure to put the legend up so others will understand the reasoning for this activity and don't think it's just an art project.

Have your students tell the class about their glyphs, speaking in complete sentences. They would interpret a glyph such as: Travis has eaten pumpkin seeds. He does not like pumpkin pie. He likes scary jack-o-lanterns and candy corn is his favourite treat. Your students can be scientists and police officers because they have to compare, contrast and draw conclusions from their data.

I save my pumpkin seeds every October. I make seed packets that the kids decorate, and then I save them until spring. In the spring we plant them in milk cartons. Each child has the seed packet that they remember making in October. The plants grow well indoors and fairly quickly. One year I had a student bring in a pumpkin that he got off the plant after he went home and put it in the ground and let it grow all summer!

Pumpkin Lights

Brown lunch bags are painted orange. Eyes, nose, mouth are cut out and yellow tissue is inserted. The children were asked to bring a flashlight from home and we taped these to the bottom of our jack-o-lanterns. We have a hallway without windows where the children took their lantern lights. We turned out the lights and sang our Hallowe'en songs. There were a lot of 'ooo's and ahh's' from the children. We had to do this for several days upon the children's request.



Pumpkin Seeds...

Roast pumpkin seeds by spreading oil on a pan, spreading out seeds in a single layer, adding a little salt and paprika for colour (I like chili pepper at home, but I don't do that at school), and roast at 400 degrees until brown. It only takes about 10 or 12 minutes. You can also roast them at 200 degrees for 1 hour. I have also drawn the steps for this process which the children colour and assemble into a little book to take home.

Pumpkin Time!

There are so many activities you can do with a pumpkin! This is a great mini-theme.
How Many Seeds?

Cut the top off. Allow the class to scrape out the seeds. Clean the seeds and let them dry on newspaper at least 2 days.

1. Cut black construction paper into 5cm. x 8 cm. rectangles - approximately 150.
2. Cut a VERY large pumpkin out of orange paper, and put on bulletin board.
1. Show the class the seeds that they removed from the pumpkin. Each child will have the opportunity to estimate how many seeds there are. Write each child's name and their estimate on the board. The person who is closest wins the pumpkin.
2. Show the children how to glue 10 seeds on each rectangle, 2 vertical rows of 5 seeds.
3. After the glue is dry, have the children come up and help you put the rectangles on the pumpkin. Try to get 10 rectangles in each row. Work together to find the final tally.

Another Pumpkin Pie in a Baggy

Have each of your children spoon a few pieces of baked pumpkin (see below) into a Ziplock sandwich bag. Have each child measure 1 tsp. of sugar, a dash of allspice, and a dash of cinnamon into his bag. The children press the air out of their baggy and seal them shut. Then have the children squish their bags to mash the pumpkin and to mix the spices. Cut a corner from each bag and let the children squeeze the pumpkin mixture onto graham crackers. Top with Cool Whip.

A Pumpkin Day

I have a pumpkin day in October when everyone brings in a pumpkin. We spend the whole day with various pumpkin activities.

1. Sort the pumpkins as many ways as you can: size, color, stem or no stem, bumpy or smooth, painted or not, etc.
2. Weigh the pumpkins using a food scale or a balance scale. Put the pumpkins in order from smallest to largest.
3. Measure (using string) the outside of the pumpkins and put them in order from the skinniest to the fattest.
4. After all the comparisons are done, I put the pumpkins in the middle of the circle and we play a game where I choose a pumpkin in my head and the children try to guess which one it is by my clues.
5. I always bring in two pumpkins—one big and one small. We graph which one we think will have the most seeds and how many we think are in each. Bring in probability - use words such as "likely, not likely, most likely". I cut the pumpkins and we count by putting the seeds into piles of 10 on a paper that has 10 circles on it. Each time we fill the paper, we know that we have 100 seeds counted. Every year I have done this, the smaller pumpkin has the most seeds!
6. We cook the seeds in the oven or you could send them home with a student to be toasted and we eat them. .
7. Make pumpkin cookies, pie, or bread with the pumpkin or just cook it and add butter or brown sugar.
8. I give every student an award for his/her pumpkin at the end of the day. Categories could be: biggest, smallest, bumpiest, roundest, etc.



Pumpkin Seeds

I cook my seeds in the microwave. I add a little butter and salt. I don't have a time limit. I just watch for them to turn a darker colour and become crispy. The kids love them. I love using the microwave.

I bake my seeds. I take 2 tablespoons of butter and 1/2 teaspoon of Worcestershire sauce mixed together for every 2 cups of seeds. Spread the seeds on a cookie sheet and sprinkle with salt. Bake in a 250 degree oven for about 2 hours. They are yummy!

We were donated enough small pumpkins so each child could have one. The kids decorated their pumpkins with glitter glue, glue and glitter, feathers, paper, felt, materials, etc..., everything we could find!

Door Decorations

I have my class twist long strips of bulletin board paper (green) into vines. Then we staple them randomly all over the door. The children cut out all size pumpkins, stems and leaves. They make the lines on the pumpkin using red-orange crayons. It is very 3-D and very cute. It does not take more than 45 minutes. The vines really look like they are creeping all over the door. This year I used a black background.

I trace a pumpkin pattern out of tagboard, then the kids cut it out. I have about 5 different types of material, (plaids, little flowers, etc. in fall colours but mainly orange), that are about 2" by 2" , then they decorate the pumpkin like a patchwork quilt. We hang them on the door with thick green yarn, and a sign that says 'Welcome to our Pumpkin Patch!'

Do all your activities with your pumpkin and then after all the seeds are out and dried, make miniature paper pumpkins. Glue 10 seeds to each mini-pumpkin. Then take all the mini pumpkins and glue or tape them on in tens to a giant paper pumpkin. Circle each group of 100's and write the exact amount on the bottom in big numbers. Display it for parents and everyone to see. Before you do this, have the kids estimate and write down their estimates. Give a prize to the person who was closest. Happy Halloween planning!

Halloween Art

Spiders

"We discuss spider webs, and go outdoors to hunt for them. Then I draw a spider web on cardboard and go over it with fabric paint. When it is dry the children can make rubbings the same way they would do leaf rubbings."



"We learn to draw spiders. It begins with one circle, a little circle is added for the head, then 4 legs on each side. It is simple and the kids feel very smart!"

"Make spider webs with a marble! Have a large cake pan and tape a piece of black construction paper into the bottom. Then dip a marble in white paint and roll it around in the pan."

Make spider hats. All you need is a black band and eight accordion fold legs. Just add the features!

Spiders

"I love doing a spider unit, and always start it with the reading of 'Charlotte's Web'. I love to see kids who are terrified of spiders (and creepy crawlies) actually start looking for the critters during and after our study of spiders!"



Are you afraid of spiders? That fear is called Arachnophobia.

Spiders are not insects. Spiders have 8 legs and insects have 6. Most spiders have eight eyes, and they do not have antennae or wings. Spiders belong to a class of animals called arachnids. A spider's body is divided into two sections, the abdomen and the cephalothorax. The legs, eyes, and mouth parts are all in the cephalothorax. Most spiders have poison glands and fangs in their jaws, which they use to inject poison into insects. The venom paralyzes or kills their prey. Spiders usually have six fingerlike silk glands called spinnerets located beneath their abdomen. The silk comes from inside the spider's body as a liquid, thicker than water. When a spider wants to make a web, it squeezes the silk out of the two small holes at the back of its body called spinnerets. The moment it hits the air, the silk dries into a line that looks like a long strand of hair.

Trace around the left hand and the right hand with the fingers spread, leaving out the thumb. Cut them out and glue them together, overlapping the palms with the fingers to the sides as there are the spider's legs. The palm is the body. Add googly eyes.

Talk about all the different webs that you have seen. Then ask the children to make a web using spaghetti or yarn on black paper.

Make a glue and glitter spider web (make glue lines thick) using the extra pieces of laminating sheet as a base.

1. Glue a big plus sign. 2. Glue an X in the middle of the plus sign (like an asterisk *) 3. Glitter and let dry. 4. Glue a Spiral from middle of plus and X sign (like the @ sign). 5. Glitter and let dry. 6. Carefully peel spider webs from laminating and hang in window. 7. Don't forget to make a lovely paper spider to sit on the web.

"Have many lengths of string or yarn. The students can dip their string into a mixture of water and white glue and lay the pieces on wax paper, crossing in the centre. You may also want to add some glitter. Gently peel them off the wax paper when they are dry. You can add a dollar store plastic spider!"

"I did do a spider art project that turned out great. I had the students paint paper plates black - we had to do it in two parts so each side could dry. Then they added paper construction legs (I let them cut out the length and width they wanted) and they cut out circles for eyes and a mouth as well out of construction paper. I let them choose googly eyes, too, to put on the larger paper circles just for fun. Then we hung them from our ceiling with white yarn so it looked like they were climbing up a spider web. Overall it was an easy project but looked great once it was done."

"Supply the children with large black gum drops and eight toothpicks per child. Have the children push the toothpicks in the gum drops to represent the spiders legs."

Use a smaller and larger paper plate to make these spiders. Staple the smaller plate onto the larger plate, as if the smaller plate will be the spider's head. Have the child paint both sides black. Then add black streamers for legs and white construction paper for eyes. Hang them from the ceiling.



Have the children use a black non-toxic ink pad to make fingerprints on a piece of paper. Have the children draw on eight legs on their fingerprints to represent spiders.

"We cooked spaghetti, let it cool in water, and then laid it out over wax paper to make a web. It's really sticky and can frustrate the children a little (we used our pencil tips to help separate the spaghetti from our fingers). Then we dabbed white glue over any intersecting pieces. Once dry, the webs can be separated from the wax paper and hung up."

"I make a big spider to hang from the ceiling. The materials needed are: a balloon, a large black garbage bag, a small black garbage bag, a twist tie, and some tacks.

Blow up the balloon. Put it in the smaller garbage bag to make the body of spider. Cut off extra plastic and tie with a twist tie. Take the large garbage bag and cut lengthwise and open. Cut bag again lengthwise into four long strips. (legs) Attach the middle of the legs to the ceiling with tacks. Attach the balloon body over the legs. A tack can be used in the middle of each leg strip so that the legs have a joint and hang from the ceiling.

"It looks pretty spooky!"

"We made cute spiders out of handprints. Paint each hand black (exclude thumbs) and press them onto orange paper. Press one palm on top the other palm print. Four fingers stick out on each side and it's a spider! We used paper reinforcer stickers for eyes. We attached them to spider stories written by each student."

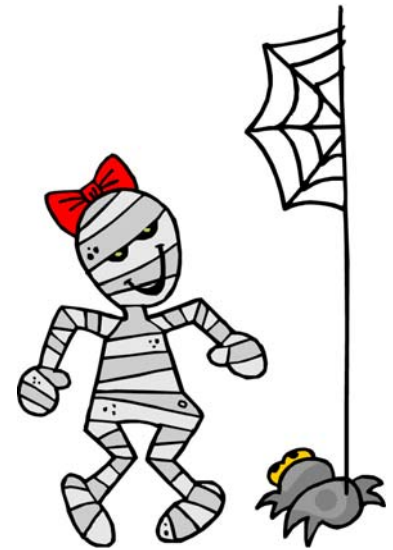
"Last Hallowe'en I made spider hats with my kids. They turned out really cute - we took a strip of black paper (a few inches wide) and made it into a band that would fit around the head, used orange and yellow squares (one smaller than the other) for eyes, then we took 8 strips (8" long and 1" wide) for the legs. We folded them accordion style then glued them to the hat band so that the legs stuck out from the top."

"Using a paper plate, I either punch holes around the plate or make slits around the plate - slits are easier for younger children. Then I give them some yarn and they weave back and forth and make a spider web. If you punched holes, it's helpful to put some scotch tape on one end of the yarn - making it easier for them to put the yarn through the holes. Afterwards, I give them each a spider ring to put in their web."

Glue spider web- have students draw a web on black paper and then trace it with glue. When it dries it looks like the web from *The Very Busy Spider*.

I have the children trace and cut two circles, fold and glue on 8 thin strips of paper and attach a string and hang from ceiling.

"Paint large styrofoam balls black. Once they dry.....use black pipe cleaners for legs and stick them in the balls. Then glue 'googly eyes' on. Afterwards, take a large needle and thread yarn up through the center to hang them. REALLY cute!"



"Another Spider activity we have done is to read some books on spiders, and then take a sheet of blue or black construction paper and a white crayon to draw spiderwebs after a brief demonstration on the board. They add details such as leaves, and 3-D paper spiders and tiny egg sacs and spiderlings. They always turn out really neat!"

Learn how a spider web is formed and draw a web.

"I like to make a spider web on my bulletin board with string and then have the kids make a spider out of a 2 sections of egg carton with 8 legs. Also with yarn I've built spider webs in the corner of the doorway. Using quilt batting spread thin is another way to get a spider web looking effect. I have the kids make a drawn spider web with a piece of paper to practice using a ruler for drawing straight lines. They connect the 4 corners through the middle and then connect the middle of the paper edges through the middle then they lay the ruler at the middle dot and connect two lines and then rotate the paper and connect each dot using the ruler to stay the width away from the center. Then they lay the ruler along each of those lines and connect the same lines higher up and keep going until the paper is full of an orb web. Then they make thumb print red spiders on their webs."

"Something I did that turned out cute was stuff a paper lunch bag with paper, turn over the top and staple shut. Paint it black. Take 8 strips of black paper and fold accordian style and glue on as legs. Cut out eyes and mouths from coloured construction paper and glue on. We hung them from the ceiling and they looked great!"

Dip marbles in white paint and roll them across a large black paper to make a web.

Other Spider Activities

Make a class web - Have the students sit in a big circle. I start with a ball of yarn and then roll it to a child while holding on to my end. That child then holds the yarn snugly and rolls the ball to another child and so on and so on. When everyone is holding part of the yarn, you have a big spider web!

This is a way to show that spiders must wait for the food to come to their web - they don't go out 'hunting'. Have each student draw a web on a 1/2 piece of paper or on a paper plate. They choose a location to place their web - somewhere on the carpet.

Then I use a hot air popper and pop some popcorn - with the lid off. The popcorn, representing the bugs, flies through the air (though not as far as you'd expect) and lands on some children's webs. Those kids (spiders) get to eat. You can then have them choose another place to put their web - it's not surprising how they all move into the zone the popcorn landed in. You get much fewer hungry spiders this time!

Make spiders with Oreos and licorice legs. The kids love them.

Spider Webs

Google 'spider webs' for lots of great information.

"I had the children use white glue to make a web on black paper. Then we sprinkled glitter on the glue. It was GREAT! The glue dried clear so the webs were formed of glitter. We had a lot of people stopping by to see our webs."



"I made webs out of spaghetti and glue. I made 2 lbs. of spaghetti the night before. The next morning I mixed it with glue. (I didn't measure any amount, just made it sticky.) Then in small groups the kids rotated through 3 different 'Spider' centers, so I was able to work with just 6 kids. We had previously learned how to draw webs, so they didn't need instruction on forming the web. I put them on waxed paper that was on top of black 11 x 14 paper (the idea that I read said that they should harden enough so you could lift them off the paper and hang them, but I was worried that that wouldn't happen so I put the black as a background. Then the kids sprinkled the clear 'angel dust' glitter onto the webs. They were wonderful. Even if they didn't lift off the wax paper, they were on the black background."

Ghosts

"The children paint each other's foot with white paint and they step on a piece of black construction paper. This makes a great ghost shape - the heel is the head and the toes the bottom of the 'skirt'. Add a moon and a crayon fence and a small pumpkin - they make wonderful Hallowe'en pictures!"



'To make a neat ghost: Use a toothpick to attach a small styrofoam ball to the top of a styrofoam cone. Use popsicle sticks for arms. Dip a square of white cloth (handkerchief size) in liquid starch and then drape it over the ghost shape. Let dry over night. Add googly eyes the next day! These make great ghosts. Try making a really large one!"

"One of my favourites is very fast and easy, but so cute! You make a pattern of a ghost head on tagboard, a rounded head sloping out to a shoulder width. We used a pattern to trace in centres, but you could run off an outline on white construction paper. The kids cut it out and give it two eyes of black crayon or construction paper. Then you take white kitchen garbage can liners and make cuts up so they are like streamers hanging down for the ghosts body. Kind of a wind sock effect. Staple them on and you have very little mess. Hang them up and they move in the breeze!"

"Supply each child with two pieces of tissue paper and a piece of string or yarn. Have each child ball up one of the tissues, then place it in the centre of the second tissue. Next, have the children work in pairs to tie the yarn around the second tissue to hold the balled tissue to form the ghost's head. The children may use markers to make eyes."

Put two pieces of wax paper together and cut out a ghost shape. Cut eyes from black construction paper and lay them between the wax paper pieces in the correct position. Place the ghost between two pieces of newspaper and iron with a warm iron. After ironing, you can fringe or rip the bottom of the ghost. Punch a hole and hang with a piece of string. They are very ghostly!

Take a white wire hanger and shape it into a long diamond shape. Pull a white knee high hose over it from the end opposite the hook. Tie the top with orange and black curly ribbon. Reshape the hanger into a fuller diamond and glue on black construction paper eyes. Hang the ghosts from the ceiling.

"My favourite Hallowe'en activity is a ghost mobile. You need a white paper plate, template of three little ghosts about 6 inches tall, tape, and a small amount of string for hanging. Simply colour, cut, and tape the hanging ghosts evenly around the plate and hang from the ceiling."

"Thin down white glue with water. Dip sheets of gauze into the glue and let dry over a 2 litre pop bottle. Shape into a ghostly figure. When dry, remove the bottle and add wiggly or black felt eyes. Hang from a string or display on a shelf for a spooky decoration."

The children paint their hands white and press onto black construction paper with fingers together. When they dry have the children turn them upside down and add faces.

Have the child draw a ghost outline on a piece of waxed paper, and then have them fill in the outline with white school glue. Dry overnight, and then have the child add facial features. Place on a string and you have a spooky ghost necklace.

"Have the children cut out two identical pieces of waxed paper. I have them cut the two pieces together. Then, have them make eyes and a mouth from black construction paper, and then you iron them together with a newspaper on top, waxed sides together. Punch a hole in it, and put a string through it. I also give them a little sticker with their initials on it to identify it."

"We make ghosts on Halloween. The most economical way I've found to do it is to buy 2 yards white fabric. Cut in 12" squares. Give each child a square. Have the children fold the square into a triangle. At the wide end of the triangle in the center, draw a face with a laundry marker or permanent felt pen. Soak the fabric in liquid starch. Drape it over a bottle with two smaller bottles on the side for the hands. Let it dry overnight. The next day the little ghosts will be frozen in that position. They all look different! Put a small pin in the top, some fishing line tied on and hang from ceiling. They look like they're flying! Happy Hallowe'en!"



"These are great party favours. Drape a kleenex onto the top of the lollipop. Tie under the lollipop with a piece of yarn or fasten with an elastic. With a thin felt-tipped pen, draw a scary ghost face."

"Crumple several sheets of newspaper into a ball about the size of a basketball. Cover with newsprint and place in white plastic garbage bag. Pinch together at the 'neck' and wrap yarn around it several times. Tie yarn in a knot, then a bow. Use a marking pen to draw a spooky face. Place a strip of masking tape at the top of head. Poke a hole under it and string yarn through the hole for hanging. Hang some from your classroom ceiling!"

More Art Ideas

Hallowe'en Pictures

Have the children lie on a table with their heads hanging down off the edge. Take a digital picture of their upside-down face. Once on the computer, crop the pictures and turn them around so that it looks as if their hair is standing on end. It makes a super picture for Halloween! Make a frame for it from black paper and add the date.

"My students make a magnet picture frame to put on the refrigerator. Last year at Halloween time we took Polaroid pictures of them in their costumes and made frames in a station."



Make Spooky Bats

Paint sections of cardboard tube or other cylinders black. Add bat wings cut from black construction paper to the top of the tube and use sticky dots for eyes. Suspend the bats from the ceiling!

"A teacher at my school make these gorgeous little hanging bats from a black sock and felt for the wings, eyes, etc.. They were adorable and I plan to make them, too. I have a large tree on a bulletin board and the bats will hang up side down from that tree."

"This year my class will make jello jigglers with the molds found with jello at the store. We will also decorate ghost and pumpkin cookies."

Have parents or volunteers trace each child's body on butcher paper. Then they can each decorate themselves in a Hallowe'en costume.

Decorate Your Doors!

"Our hall is decorated with these things: They are giant sized and go on the door and around the door.

Spider web

Haunted house (the door is the door and there are windows on each side)

Ghost

A Jack O'Lantern

A giant black cat with glitter eyes"

"Make a haunted house the size of your door. Put numerous doors and windows in it and cut out three sides of each door and window so that they can fold back. Then give each child a piece of paper that would fit behind the doors and windows and have them draw something on it. Tape their drawings behind the doors and windows. You can then leave them 'open' or invite people to open them up to see what's behind them."

"We will do a craft where we take a paper cup that I've poked a hole in the bottom, put a drinking straw through the hole and two kleenexes around the straw fastened with a rubber band to make a ghost. The ghost can then slide up and down over the inverted or upside down cup. Then you have a 'poke' or 'cup' puppet. We sing this song to the tune of *Pop Goes the Weasel*.

**Sometimes I like to walk in the dark,
I like to shout and scream,
I sneak behind somebody I know,
Boo! It's Halloween!**

On the boo, you pop your ghost up."



Spooky Trees

"On a piece of watercolour paper probably about 8x11 I am going to have the kids 'watercolour' paint using red, yellow, orange and brown paint in waves over the whole page - like a sunset but using wavy lines. Then once the paper dries they will make a tree out of black paper, probably by tracing hand and arm and glue it on top. Or for a more authentic look they could make the tree using Y's with crayons or pastels. The end result looks like a tree without any leaves in a harvest moon/Hallowe'en type of sunset. They look great and kind of spooky, too."

Black Magic.....Use crayons to draw a Halloween picture. Choose bright colours and apply crayons heavily. Wash over with black paint. The wax drawing will show through

Spooky Skeletons.....Pencil a skeleton on black paper. Glue white straws or Q-tips to the sketch. Add background.

A Haunted House

"Draw a haunted house on 12" x 18" gray construction paper. Use uneven lines and lines that are not straight to make it look spooky. Cut three sides of the doors and windows so that they open. Glue spooky pictures in behind the doors and windows. Make ghosts, jack-o'-lanterns, witches, etc., that will surprise your friends!"



Hallowe'en Crayon Resist

"Have each child design and colour a Halloween object or scene on white paper. Instruct them to colour with heavy, bold strokes. Have the children put on a smock or old shirt to protect clothing. Lay newspapers under the drawing. Using very thin black paint, brush lightly over the entire picture. Let it dry. The wax from the crayons resists the tempera paint, yielding a spooky effect."

"My kids in grade two enjoy doing 'floating heads' for our door. Everyone started with an oval traced on a sheet of drawing paper as the 'face' or head for the project. Kids would either draw their own face in 'make-up', or draw their face with a mask. Some years we did a theme of spooky faces or favourite characters from literature or something that tied the Halloween thing together. They would add 3-D hair, hat, noses that stuck out, glasses, or whatever they needed. Then all the decorated faces would be taped to our door. We had a little sign that said, 'Floating Heads in Room 12'. The kids liked that. We also had a little strip of paper they would write something the floating head was saying, and we would have it coming from the mouth of each head."

"I do an art project for Halloween which always comes out really well with the students doing it all. It just takes newspaper, construction paper (orange, yellow, white and black), glue and scissors. Give the students a large piece of black construction paper. Have them cut out Halloween shapes from newspaper and the coloured construction paper and glue onto the large black paper. An example might be: newspaper gravestones, yellow moon with a black witch flying by it, orange pumpkins and white ghosts coming from in back of the gravestones. (I don't have them use crayons, markers or coloured pencils, just the paper and they look really good.)"

On Halloween Day

A Pumpkin Day

"We do a pumpkin day where all six teachers teach a lesson and the six classes rotate to each of the teachers. The schedule takes all day and the students really enjoy moving from room to room and working with the different teachers. It is a science, math and literature day. We do counting of creases, sequencing of growing, a shape poem (the class brainstorms adjectives that would describe a pumpkin and then they print them around a pumpkin shape to make the shape poem then we paste the pumpkin shape on or next to the poem), sink or float and we do it like a scientific experiment - they predict first and then test the prediction. There is a class where we do graphing of their favourite jack-o-lantern face - scary, funny, happy; and the favourite shape - fat, small, tall. I use little pumpkin stickers for them to put on the graph and before we start I read them a story that has different faces in it. I think the little book is called Pumpkin Faces.

Hallowe'en Party Ideas

"We have centres, with a parent or helper at each one. Here are some of the ideas:

- We used to have a 'Bobbing for Apples' centre - apples in water is not very hygienic, so we now sometimes hang them or put them in a shallow tray.
- Bobbing for apples is difficult for some, so we also have a 'Catch a Marshmallow' centre. They are much easier to catch and a lot less messy than apples! The marshmallows are suspended by strings. When the marshmallow has been caught, I cut the string off so the marshmallow can be eaten. I have also put them in a large dish mixed with styrofoam peanuts.
- We play 'Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin' or 'Pin the Bone on the Skeleton'. If you have a magnetic board you can put a bit of magnetic tape on the piece and there isn't any 'pinning'.
- At one centre we make a pumpkin snack. They spread Cheez Whiz on a Ritz cracker and add raisins to make the pumpkin face.
- Last year I bought pumpkin shaped sugar cookies and some ready-made icing. I added food colouring in separate dishes - orange, yellow and green - and let the children ice the cookies and then eat them, of course. Candy orange slices can be used for the smiles.
- We make kleenex ghosts. I buy the 'man-sized' kleenex and separate the sheets. One sheet is rolled up into a tight ball and put in the middle of the other sheet. Gather the open sheet around the ball for the ghost's head and tie it with thread. The children can make two black eyes with a fine felt pen.
- At one centre we make Chinese lanterns from orange construction paper and add a pumpkin face.
- We toss the flat manipulatives into the pumpkin baskets.



"We will have a costume party, trick or treating and bobbing for apples along with the haunted house and games in the afternoon. This week we will do a pumpkin activity where we predict the size of seeds in ratio to the size of the pumpkin and other math activities, and then we will carve them."

"Our school does a 'Wacky Day' on Halloween. The children don't wear costumes, but they can wear their clothes inside out, backwards, with different coloured socks or shoes, funny hair styles, etc. It is a lot of fun and the kids do not even mind not wearing costumes."

"We are having a Halloween party. We make masks earlier in the week. We're carving pumpkins and counting the number of seeds which we've estimated and graphing the results. We're also having a grossology touch station with worms (spaghetti), eyeballs (peeled grapes), etc. We play 'pin the stalk on the pumpkin'. There is a visit from the 'Great Pumpkin' with goody bags, and some dancing and treats."

"At my school the grade 1 and 2 classes all go into the cafeteria for our party. We have about 10 stations set up (wormy apples, punch, fishing for candy bar, spiral ghost art, lollipop ghost, black cat art, black bat art, musical chairs, scarecrow bean bag toss, and pin the nose on the pumpkin). The children have a 'passport' (so that they can only visit each station one time) attached to a lunch sack (to hold all the prizes from the stations). It's fun for the children to celebrate with friends from other classes (and you get lots of parent help for set up and clean up). Happy Hallowe'en!"

A Witch's Brew

"I get one of those caldrons and put in spooky things. Each child gets a handful and the kids graph how many they have of each.

1. vampire teeth (candy corn)
2. polar bear toes (marshmallows)
3. fried bat wings (cornflakes)
4. lizard eyes (m&ms)
5. rat brains (nuts - only if no one is allergic!)
6. worms (gummy worms)

"You can say the following as the kids add to the brew . . .

Choppity, choppity, choppity chop. (*pantomime all parts*)

Cut off the bottom (*I do scissors for the cutting*)

Cut off the top

Choppity, choppity, choppity chop.

Cut it into pieces

And throw it in the pot.

Children think of what they would throw in the pot. 'I'd throw BAT'S EYES'... 'lizard's tails', etc. Occasionally let someone stir the brew...."



Hallowe'en Activities

"We are doing rotations in our room on Hallowe'en and will be doing the following five stations:

- 1) Pumpkin Pizzas - english muffins with cheese cut out from a pumpkin cookie cutter, pizza sauce and pepperoni.
- 2) Decorating cupcakes with Hallowe'en motifs.
- 3) Guestimation activities - the children will be guessing how many candy corns are in 3 - 4 containers; we also will do a pumpkin float/sink prediction activity with a large pumpkin (where the parent will throw it into a large tub of water to verify the predictions - they love the SPLASH!) We'll also measure the circumference of a pumpkin, etc...
- 4) Art Center (they will make black cats with sequin eyes)
- 5) Trick or treat bags (they will colour Halloween pictures and then decorate little lunch bags - then the mom at that center will let them 'trick or treat' right there and get candy for their bag)



A Hallowe'en Carnival

If you have access to a lot of pumpkins, here are a few ideas:

1. Pumpkin pitch - Take the tops off of carved pumpkins and pitch ping-pong balls into them for points.
2. Pumpkin bowling - Set up empty milk cartons as pins and use small round pumpkins as balls.
3. Pumpkin push - Push a pumpkin around a goal and back relay style, using their feet.
4. Pumpkin looping - Use coat hangers twisted into circles to toss around pumpkins.

Other games -

1. The Cat's Meow - Roll a ping-pong ball through an open cylinder (such as a paper towel tube) to land in a flat pie tin.
2. Apple Fish - Tie a string onto a pole and have the kids cast it through a hole in a cardboard wall. Tie an apple onto the string and send it back through.
3. Easy Ring Toss - Turn chairs upside down to make four poles. Throw clothes hangers.
4. Down the hatch - Drop clothespins into small bottles.
5. Owling Inn - Tilt small metal wastebaskets against a wall at a 45 degree angle. Throw ping-pong balls into them.

"One thing we did for our Hallowe'en party that the children enjoyed was wrapping each other up in toilet paper like a mummy. I divided the children into groups of three. One was the mummy. The other two were the wrappers. We timed them to see who could make the best mummy in a short amount of time (about 3 minutes). If there is time, you can switch roles and try again."

"As a Halloween alternative, we spend one morning rotating with the 4 classrooms and have theme centers in each room. One does apples and pumpkins, I do spider activities, one classroom has monsters and ghosts, and one is scarecrows. She makes a real scarecrow and has him propped in a chair and they do measuring activities, trying to predict how tall he is in unifix cubes, how long a string would be to measure his head, etc. Then there is a cut and paste activity that they do to construct a paper scarecrow."

Halloween across the curriculum

Have a chart of Hallowe'en words - with pictures if necessary. Then the children print the following, adding their choice of Hallowe'en words.

There's a _____ under my bed,
There's a _____ in the tree.
There's a _____ in the closet,
But they don't scare me!



"While they are handling the pumpkins, have them think about how it feels, then write a description of it. Write on pumpkin cut outs. Wash the pumpkin seeds when you finish with the counting, dry them and place them on a baking pan with butter and salt, bake at 400 until they are toasted golden brown. Have students predict how they will taste, eat, then write how they did taste. Estimate how many pumpkins it will take to weigh the same as a child. Paint faces with acrylic paints on pumpkins, then spray with clear varnish to protect and seal the pumpkin so it will not spoil. Decorate the room with them."

http://www.mrsmcgowan.com/reading/Halloween_RT.htm

This is a wonderful Reader's Theatre script for Hallowe'en, called *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything!*

Hallowe'en Math

"I do a circumference lesson with pumpkins as well. The kids cut a piece of string that they THINK will fit around the pumpkin as if the pumpkin 'needed a belt'. Then we actually measure the circumference, and we cut the string. We compare the real circumference with their guesses and then the string goes home as a homework assignment. They have to find three things as long as their pumpkin is wide."

Play bingo with candy corn as markers. Go to the dollar store to see what you can use for math manipulatives with a Halloween touch.

Pumpkin Math

1. Estimate the weight of each pumpkin. Graph the pumpkins by weight.
2. Estimate how fat the pumpkin is (circumference). The students cut a piece of string and place it around the pumpkin like a belt. Graph the strings, as too short, too long, just right.
3. Estimate the number of seeds inside.
4. Graph: Where did you get your pumpkin? Store, patch, grew it yourself?

Hallowe'en Cloze

Make a chart of Hallowe'en words, each with a picture. Then have the children print the following, adding their choice of Hallowe'en words.

There's a _____ under my bed,
There's a _____ in the tree.
There's a _____ in the closet,
But they don't scare ME!

"How about 'ghost writing' .. cover the bulletin board with dark material/paper, provide full moon and maybe a spooky tree on one side and then have flip ghosts flying - these ghosts have eyes on the top sheet of paper (cut in the shape of a ghost of course) and lined paper under the first sheet (stapled/glued at the top - have students write a spooky story, or finish a short story starter you have given them."

Pumpkin Language

"Make a list of interesting adjectives that describe the pumpkins. Then, as it is carved, find more words for the insides - the pulp, the meat and the seeds. Read books about pumpkins. Write stories about pumpkins - fact and fiction."



Odds and Ends

Hallowe'en Goblins *(Finger Play)*

One little goblin standing at the door, *(hold up one finger)*

Two little goblins dance across the floor. *(wiggle two fingers.)*

Three little goblins peeking through the latch. *(bring two fingers and thumb together and peek through.)*

Four little goblins, what a happy batch! *(hold up four fingers, then clap hands once.)*

Five little goblins, and more that can't be seen. *(hold up five fingers, then look all around.)*

We're all getting ready for Halloween! *(hold arms out at sides, palms up.)*

"My class did a service project last year that was fun. We co-ordinated a Halloween costume drive for poor children. We must have collected boxes and boxes of mostly used but some new costumes. It's a great way for parents to find something to do with outgrown costumes, old dress up clothes, etc."

Skeletons!

"I do a great skeleton art project with the kids. After the introduction I invite my chiropractor in to talk to the kids about their spines and spine safety and his job. I also teach them the names of the bones using the song "D'em bones":

The cranium is connected to the vertebrae

The vertebrae are connected to the clavicle,

The clavicle is connected to the humerus,

Now sing the names of the bones. etc.

I had my students make a large (almost full size) skeleton to thank the chiropractor many years ago (those kids are now in grade 9) just gluing bones they cut out of white paper onto black paper and he still has it hanging in his office!

For the art project, we use cardboard egg cartons for the ribs (the part the egg sits in). They trace a skull shape using a tracer I've made. They cut the correct number of arm and leg bones from long strips of white paper - the humerus and femur bones are stapled to the egg carton. I fasten the elbows and knees with brad fasteners so they can be moved. I have a parent do their hand and feet prints with white paint on black paper (this is a hoot, some love the feel of paint on their toes, some hate it). I trace a n outline around them and they cut these out and glue them to the arms/legs. They accordion fold a short piece of paper for the neck - staple it to the ribs. Glue the head on. We make name tags."



We're going on a Monster Hunt - a variation on 'Goin' on a Lion Hunt'

The teacher says each line with great expression and the students repeat it.

We're going on a monster hunt.
Were going to find a big one!
We're not scared, but.....
What if he's under the bed?
Better go over it.
Squoosh, squoosh, squoosh.
What if he is in the closet.
Better close it.
Slam, slam, slam.
What if he is behind the curtains?
Better open them.
Swish, swish, swish.
What if he's in the hallway?
Better tiptoe down it.
Tiptoe, tiptoe.
What if he's in the garage?
Better stomp through it.
Stomp. stomp, stomp.
Aahh! It's a monster!
What's that you say?
You're big, but you're friendly, and you want to go to bed?
Now we're not afraid of monsters, so.....
Stomp through the garage,
Walk through the hallway,
Close the curtains,
Open the closet,
Jump into bed,
And turn out the lights! Click!



Stirring and stirring and stirring the pot
Bubbly, bubbly, bubbly HOT
Look at the moon
Laugh like a loon
Stir _____ into the pot.

We do this poem with lots of expression and actions and think of different things to stir into the pot. The kids just love this one - they try to think of strange things to put in the pot.

"Another favourite is a game called 'Mummy'. In groups of 4-5, choose one person to be the 'mummy'. Give them a couple of rolls of cheap toilet paper, a five minute time limit, and let them wrap. It's pretty funny, the kids have lots of fun and it's interesting to watch the group dynamics as they figure out the most effective ways to do it. I did it with four different classes as a station today and it was a lot of fun."

Witches Brew

"On the first of October bring in a large, black pot that resembles a witch's cauldron. Inside the pot there is a slip of paper that reads: 'I am the Witch of the West and I am out gathering ingredients for our Hallowe'en brew.' On designated days, place a bag containing one ingredient in the pot. The ingredients should be placed inside a plastic bag so that no smell escapes. Place plastic bags within brown paper lunch bags so the children cannot see the contents and have appropriate names printed on the outside of the bag. On Hallowe'en, have fun emptying all the bags and stirring the brew. This recipe is a guarantee for perfect attendance. Put approximately 1 cup into a bag:

Blood Drops - (Red Hots)
Owl Eyes - (Peanuts)
Cats Eyes - (Peanut M&Ms)
Chicken Toenails - (Corn Candy)
Coloured Flies - (M&Ms)
Butterfly Wings - (Corn Chips)
Black Worms - (Licorice)
Cat Claws - (Sunflower Seeds)
Ants - (Raisins)
Snake Eyes - (Chocolate Chips)
Cobwebs - (Triscuits)
Lizard Gizzards - (Shoestring Potatoes)
Bat Bones - (Pretzels)



Hallowe'en Bingo

"I always play Halloween Bingo. I made a grid for Bingo. I give them a list of Halloween words and a blank Bingo grid and they cut out the words they want and glue them into the grid in whatever order they wish. Toss the rest. I have the words in a bag and pull them out for the Bingo game. I think it's great for word recognition and fun, too. We cover the Bingo board with candy corn!"

Scare me with witches in tall black HATS

Start with hands to side and use the entire line of the verse to swing arms out and up to make a pointy hat over head...clap them together on the word hats.

Scare me with goblins and scare me with BATS

Now turn palms out and slowly and menacingly arch arms up and down like bat wings and freeze them arched on 'bats', a hunched back is a nice touch, too.

See how I shiver, BOO HOO, BOO HOO

They love this part...grab your ribcage like hugging yourself and wiggle really fast back and forth...it makes your lungs wiggle and your voice shake.....you can explain what is really happening and show them!!

It's Halloween night and.....

For this, they scan their friends faces while wagging a menacing pointer warning finger and then freeze with you on 'and'.....they need to be able to see you out of the corner or their eye ...while they are frozen and, they are looking someone straight in the eye and do a whole body freeze...they try not to crack a smile and you hold and are doing it to a student too...freeze for a long time once they get good at it.

NONE OF IT IS TRUE!

You speed up for this, they finish wagging their finger and it is done sort of in a stacatto...very articulated!

Next verse...

Grin jack o'lanterns and make me shake

I just make my hands look like claws and hold them on either side of my face and make a grimacing face for this so that it reminds me of the jagged teeth on a jack o'lantern...then suck in your breath after shake as if you suddenly heard a horrid noise.

Creak rusty hinges, I'm ready to quake.

Put the finger in front of lips in the shhhhhhhhhhh form and sing it very hushed,.....they love this too....they have to watch you and stay right with you after you say or sing that quietly, don't say another thing and reach out and pretend to grasp a door knob. When all hands are on the knob, do a quick turn and cluck your tongue...they all will learn to do it right with you as the hand snaps to turn the knob. Then slowly, ever so slowly, open the door and do that 'creaking' sound with your voice where you pull in air at the back of a restricted throat...I pull the door into myself so that when I am finally near my body, I just grab my sides again and)

See how I shiver , BOO HOO, BOO HOO

It's Halloween night, and.....

NONE OF IT IS TRUE!

Repeat motions for those two lines as above.

That's it....great for any parents who come in to help with a party as a thank you performance!

Miss Viola Swamp

"I dress up as Miss Viola Swamp from the story *Miss Nelson is Missing*. In the morning I hide in the office and the children are told by the principal that I am ill and while she is finding a substitute a parent or teacher aide will read them a story. The secretary and I are listening in on the P.A. system to see when she finishes the story and then the principal ushers me, as Miss Viola Swamp, to the room. I can be a fairly funny but strict teacher (really helps keep them settled down in the a.m.). For the party I just put on a witch's hat and look great. I have done this for years and so the older children see me and all say, "Hi, Miss Swamp!" and it really is interesting to watch the Grade One students because they are not really sure if it is me. All the teachers go along with this, too. If any of the students are frightened of me I do whisper to them that it is really me."

"My kids like to use witch fingers to use while 'Reading the Room' or reading in their books. These can be found at party supply stores in the Hallowe'en section. These have really helped my students who are having trouble tracking print."

