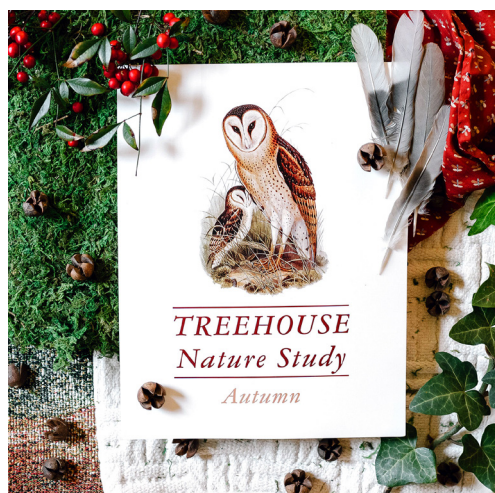


Thank you for downloading *Treehouse Nature Study - Autumn, Primary Years, Week Eight: Pumpkins and Corn*. We created this free download for you to preview the curriculum and decide if it will be a good fit for your family. In addition to the full Week Five pages, we've included the Introduction, Master Book and Material List, Picture Study Guide, Nature Study Notebook Guide, and Curriculum Calendar.

We also wrote several blog posts that go into detail about the why and how behind *Treehouse Nature Study*. Click through to read them.

- [Introducing Treehouse Nature Study](#)
- [Poetry in Your Homeschool: Why and How?](#)
- [Using Treehouse Nature Study for Pre-K to Kindergarten](#)
- [Picture Study in Your Homeschool: Why and How?](#)

After trying out Pumpkins and Corn week, I would be honored if you chose to use *Treehouse Nature Study, Primary Years* in your homeschool. Treehouse Nature Study is available for all four seasons: Autumn, Winter, Spring, and Summer. Click the links below to shop.



[Treehouse Nature Study - Autumn](#)



[Treehouse Nature Study - Four Seasons](#)



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Treehouse Schoolhouse has been empowering families to educate and disciple children since 2017. Our home education tools and curriculum are now used by families all over the world. Find all of our home education resources on our website:

www.treehouseschoolhouse.com



TREEHOUSE

Nature Study

Autumn

Welcome to *Treehouse Nature Study - Autumn, Primary Years!*

Treehouse Nature Study is a seasonal nature study curriculum designed with family-style learning in mind. It is a gentle guide meant to invite various ages to connect with each other and the world around them through living books, nature notebooking, hands-on projects, and beauty subjects such as poetry, picture study, and folk songs.

From preschool through upper middle school, it appeals to every age and is easily used with multiple ages at the same time. It would be a great fit for your preschool or kindergartener's core curriculum or your whole family's home education Morning Time and Nature Study. It also provides supplemental work for your children's language arts through poetry memorization and recitation, copywork, and notebooking.

Overview

One Autumn nature theme is covered during each week of the curriculum. I recommend following the curriculum calendar to best align your lessons with the holidays and events in the calendar, such as the Autumn Equinox and the Harvest Moon. The other benefit to following the calendar is aligning your lessons to others using the curriculum to encourage one another, get ideas, and build community. You can find others using the curriculum by following the hashtag #treehousenaturestudy on [Instagram](#).

Each week your children will engage with the nature theme through various beauty subjects, living books, and hands-on activities. A weekly overview with book lists and material lists are provided for you at the beginning of each week. There is also an easy-to-follow, one-page weekly grid that details how to guide your children through each day of the week.

Folk Songs

Each week offers a new folk song related to the nature theme. Some are classic songs that you may recall from your childhood and others are more modern with catchy tunes. Each song is directly linked to [this Spotify playlist](#) where you can listen and sing along. Have fun each week playing the song throughout your day, singing along with the lyric sheets, and even enjoying some instruments while you sing. I hope that some of the songs in this guide become family favorites!

Hand Rhymes

Each week you will introduce a new hand rhyme to your children. This especially appeals to younger kids, but don't be surprised if your older children enjoy them too! I recommend watching the hand rhyme a few times and practicing the motions by clicking the link to my [YouTube channel](#). In a pinch, you could show the video to your children to teach it. Each week provides a lyric and hand motion sheet for you to use as a guide and for older children to read and sing along.

Poetry

A new themed poem is provided each week for your children to study, copy, memorize, and recite. Each day in the lesson grid you will find a specific way to interact with the poem such as learning any unknown words, studying the poet, copying the poem, reciting the poem, and illustrating the poem. A display sheet of the poem and a copywork sheet are provided.

Picture Study

Each week you will introduce your children to a new piece of art to observe, enjoy, and engage with. Each day in the lesson grid you will find a specific way to interact with the artwork such as playing hide & describe, prompting conversation through starter questions, researching the artist, and replicating the artwork. See the Picture Study Guide on page 9 for how to play Hide & Describe and for the list of starter questions.

Nature Study Book Basket

Each week offers a list of living books related to the nature theme. There is a list for non-fiction reads, fiction reads, and weekly selections for reference from *The Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock and the books in *The Julia Rothman Collection*. Don't feel like you need to get every book on the list, but rather see it as a menu. I recommend planning ahead a bit and grabbing as many of these books as you can from the library. My recommendation is to choose a handful of books to read aloud or invite your children to explore independently during book basket time. They will also use the books during Nature Study Notebooking.

Nature Connection

The Nature Connection section offers a simple way for your children to connect daily with what they have been learning. You will notice that most of the activities are low-supply, low-prep, and repeat themselves throughout the study. There is usually one more involved activity each week, such as a nature walk or recipe. Look ahead at your week and switch days around to suit your schedule. Wednesdays and Thursdays are reserved for Nature Notebooking. All ages can enjoy this practice at different levels. See the Nature Study Notebook Guide on page 10 for more details and tips.

Preparing for *Treehouse Nature Study - Autumn, Primary Years*

Here is a checklist to help you best prepare for *Treehouse Nature Study - Autumn*.

- ❑ If you purchased the curriculum as a digital download, print the entire curriculum and organize it by sheets for you, the instructor, and sheets for the children. I recommend each child has their own set of folk song lyrics, hand rhyme lyrics, poems, poetry copywork sheets, and picture study sheets. I like to use a Menu Cover to put these in each week for the children to use each morning during Morning Time. Some of the weekly sheets would be great as displays and others are meant to be used as worksheets, so you would need a copy of each of these for each child as well. Look at each week and decide which copies to make.
- ❑ If you purchased a hard copy of the curriculum and wish to have extra pages for additional children, you should have received a digital copy of the curriculum by email. You may print additional sheets for each child in your household.
- ❑ Read through the Introduction and familiarize yourself with how the weekly lesson plans and weekly grids are set up.
- ❑ Read through the Picture Study Guide and the Nature Notebook Guide.
- ❑ Gather books from the library for the first few weeks using the Master Book & Materials List on page 8 and each week's lesson plan.
- ❑ Gather materials for the first few weeks using the Master Book & Materials List and the weekly lesson plans.
- ❑ Set up a Spotify account and save my [Autumn playlist](#) for quick access to the weekly folk songs.
- ❑ Set up a YouTube account and follow [my channel](#) for quick access to the weekly hand rhyme videos. Watch and practice the first few weeks of hand rhymes.

Tips for using *Treehouse Nature Study* for Preschool and Kindergarten

For preschool and kindergarten, *Treehouse Nature Study* could easily be your child's core curriculum. Depending on the interest and abilities of your child, I would recommend adding in some gentle math skills. You could easily do this naturally through the guide each week by doing activities like counting apple seeds, sorting leaves by color, and grouping corn kernels in groups of fives. If your child is ready, you could also add in an early phonics program. I highly recommend [Dash into Learning](#) and [ABC See Hear Do](#). Your child will get the opportunity to practice writing through each week's copywork pages and during Nature Study Notebooking if they are ready. If you want to add in more handwriting, I recommend [Handwriting Without Tears](#). At this age, I recommend focusing mostly on the fiction book lists and using the non-fiction books as conversation starters, rather than reading them all start to finish. For this age, I recommend using the *Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock mostly as a reference for you as the instructor to learn about the theme. See page 10 for tips for Nature Study Notebooking for this age group.

Tips for using *Treehouse Nature Study* with Early Elementary students

For early elementary students, *Treehouse Nature Study* is a perfect fit for Morning Time, as it covers many beauty subjects. It also covers, not only Nature Study, but many aspects of language arts through poetry memorization and recitation, copywork, and notebooking. I recommend getting as many books as possible from the book lists and inviting your child to read them independently, as well as use them as read-alouds. *The Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock will likely be used mostly as a reference for you as the instructor to learn about the theme; you may read some short selections from it to your children. See page 10 for tips for Nature Study Notebooking for this age group.

Tips for using *Treehouse Nature Study* with Upper Elementary and Middle School students

For upper elementary and middle school students, *Treehouse Nature Study* is a perfect fit for Morning Time, as it covers many beauty subjects. It also covers, not only Nature Study, but many aspects of language arts through poetry memorization and recitation, copywork, and notebooking. For copywork, I suggest using their own, smaller-lined paper to suit their level. I recommend focusing on the non-fiction books from the book lists and substituting some of the nature connections that are geared toward younger children with more Nature Study Notebooking. *The Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock will be a key resource for this age group to read, narrate, and use in Nature Study Notebooking. See page 10 for tips for Nature Study Notebooking for this age group.

Tips for using *Treehouse Nature Study* with a co-op or nature group

If you are interested in using *Treehouse Nature Study* in a group, please honor the copyright guidelines and purchase a small group license. My suggestion for using this guide with a group would be for each family to have their own copy and study the same themes simultaneously. Once a week your group could gather and do one of the more involved nature connections such as a nature walk investigation or experiment. A few other ideas would be for the children to sing the folk songs and hand rhymes together, take turns reciting the poetry, and share their artwork and notebooking pages with the group.

I am so honored you chose *Treehouse Nature Study* for your home education. My hope is that it brings delight, wonder, and connection to your family. Follow along with my own family using the curriculum on Instagram at [@treehouse_schoolhouse](#) and remember to share photos and tag #treehousenaturestudy.

- Lyndsey

MASTER BOOK & MATERIALS LIST

The following are the books and materials that you will use continually during the course of the curriculum. Each week you will also find a book list and materials specific to that week in the weekly lesson plan.

Books:

I recommend having a personal copy of each of these books for continual use during the season. They will also be used in the Winter, Spring, and Summer editions of *Treehouse Nature Study*.

- ☐ *The Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock
- ☐ The Julia Rothman Collection: *Farm Anatomy*, *Nature Anatomy*, and *Food Anatomy*

Materials:

- ☐ Instruments (*optional*)
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ White cardstock
- ☐ Watercolors
- ☐ 3-hole punch, sheet protectors, or laminator and laminating sheets
- ☐ Binder for Nature Notebook
- ☐ Timeline
- ☐ World map
- ☐ Non-hardening clay, modeling wax, and/or polymer clay
- ☐ Clipboards
- ☐ Magnifying glass

PICTURE STUDY GUIDE

Each week you will introduce your children to a new piece of art to observe, enjoy, and engage with. Each day in the lesson grid you will find a specific way to interact with the artwork. Two of the activities are playing “Hide & Describe” and prompting conversation through starter questions. I recommend selecting 3-5 questions from the list below that best suit the week’s artwork.

Hide & Describe

Display the week’s picture in their Morning Menu or on an easel. Have the children study it, encouraging them to pay attention to the details. Tell them to take a picture of it in their mind. Turn the picture over and ask them to describe it. See how many details they can remember. If you are doing this with many children, start with the youngest first.

Picture Study Starter Questions

1. Does this picture remind you of anything you have read or seen before?
2. What is your favorite part and why?
3. What is the first thing you notice?
4. If you could jump into the picture, what would you do?
5. What time of day do you think it is? Why?
6. How does this picture make you feel?
7. If this was a real scene, what do you think would happen next?
8. Why do you think the artist painted this picture?
9. What emotions do the colors make you feel?
10. What shapes do you see?
11. What colors are used the most in this picture?
12. If you could jump into this picture, what would you hear?
13. What do you think is the most important part of this picture?
14. What questions would you ask the artist about this picture?
15. What part of the world do you think this picture is depicted in?
16. If you could reach your hand into the picture, what would you feel?
17. What season do you think it is? Why?
18. What are the animals doing in the picture?
19. How do you think the person/people feel in the picture?
20. What do you observe about the weather?

NATURE STUDY NOTEBOOK GUIDE

Notebooking is a wonderful way for children to record what they have enjoyed learning as they journey through *Treehouse Nature Study*. Through notebooking, children have the opportunity to practice narration, handwriting, grammar, art skills, and creativity. Each child's Nature Study Notebook will look different because it is meant to be a compilation of which elements in the study really grabbed their attention. Every age and skill level can participate in creating a Nature Study Notebook.

This guide will walk you through the process of creating a Nature Study Notebook page. I will share the materials I recommend, the step-by-step process to completing a notebook page, as well as some tips and ideas for different skill levels. You will also notice other pages recommended to add to your Nature Study Notebook from the grid, such as replicating the weekly picture study and illustrating the weekly poem. This guide is specifically referencing the Nature Study Notebook pages scheduled on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Nature Connection section of your weekly lesson grid.

You will notice on the lesson grids that drawing is scheduled for Wednesdays and the children complete their writing to coordinate on Thursday. Feel free to switch those to writing first, and then drawing if that suits your child better. Another option for older children would be to complete two separate pages, one on each day.

Materials: *(See my Amazon store for my favorite brands.)*

- ☐ White cardstock
- ☐ Ruler
- ☐ Pencils
- ☐ Colored pencils
- ☐ Watercolors (palette paint set OR liquid and a separate palette)
- ☐ Paintbrushes
- ☐ Laminator and laminating sheets OR sheet protectors
- ☐ 3 ring binder
- ☐ 3 hole punch (if using laminator)

Method:

Step 1: (if drawing first)

Ask your children to think about what they have learned so far this week about the topic. What element sticks out to them? What do they want to look back on and remember? It may be one main idea or an assortment of things. Ask them to draw a picture or multiple pictures that illustrate their thoughts. Use the display sheets and books in the Nature Study Book Basket to inspire their thoughts and illustrations. Give them a sheet of cardstock and encourage them to copy an exact illustration from a display sheet or book or create their own from their imagination. They may use a combination of pencil, colored pencils, and watercolor to complete their drawings. Be mindful to leave a space somewhere on the page for the written narration.

Step 2:

Here are a few options for this step, based on your children's age and skill level. The beauty of notebooking is that everyone can do it at the same time, at their own level.

Level 1 (preschool-kinder): Use a ruler and a pencil to create faint lines on their page. As your child orally shares their thoughts, help them form them into complete sentences and write them down on their page.

Level 2 (early elementary): Use a ruler and a pencil to create faint lines on the page. Ask your child to orally narrate what they have learned that relates to the picture they drew in complete sentences. You may require a certain number of sentences for the child to complete. As they speak, write the sentences on lined paper. Have the child copy the sentences on their notebook page, expecting excellence in handwriting as they copy.

Level 3 (upper elementary): Use a ruler and a pencil to create faint lines on the page. Ask your child to orally narrate what they have learned that relates to the picture they drew in complete sentences. You may require a certain number of sentences for the child to complete. Ask them to write the sentences on the lines on their notebook page, expecting excellence in spelling, handwriting, and grammar.

Level 4 (middle school): Ask your child to create faint lines with a pencil and a ruler on the page and independently develop a written narration to describe what they have learned and have drawn. You may require multiple paragraphs and use a separate paper for their written narrations. Expect excellence in spelling, handwriting, and grammar.

Step 3:

Erase the lines on the notebook page. Add a watercolor wash to the full page using a light color, watered down if necessary. A watercolor wash is simply covering all-white space with watercolor to add beauty and complete the page.

Step 4:

Once dry, put two pages back-to-back and slide them into a page protector to put in the child's 3-ring binder. The other option is to put two pages back to back and laminate them, 3-hole punch them, and then add them to the binder.

To learn more in-depth about notebooking and how to use notebooking in your home education for multiple subjects, I highly recommend the [Notebooking Manual by Jodi Mockabee](#).



Curriculum Calendar

AUTUMN

Week 1	Apples
Week 2	Birds of Prey
Week 3	Autumn Equinox
Week 4	Arachnids
Week 5	Fungi
Week 6	Deciduous Trees
Week 7	Moon
Week 8	Pumpkins and Corn
Week 9	Stars
Week 10	Woodland Creatures
Week 11	Tracks and Scat
Week 12	Rocks, Minerals, Fossils
Week 13	Changing Leaves

PUMPKINS and CORN

Folksong: *Pumpkin Song* by Ellen Edson

Hand Rhyme: *In the Morn*

Poem: *The Pumpkin* by Anonymous

Picture Study: *October* by Carl Larsson

Nature Study Fiction:

- Book Basket:
- *Too Many Pumpkins* by Linda White
 - *The Roll-Away Pumpkin* by Junia Wonders
 - *Pick a Pumpkin* by Patricia Toht
 - *Corn Aplenty* by Dana Meachen Rau

Non-Fiction:

- *The Pumpkin Book* by Gail Gibbons
- *Corn* by Gail Gibbons
- *From Seed to Pumpkin* by Wendy Pfeffer
- *Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden* by George Levenson

Reference:

- *Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock; Pumpkins: overview and lesson extensions, p. 611-617; Corn: overview and lesson extensions, p. 598-604
- *Farm Anatomy* by Julia Rothman; Corn Picker, p. 57; Squash and Pumpkins, p. 76-77; Corn, p. 83; Corn Husk Dolls, p. 213
- *Food Anatomy* by Julia Rothman; Original Corn, p. 43

- Nature Connection Materials:
- Pumpkins
 - Tweezers (or other dissection tools)
 - Non-hardening clay, modeling wax, and/or polymer clay
 - Stovetop popcorn ingredients

- Display Sheets:
- Pumpkin Investigation Worksheet
 - Anatomy of a Pumpkin Display Sheet
 - Anatomy of a Pumpkin Worksheet
 - Pumpkin and Gourd Varieties Display Sheet
 - Stovetop Popcorn Instructions

PUMPKINS and CORN

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Folk Song	Each day, sing and enjoy the songs by clicking on the links to Spotify and following along with the display sheet.				
Hand Rhyme	Each day, lead the children in the hand rhyme by following along with the display sheet. You can learn the rhyme and hand motions by watching the video in this YouTube playlist .				
Poem	Read aloud/enjoy. Discuss any unknown words and meanings.	Read aloud/enjoy.	Recite any portions known from memory. Begin poetry copywork page.	Recite any portions known from memory. Finish poetry copywork page.	Recite any portions known from memory. Draw or paint what you imagine when reading the poem, including the title or full poem. Add this to your Nature Study Notebook.
Picture Study	Introduce the picture, title, and artist. Play Hide & Describe	Observe the picture and discuss, using a few of the starter questions to get the conversation going.	Look up the artist online and read a short biography of their life. Locate their birthdate on a timeline and where they are from on a map.	Replicate a portion or all of the picture using watercolors or colored pencils. Write the title of the artwork on your paper. Add this page to your Nature Study Notebook.	Play Hide & Describe and compare observations to Monday.
Nature Study Book Basket	Each day, choose a book or two from the Nature Study Book Basket to enjoy and learn together.				
Nature Connection	Pumpkin Investigation Complete the <i>Pumpkin Investigation Worksheet</i> . Cut open the pumpkin and separate and label the parts, using tweezers and other tools and the <i>Anatomy of a Pumpkin Display Sheet & Worksheet</i> .	Sketching or Sculpting Using the <i>Pumpkin and Gourd Varieties Sheet</i> as a guide, sketch or sculpt a pumpkin or gourd. If you sketch, label your picture with the name of the pumpkin or gourd you drew. Add this page to your Nature Study Notebook.	Nature Study Notebooking Start your Nature Study Notebook page today. Draw some pictures of what you have learned this week about pumpkins and gourds. Use the illustrations in books or the display sheets to guide you.	Nature Study Notebooking Complete your Nature Study Notebook page today. Complete a written summary of what you drew or painted yesterday. Add this page to your Nature Study Notebook.	Stovetop Popcorn Use the <i>Stovetop Popcorn Instructions</i> to enjoy some time in the kitchen together for an experience and a snack.

Pumpkin Song

by Ellen Edson

Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Down at the lonely farm

Early in the spring the grass turns green
Tractor comes out of the barn
The pumpkin seeds get planted in the freshly turned soil
Down at the lonely farm

Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Down at the lonely farm

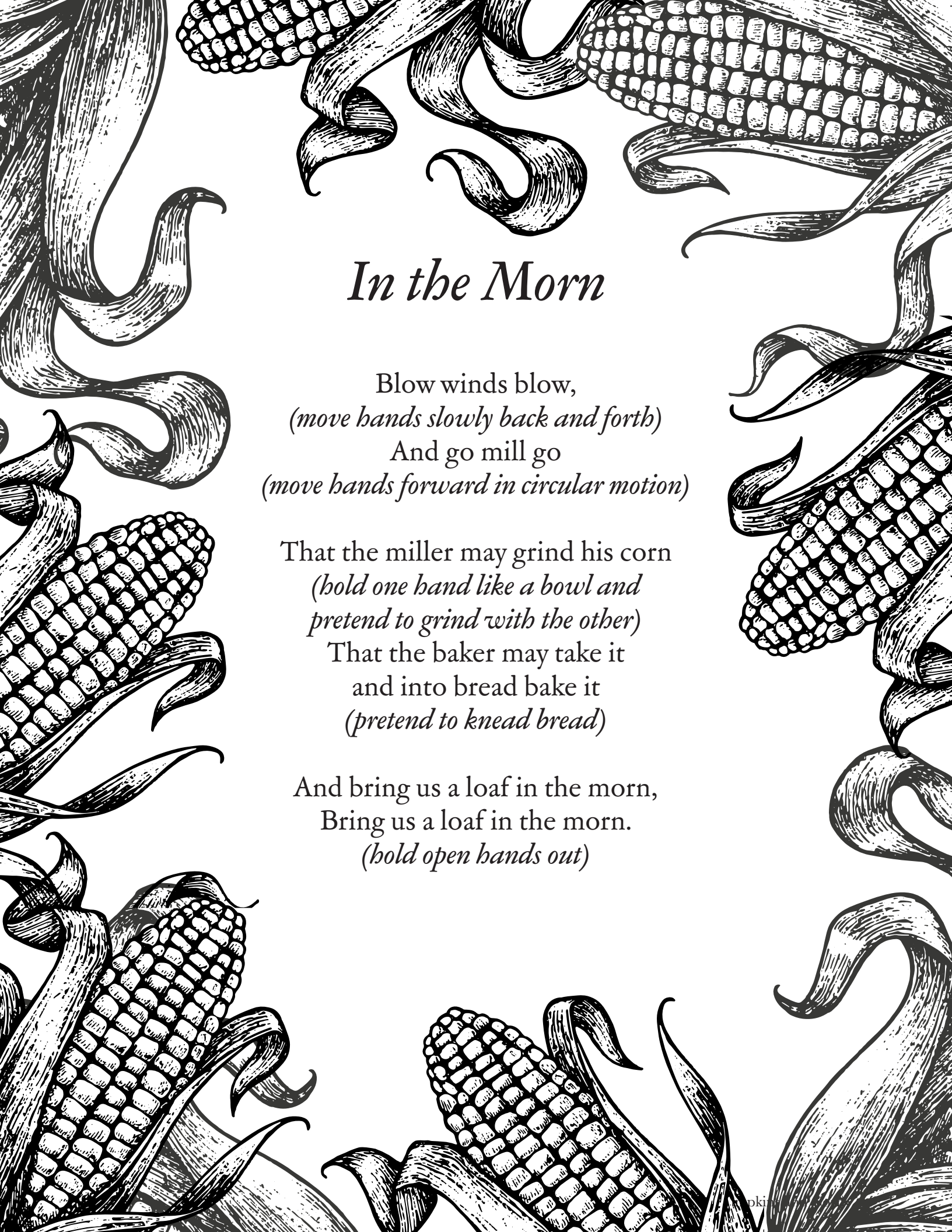
Now early in the summer those pumpkin vines
Growing all over the field
Hope the rain falls and the bugs stay away
Down at the lonely farm

Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Down at the lonely farm

In October Dad and I are making plans
To head on down to the farm
Find us a pumpkin big and round
To take on home and carve

Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Daddy's taking me to get a pumpkin
Down at the lonely farm
(repeat)





In the Morn

Blow winds blow,
(move hands slowly back and forth)
And go mill go
(move hands forward in circular motion)

That the miller may grind his corn
*(hold one hand like a bowl and
pretend to grind with the other)*

That the baker may take it
and into bread bake it
(pretend to knead bread)

And bring us a loaf in the morn,
Bring us a loaf in the morn.
(hold open hands out)



The Pumpkin

One day I found two pumpkin seeds.
I planted one and pulled the weeds.
It sprouted roots and a big, long vine.
A pumpkin grew; I called it mine.

The pumpkin was quite round and fat.
(I really am quite proud of that.)
But there is something I'll admit
That has me worried just a bit.

I ate the other seed, you see.
Now will it grow inside of me?
(I'm so relieved since I have found
That pumpkins only grow in the ground!)



The Pumpkin

One day I found two pumpkin seeds.
I planted one and pulled the weeds.
It sprouted roots and a big, long vine.
A pumpkin grew; I called it mine.

[illegible]



October ca. 1882
Carl Larsson

PUMPKIN INVESTIGATION

Worksheet

Conduct an investigation about your pumpkin using the questions below. Record both your prediction and the results.

1. What is the distance around the thickest part of your pumpkin?

Prediction: _____ Results: _____

2. How much does your pumpkin weigh?

Prediction: _____ Results: _____

3. When you place your pumpkin in water, does it sink or float?

Prediction: _____ Results: _____

4. Describe what the outside of your pumpkin looks, smells, and feels like.

Cut open your pumpkin and examine what's inside. Use the *Anatomy of a Pumpkin Display Sheet* to separate and identify the parts.

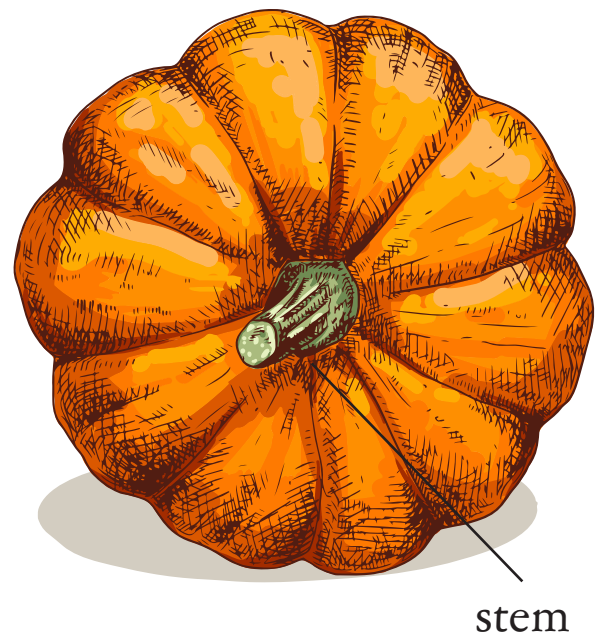
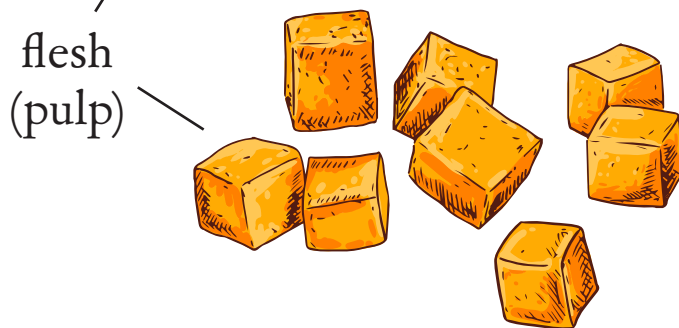
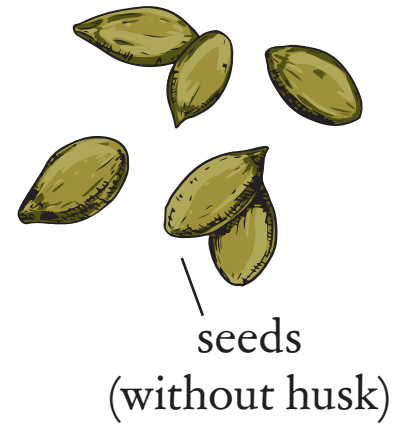
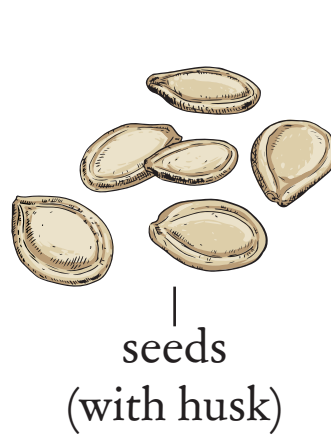
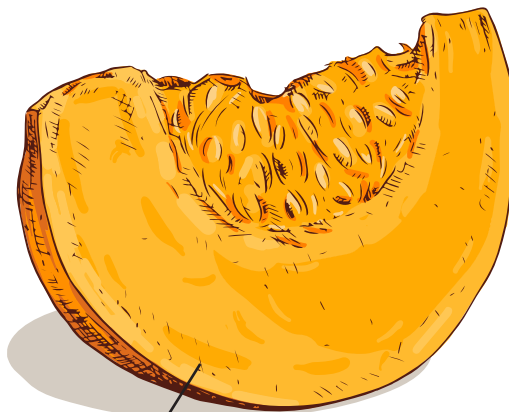
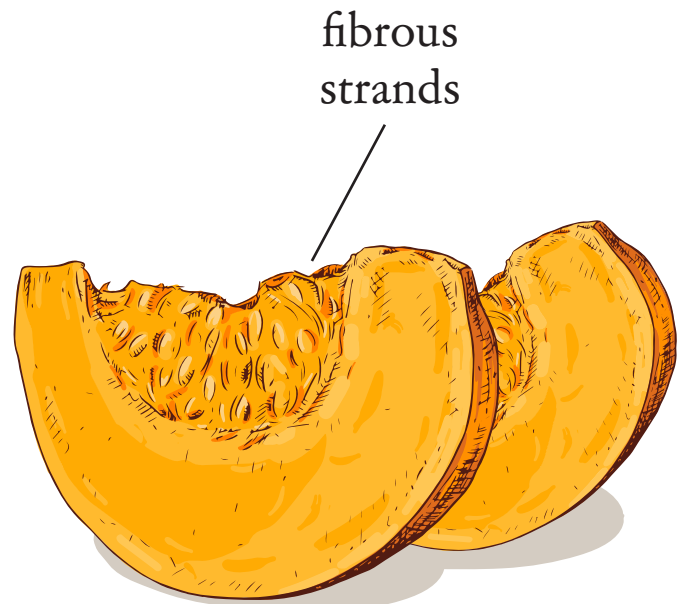
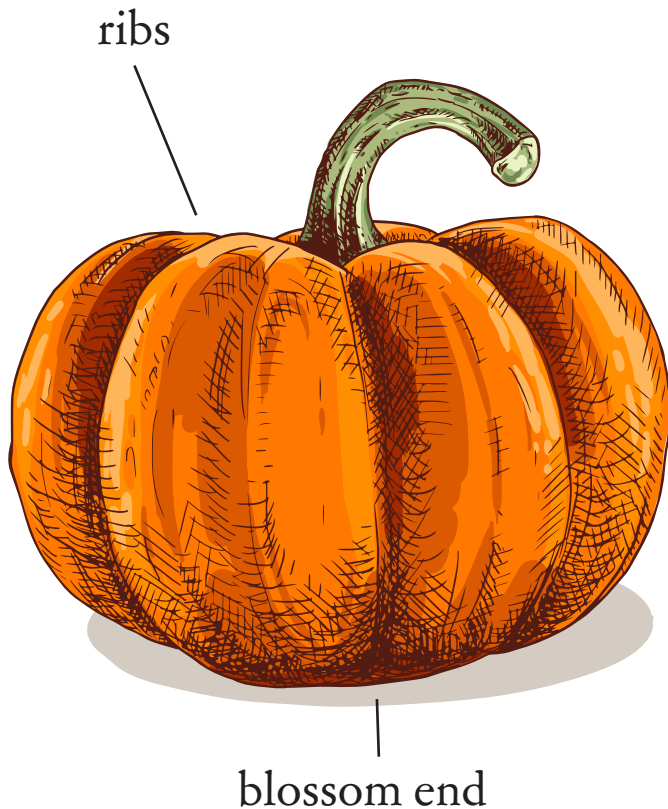
5. How many seeds does your pumpkin have?

Prediction: _____ Results: _____

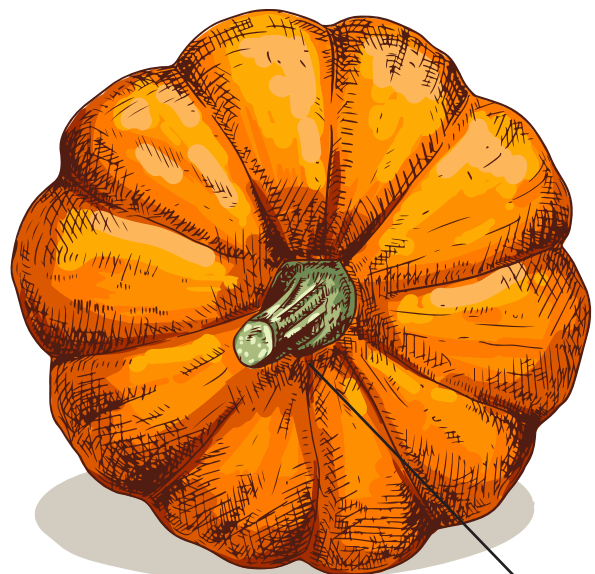
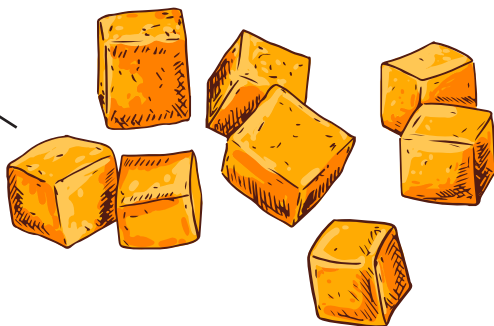
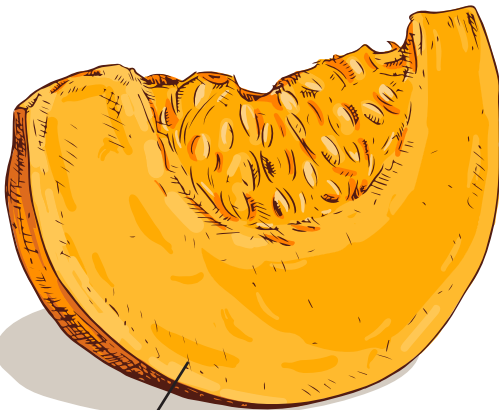
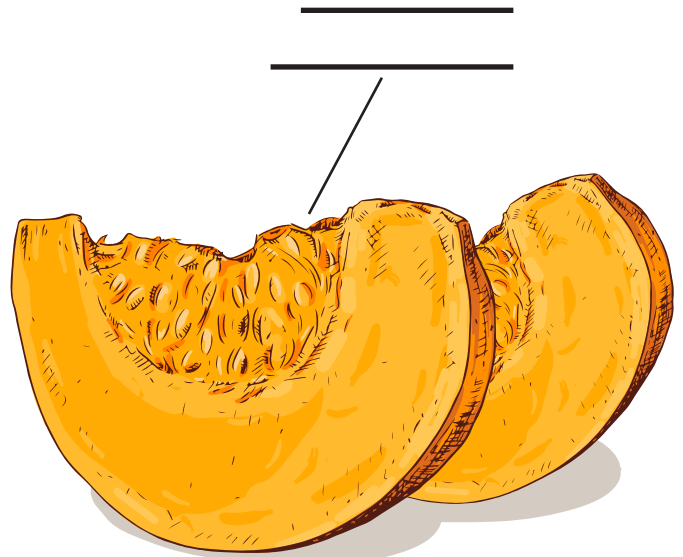
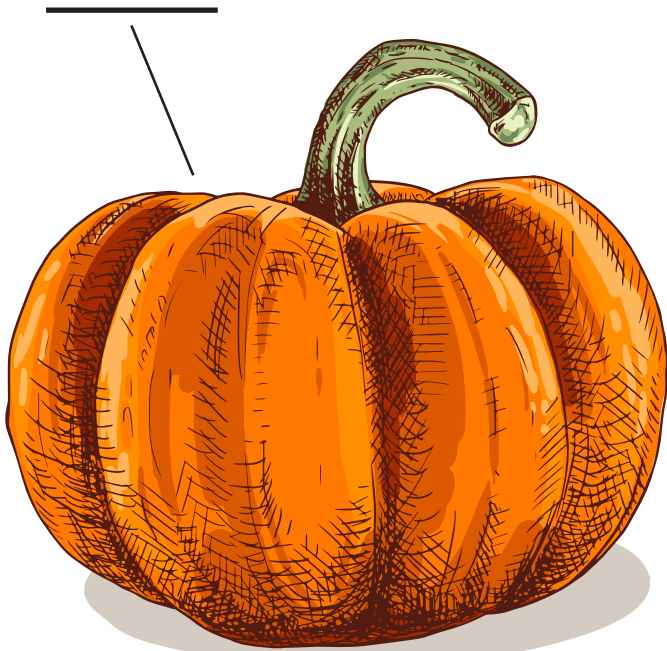
6. Describe what the inside of your pumpkin looks, smells, and feels like.

7. Complete the *Anatomy of a Pumpkin Worksheet*.

ANATOMY of a PUMPKIN



ANATOMY of a PUMPKIN

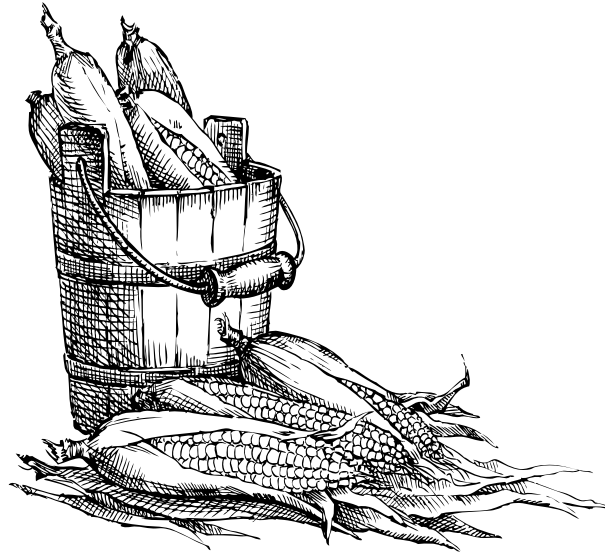




PUMPKIN & GOURD VARIETIES

1. Butternut Squash 2. Sugar Pie Pumpkin 3. Acorn Squash 4. Blue Jarrahdale 5. Delicata Squash
6. Musque de Provence 7. Cinderella 8. Red Kuri 9. Carnival

Stovetop Popcorn



Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons oil (*coconut or another neutral oil work best*)
- ½ cup popcorn kernels
- Salt, to taste
- *optional toppings: melted butter, nutritional yeast, spices*

Directions:

1. In a large, heavy saucepan with a lid, combine oil and 2 popcorn kernels. Cover and heat on medium until the kernels pop.
2. Once the kernels pop, add the remaining popcorn and give the pan a little shake to make sure the oil is evenly distributed. Cover again and continue to cook over medium.
3. Once the kernels begin to pop, give the pan a little shake every few seconds until the popping sounds slow to one pop every few seconds.
4. Remove the lid and pour the popcorn into a large bowl. Sprinkle with salt and any other additional toppings. Toss until evenly coated and enjoy!