



# PUMPKINS



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:  
15QJ-K1KD-9ZX2

## 1

### Key vocabulary

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. harvest    | a. an area of land where fruit trees grow   |
| 2. crops      | b. a person who goes to live in a new place where there are few people to start a community |
| 3. an orchard | c. a tall plant with yellow parts which are edible  |
| 4. corn       | d. fruit, vegetables or grains grown in large amounts on farms                              |
| 5. a settler  | e. known and accepted   |
| 6. starving   | f. suffering or dying from hunger   |
| 7. recognized | g. the activity or time of gathering crops  |
| 8. carve      | h. to make (something) by cutting pieces out of an object                                   |

## 2

### Before you read

You're going to read an article about pumpkins. Before you read, put 'T' (True) or 'F' (False) next to each statement below. Then read the text on the next page to confirm or correct your answers.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Pumpkins originated from Asia.                                    | 4. Pumpkin fibres were used to make mats and containers.                  |
| 2. 90% of all pumpkin production takes place in one state in the US. | 5. There are only two types of pumpkins.                                  |
| 3. Pumpkin seeds can be used to treat medical problems.              | 6. 1 million pounds of pumpkins are produced yearly in the United States. |



# Pumpkins

## An American tradition

1. As summer ends and fall approaches, the colours around us change to shades of orange, yellow and red. In many areas this is the time to harvest crops and collect fruit and vegetables.
2. About 400 years ago when the first settlers arrived in America, it's possible that when their crops failed, the local pumpkins saved them from starving. It's not clear where pumpkins originally come from, but they have been part of both the North and South American diet for centuries. They were also an essential part of the Native American Indian diet.
3. The Indians baked, roasted, dried and boiled pumpkins, which helped them survive through the long cold winters. Just like nuts, pumpkin seeds can be eaten but Native American Indians dried them and used their oil as medicine to cure stomach problems.
4. Dried pumpkin pulp was stored and turned into flour and later used for baking. They dried the shells and used them as containers. They weaved mats and blankets out of their fibres, and even used them to build houses.
5. The pumpkin has long been America's most beloved vegetable. The United States produces more pumpkins than any other popular vegetable like cucumbers, spinach and garlic. They're especially high in fibre and vitamin E, and help keep the heart healthy.
6. Pumpkins are used for decoration but are also a staple ingredient in autumn cooking. Even drinks, such as pumpkin beer and pumpkin spice lattes are available but mainly in the months following summer.
7. Over 300 million pounds of pumpkins are annually produced in Illinois in the US alone, making the state the heart of the pumpkin industry. As much as 90% of America's pumpkins come from Illinois. The soil and climate are ideal for growing pumpkins and they have been grown there since the early 1900s.
8. Although there are over 40 recognized kinds of pumpkins, two kinds are the most popular. The ornamental pumpkins, commonly known as Halloween pumpkins, are round, a bright orange colour and have a smooth surface. They are typically carved and used as decorations such as Jack-O'-Lanterns.
9. The second type is a pumpkin that is processed, which is beige coloured, long rather than round and flavorful. These are processed, canned, sold and then used for making pies, soups, pastas and drinks.
10. An old American tradition is to bake a pumpkin pie in the autumn. Now, as a modern tradition, people go to a pumpkin patch and pick out the perfect pumpkin to take home. The popularity of these patches and farms is growing. Farming is expensive, so farmers are opening their farms to the public to give visitors the chance to choose their own produce. Some farms even allow apple picking in orchards and organize tours.
11. The autumn harvest festival can begin or end with a corn maze competition. The mazes are cut out of corn fields in different shapes and designs, creating a series of paths and passages leading to a finish line.
12. When the festival decorations are taken down, some people smash their pumpkins to make it easier for them to decompose.

### 3

## Checking understanding

What do you remember? Answer the questions according to the article.

1. What are some farmers doing to earn more money?
2. How are the most popular types of pumpkins used differently?
3. What nutritional value do pumpkins have?
4. Why is Illinois a good place to grow pumpkins?
5. What do Americans do as a modern fall tradition?



## 4 Find the words

Find a word or phrase in the article which means ...

1. darker or lighter versions (**noun plural, P.1**): \_\_\_\_\_
2. small parts of a plant from which other plants can grow (**noun - plural, P.3**): \_\_\_\_\_
3. thin parts that form a plant, similar to threads (**noun plural, P.4**): \_\_\_\_\_
4. the soft, wet substance under the skin of a fruit or vegetable (**noun, P.4**): \_\_\_\_\_
5. a main or important piece (**phrase, P.6**): \_\_\_\_\_
6. the most important part or centre (**phrase, P.7**): \_\_\_\_\_
7. used or grown for decoration (**adj., P.8**): \_\_\_\_\_

## 5 Verbs

Match the verbs to their definitions, then complete the sentences with the verbs in the correct form.

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. harvest   | a. to break into pieces by throwing or hitting |
| 2. process   | b. to break up into small parts or decay       |
| 3. weave     | c. to collect crops in fields in the autumn    |
| 4. decompose | d. to get nearer                               |
| 5. approach  | e. to make cloth by crossing threads or fibres |
| 6. smash     | f. to treat and pack food by a special method  |

1. The crops in the fields have already been \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. When food is \_\_\_\_\_ , it sometimes loses its nutritional value.
3. You can buy mats that were \_\_\_\_\_ by Native Americans.
4. The leaves \_\_\_\_\_ before the first snow fell.
5. As day of the exam \_\_\_\_\_ , I grew more nervous.
6. Tamara dropped the egg and it \_\_\_\_\_ on the floor.

## 6 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Did any of the facts in the article surprise you? Which ones?
2. Do you think it is a good idea for farmers to allow visitors onto their land? Why or why not?
3. Would you consider using pumpkin in your cooking? Why or why not?