



Pumpkin Patch Field Trip at

Wildflower Farm

33601 Highway 6, Edwards, CO

970-926-5504

Curriculum Based Lesson Plan – Science, Cycle of Life

Grades: K - 1st

Location: Wildflower Farm Pumpkin Patch

of Students: 10- 25

Instruction Provided By: The visiting classroom teacher

Time: 1 hour

Number of Students: 10- 25

Cost: \$5/student

Sign-Up Process: Complete Field Trip Form (last page of this packet); schedule date/time; pay field trip fee at least 3 days in advance

Included: This curriculum based Science lesson
Use of our pumpkin patch for your lesson
Our staff will set up patch and break open a pumpkin and clean up
Pumpkin Life Cycle Vine paper chains made at Wildflower Farm
A pumpkin for each student that can be painted back at classroom
Pumpkin Cycle of Life handouts for each student as a follow-up activity

Essential Questions:

- How can we use our senses to learn about the world around us? (Pumpkins!)
- How do pumpkins grow? What is the life cycle of a pumpkin?

Materials:

- Blindfolds
- Big Pumpkin
- Hammer (something to smash pumpkin with)
- Tarp
- Rags (for cleaning hands)
- Life Cycle Cards (taped onto yarn—see example in folder)
- Crayons and Markers
- 20-25 pie pumpkins

Outline:

- Welcome (sitting on haystack)
 - Introduce self and the Wildflower Farm
 - Basic Needs—bathroom, water
 - Rules—boundaries of play area, hands to self, etc...
- Meet a Pumpkin – middle haystack
 - Kids teach Teacher
- Pumpkin Lab (sitting on haystack)

- Pumpkin Life Cycle Craft (around table 1)
- Pick A Pumpkin
- Paint A Pumpkin (back in the classroom)

Intro: Introduce self. Welcome to Wildflower Farm. Background of what we do here at the Wildflower Farm. Show kids and chaperones where bathrooms and water are. Group call and response (wolf howl). Rules about safety, etc... Summary of Activities—learn about pumpkins (kids teach adults!), find out how pumpkins grow, pick out pumpkins, make pumpkin vines, and paint our jack-o-lanterns back in the classroom!

Meet a Pumpkin: Ask them what they already know about pumpkins—you can eat them, they grow on a vine, etc...! Awesome! Tell kids that instead of you teaching them about pumpkins, they are going to play a game to learn more about pumpkins and then they will get to teach you!

This game is called Meet a Pumpkin. In this game, we will all start on the haystack. Each of you will find a partner. With your partner, you have to choose one person to be blindfolded. Once we have put the blindfolds on, and you are sure that your partner cannot see anything, you will VERY CAREFULLY lead your blindfolded partner over to a pumpkin and introduce them to that pumpkin. “Hello pumpkin, this is my friend _____.” *But since _____ can’t see that pumpkin, how are they going to get to know the pumpkin?* They can use all of their other senses! What are those other senses? **TOUCH.** Feel the pumpkin...what shape is it? What size is it? Is it bumpy or smooth? **SMELL.** Sniff the pumpkin...what does it smell like? Dirty? Fruity? **TASTE.** You can even lick the pumpkin! **HEARING.** Listen to the pumpkin...do pumpkins talk? How might we hear them? Knock on them? When your blindfolded friend thinks he/she knows the pumpkin really well, lead them back to the haystack. You can then remove the blindfold and see if your partner can go find the new pumpkin friend that they just met. If there is time, switch partners and play again!

Emphasize safety with this game. How is each partner going to safely lead their blindfolded friend to the pumpkin (holding them by the arm, looking out for obstacles, etc...)

Debrief: What observations did you make about your new pumpkin friend? What did you learn? What can you teach me about these pumpkins?! Did all of your new pumpkin friends look exactly alike? No...some are smooth, some are bumpy, some are orange, some are white, some are round, and some are wacky shaped. All of these fruits are a part of the same family—the squash family. But within that family, there are many different types of squash. Just like you might share the same last name as your mom, dad, brother, sister, or cousins, you might look very different and be very different from them. *If kids are listening...you can also get into the parts of the pumpkin with this activity—what is the skin of the pumpkin good for? What about the stem?*

Pumpkin Lab:

We were able to learn a lot about the pumpkins, just by using our five senses. Do you think we could learn more about a pumpkin if we smashed it? Have one of Wildflower Farm professional pumpkin workers smash open a pumpkin and put it on a table. Let the kids touch the seeds and feel what is like inside. What can you observe about the inside of the pumpkin? What do we find inside of the pumpkins? Seeds! Why are seeds important? What happens to the seeds? They will eventually grow into another pumpkin. But what do those seeds need to become a new pumpkin. Soil--Nutrients. Water. Air. When we put a seed in the ground and give it all of the things it needs to grow, what do we see first? A sprout! And then what? A small plant (vine), flowers, a green fruit, and then a big orange pumpkin!

Pumpkin Life Cycle Vines:

To show how the pumpkins grow, we are going to make pumpkin life cycle vines to attach to our jack-o-lanterns. Show kids the big life cycle card pictures. Which one comes first? Seed. Have them all yell out **SEED**. Ask what comes next and have them yell out as loud as they can each of the next life cycle stages. **SPROUT! PLANT! FLOWER! GREEN PUMPKIN! ORANGE PUMPKIN!** Give each kid a life cycle vine and let them pick out and a length of yarn. The students then put the pictures in order and staple them to the yarn. Have the parents help to staple. They can color back in the classroom.

Pick out a Pumpkin:

Now, each student picks out their own pumpkin that they can paint back in their classroom. They can choose between pie pumpkins, mini pumpkins, or baby pumpkins. *Remind kids that there are plenty of pumpkins for everyone. There is no reason to fight over them. Every pumpkin is beautiful in its own way (like we saw with the gourds and squash from before...).*

Follow up in the classroom

- Color, cut and glue Pumpkin Life Cycle (Hand-Outs provided)
- Paint your pumpkin that you got at Wildflower Farm Pumpkin Patch (School provides paint)
- Color the Pumpkin Life Cycle Vines that you made at Wildflower Farm Pumpkin Patch



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School: _____

Classroom Teacher: _____ Phone # _____

Grade (K – 1 recommended) _____ Number of Students: _____ Cost is \$5/student

Call to schedule and complete the following:

Date of Field Trip _____ Time (Allow 1 hour) _____

Please send in with payment at least 3 days in advance so that materials can be prepared.

Signature of Classroom Teacher: _____

Date: _____
