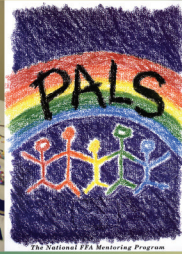


GROW YOUR PALS PROGRAM GUIDE



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THE NATIONAL FFA MENTORING PROGRAM

ACTIVITY

1.8

Pumpkin Carving

Unit: TEAMWORK

PRECEPTS

- F. Continuous Improvement
 - F3. Use innovative problem solving strategies.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

- CS.08.01.01.c. Use tools and equipment appropriately to complete a specific task.
- CS.03.02.02.c. Use problem-solving skills.
- NL-ENG.K-12.12 – Applying Language Skills

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- As a result of this lesson, the student will ...
- Use innovative problem solving strategies.





TIME

Instruction time for this lesson: **45 minutes.**



NUMBER OF STUDENTS

From a pair of students to an entire class



TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- ✓ One pumpkin per PALS pair – medium sized
- ✓ Sharp knife
- ✓ Large spoon
- ✓ Pencil
- ✓ Candle (*a small tea light candle works best*)
- ✓ Lighter or matches



DESCRIPTION

Let's take a look at an activity that most of us have done before, carving a pumpkin. Is the method we have always used the best way to do it? We will think critically and see if there is a better way to accomplish the tradition of carving a pumpkin.

DIRECTIONS

1. *Create a discussion on pumpkin carving. Discuss the time of year it happens, holidays, family traditions you might have etc.*



What do you know about carving a pumpkin?

What are the steps that you have used to accomplish this in the past?

Do you think this is the best way to accomplish this?

Is there a method that could make putting the candle in safer?

2. *Brainstorm alternate methods that could be done to accomplish this task. For example: Some cut a round hole in the top of the pumpkin to remove the insides and place a candle inside and then replace the lid. A more innovative idea might be to cut a hole in the bottom of the pumpkin to remove the interior and set it over a candle. This is just a suggestion; any new method you and your PALS come up with would be great.*



Let's brainstorm a new method to carve our pumpkin. What could we do different than what you have done in the past?

3. *Discuss all of the ideas and settle on one new method to try today.*



These are some great ideas; let's select one new method to use when we carve this pumpkin today. Which new idea would you like to try?

Do we have access to equipment to try this method?

4. *Carve the pumpkin incorporating the new method. Make sure your PALS has a job they are in charge of, such as cleaning out the interior with a spoon or drawing the design. You should be in charge of using the knife to cut the pumpkin. Adult supervision is advised.*



I will be in charge of cutting the pumpkin with the knife. What would you like to be in charge of during our pumpkin carving? Great!

5. Assess the success of the new method you incorporated in the pumpkin carving process.



Wow! What a great looking pumpkin! What new method did we incorporate in our pumpkin carving method?

Do you think it worked better? Why or why not?

6. As a team, clean up the area and talk about what the PALS plans to do with the pumpkin.



Let's work as a team to clean up our project. What would you like to do with your pumpkin?

7. Celebrate your success on this project by turning out the lights and lighting the pumpkin. Adult supervision is advised.



What a great looking pumpkin. Let's light the candle and put it inside. Stay put, I will turn out the lights and let's see what he looks like!

8. Conclude with the connections questions below.

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

Discuss with your PALS the following questions:

1. How would the pumpkin have looked different if we used the old method of carving?
2. Looking at our result, would you use this new idea in the future. Why or why not.
3. Why is it important to try new ideas and methods even if they do not always turn out the way we intended?

Constantly looking for new ideas leads us to new inventions. Without this skill, we would not move forward and advance our knowledge.

WRAP UP

If people do not look for new and different ways to do things we would not have new ideas and inventions. Think about the technology that you love to use. If people did not think of those new ideas and try them out, we would not have them to use!