Pumpkin Life Cycle

Free printable science pack for preschool and kindergarten

What's inside (8 pages)

Page 2	Life cycle poster: seed, sprout, vine, flower, green pumpkin, orange pumpkin
Page 3	Six sequencing cards to cut out and put in order
Page 4	Cut-and-paste life cycle wheel
Page 5	Parts of a pumpkin, labeled
Page 6	Label the parts yourself, with a word bank
Page 7	Pumpkin investigation sheet: measure, predict, sink or float
Page 8	Count the seeds with ten frames

How to use it by age

Ages 2-3:	look at the poster together, say the stage names, and color the cards. A grown-up cuts.
Ages 3-4:	put the cards in order, then glue them on the wheel. Talk about what changes each time.
Ages 4-6:	label the parts, fill in the investigation sheet and count seeds into the ten frames.

Safety notes for the hands-on pages

A grown-up does all pumpkin cutting. Pumpkin seeds are a choking hazard for young children: the American Academy of Pediatrics lists nuts and seeds among the foods to keep from children under 4. Let little ones look and count with you watching, and wash hands after.

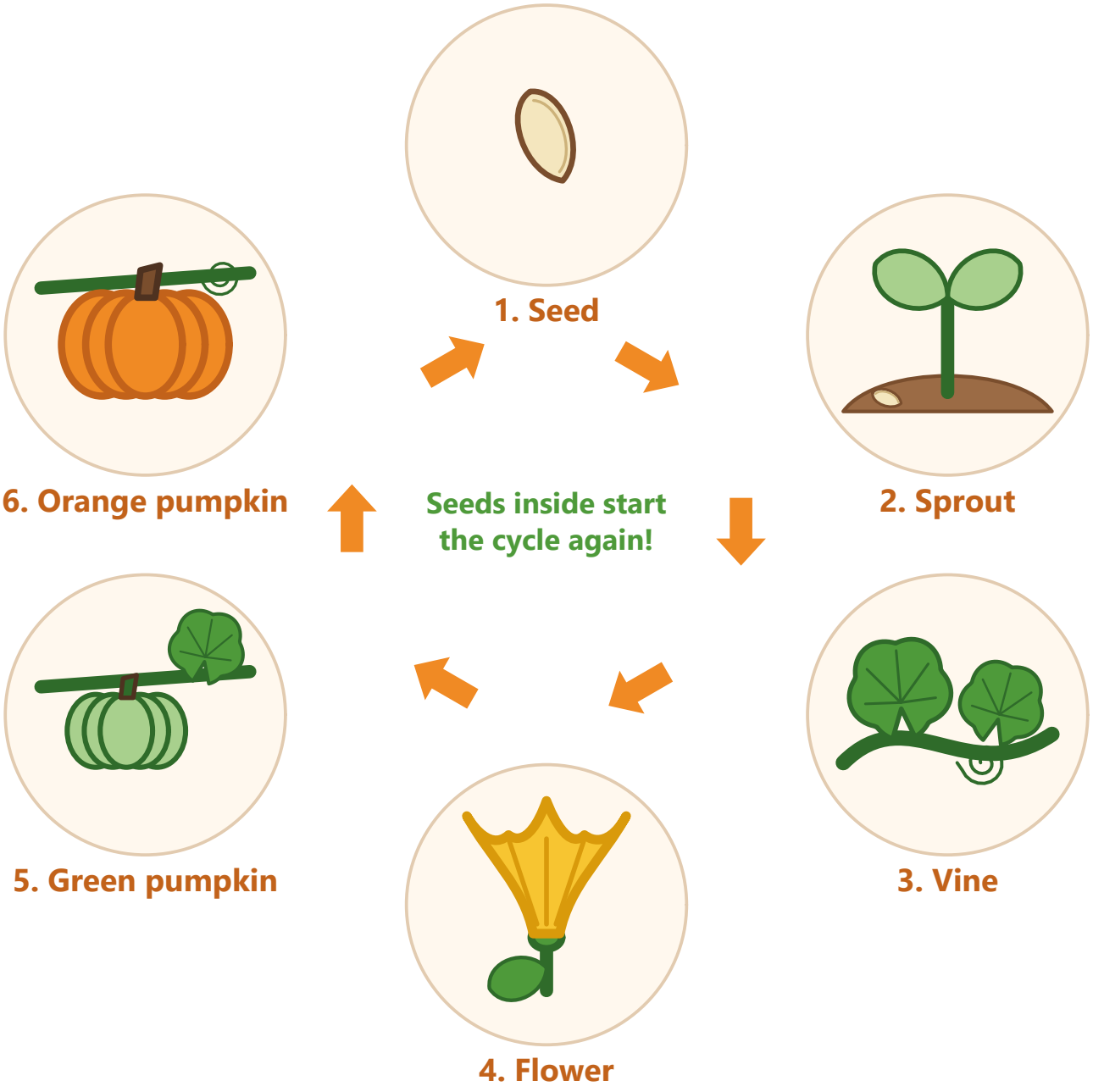
Printing tips

Print on US Letter with "Fit to page" turned on. Cardstock makes the cards last longer. The poster looks best in color; every other page also works in black and white.

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The Life Cycle of a Pumpkin

Follow the arrows from the seed around to the orange pumpkin



1. Seed: A flat, oval seed is planted about half an inch deep in warm soil.

2. Sprout: In 7 to 10 days a root grows down and a shoot pushes up with two seed leaves.

3. Vine: The plant grows a long vine with big leaves and curly tendrils.

4. Flower: Yellow flowers open. Bees carry pollen from the male flowers to the female flowers.

5. Green pumpkin: A tiny pumpkin under the female flower grows bigger and stays green at first.

6. Orange pumpkin: After more than 100 days the pumpkin is ripe and full of seeds. Plant one and start again!

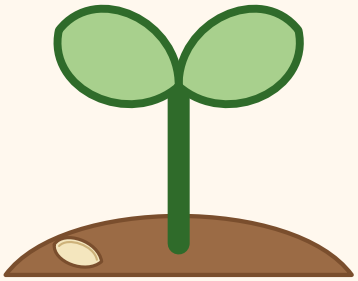
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Pumpkin Life Cycle Cards

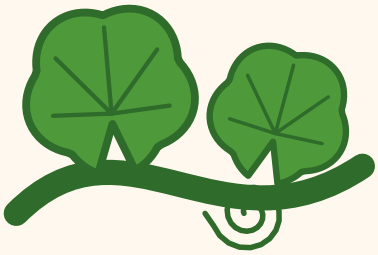
Cut out the cards, mix them up, then put them in order



Seed



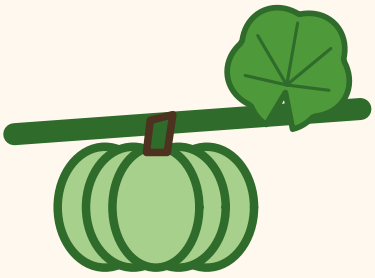
Sprout



Vine



Flower



Green pumpkin

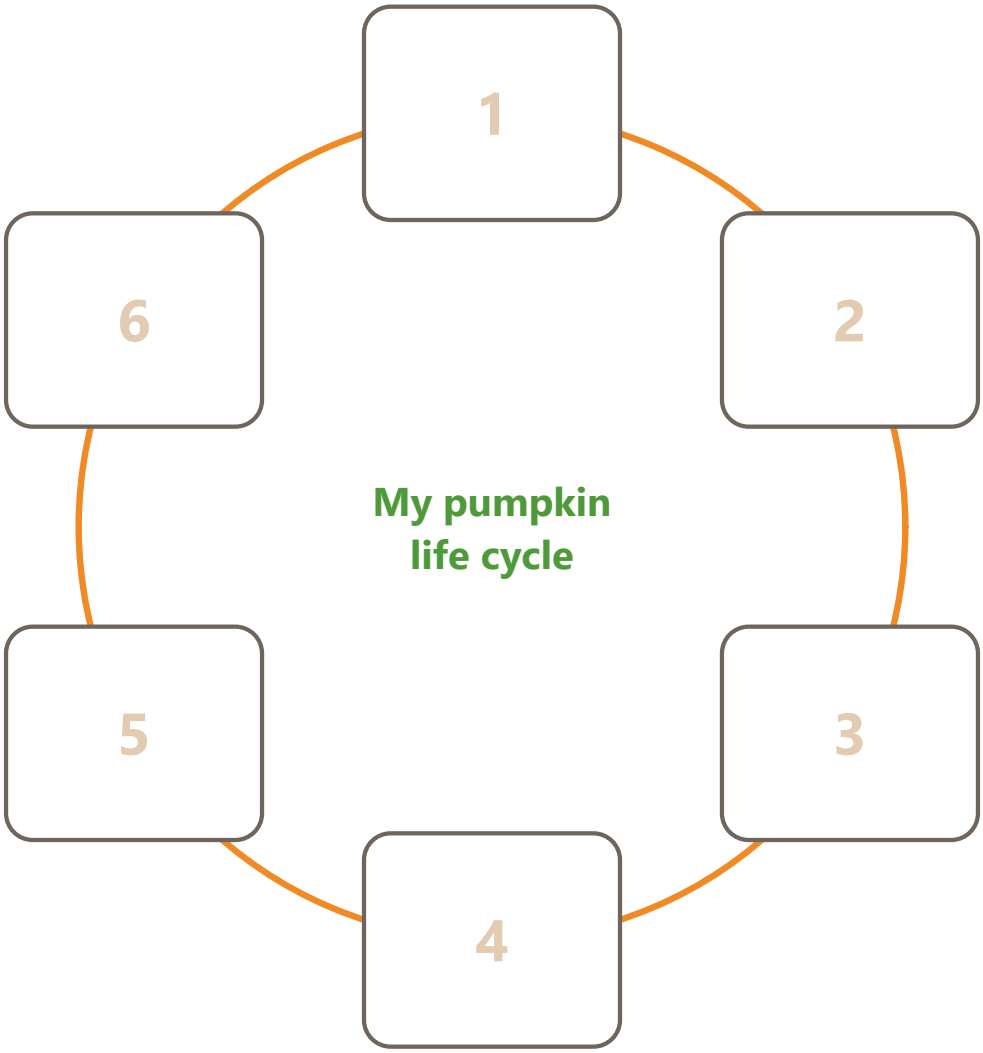


Orange pumpkin

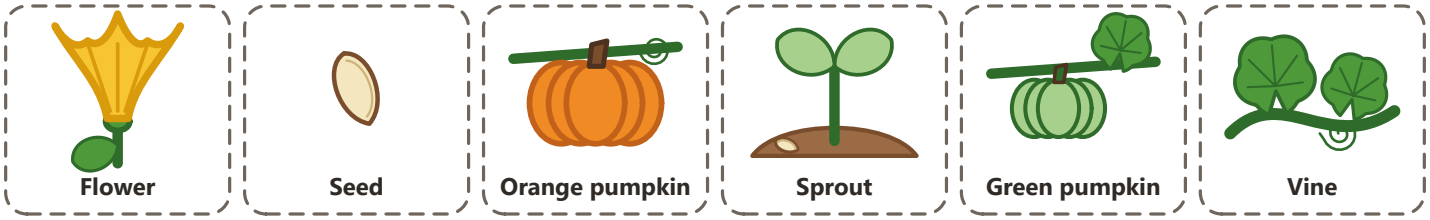
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Build the Life Cycle Wheel

Cut out the six pictures at the bottom and glue them in order



Cut along the dashed lines

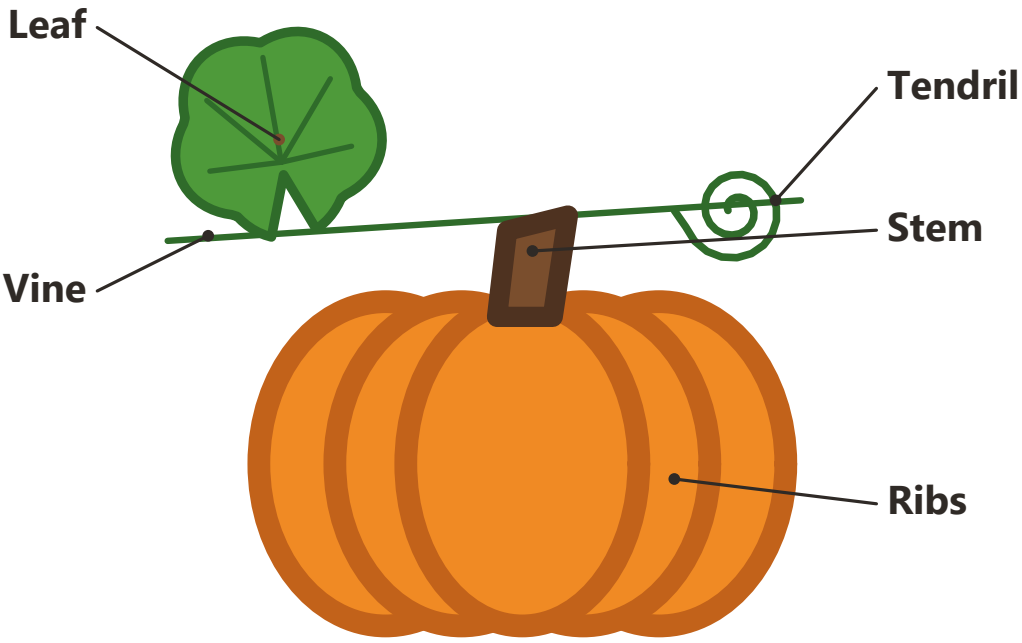


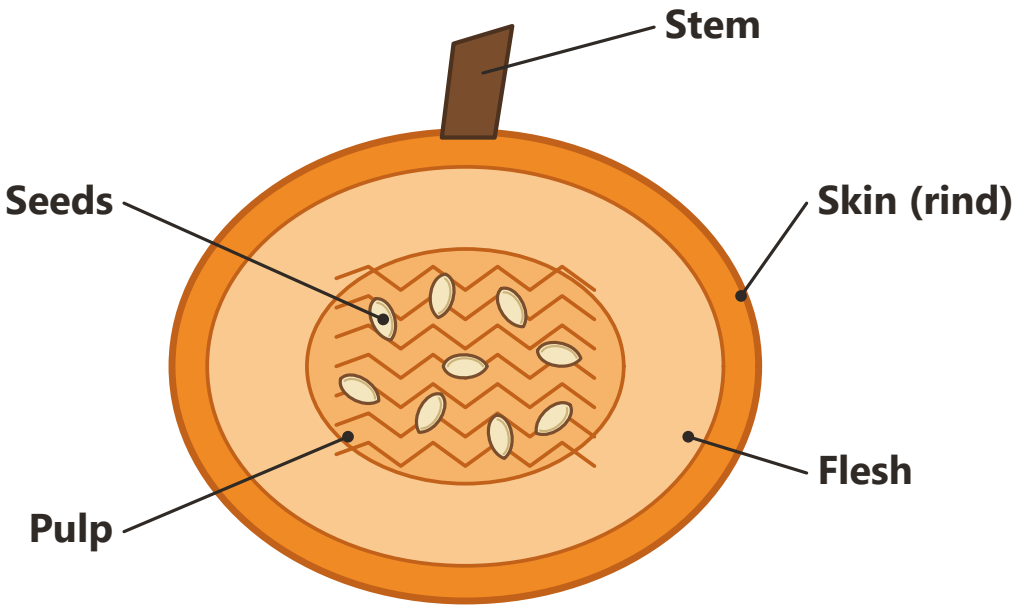
Hint: the seed goes in box 1. What does a seed grow into next?

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Parts of a Pumpkin

Outside on the vine, and inside when a grown-up cuts it open

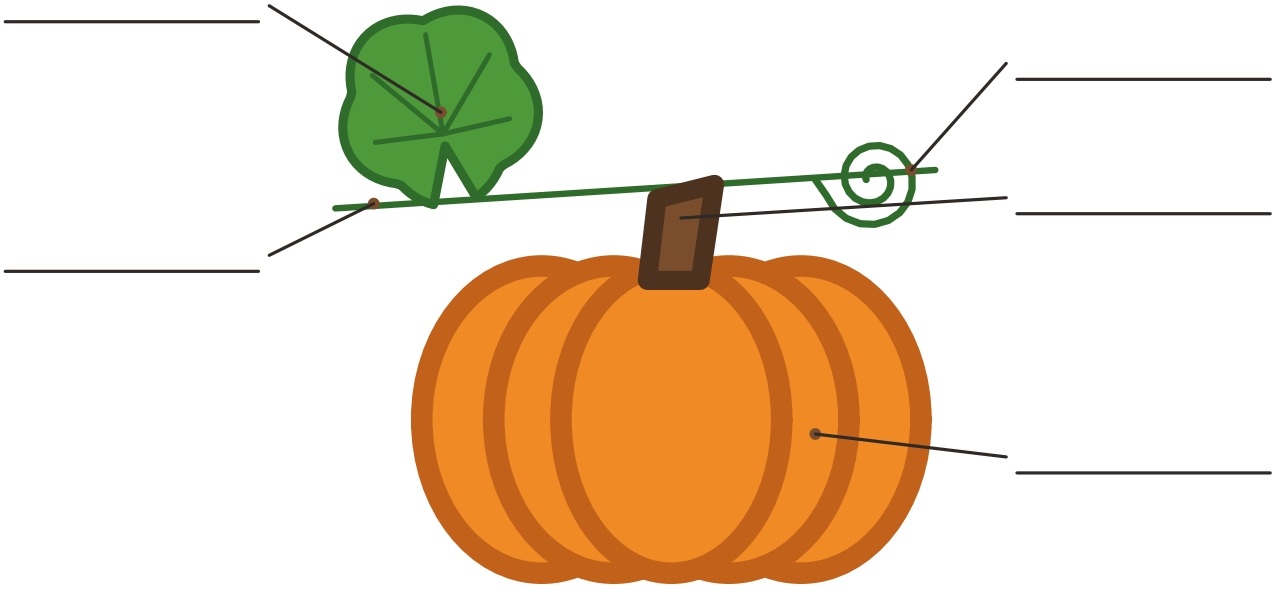


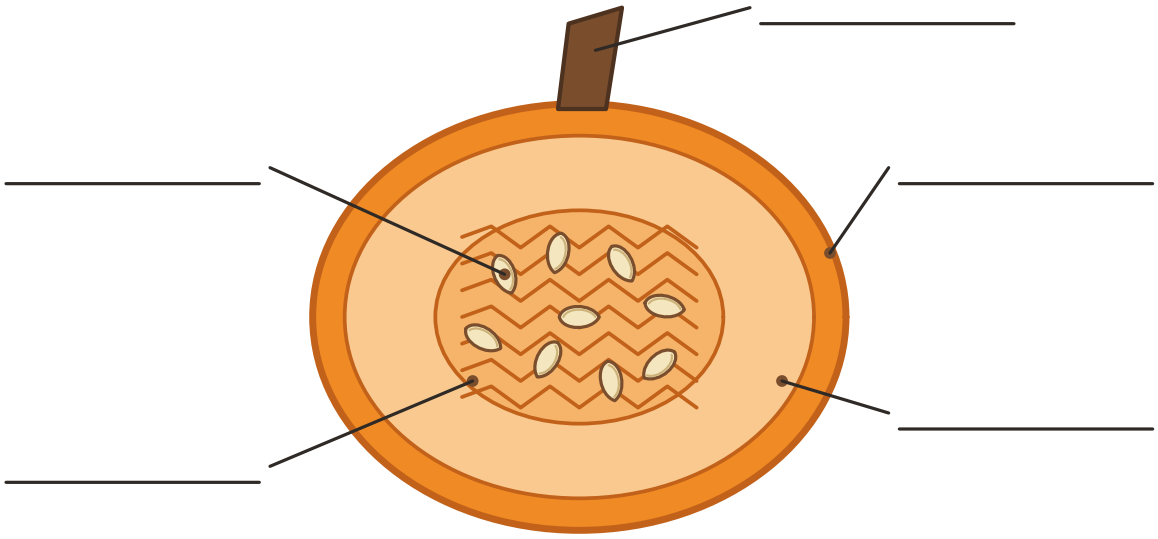


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Label the Parts of a Pumpkin

Write each word from the word bank on the right line





Word bank: leaf vine tendril stem ribs skin flesh pulp seeds

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My Pumpkin Investigation

Look closely, guess first, then check

Look

My pumpkin's color: _____

The stem feels: _____

The skin feels: _____

Measure

Tall as how many blocks? _____

Around the middle (yarn or string): _____

Sink or float?

My guess: _____

What happened: _____

Inside (a grown-up cuts it)

How many seeds? My guess: _____

The pulp feels: _____

Draw your pumpkin



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Count the Pumpkin Seeds

Put one seed in each box. Fill a frame, then start the next one

					10
					20
					30
					40
					50

I counted: _____ tens and _____ ones = _____ seeds



More than 50? Keep going on the back, or count by tens into cups.

Grown-ups: seeds stay at the table. They are a choking hazard for children under 4.

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