



# Kentucky Harvest of the Month

## OCTOBER: PUMPKINS





### History

Archaeologists believe that pumpkins originated in Central America over 7500 years ago. However, pumpkins have been cultivated for only about 5500 years, and the pumpkin pie did not make an appearance until the 1800's. Today, some might argue that pumpkins signals the return of fall each year with pumpkin-flavored everything, and the many pumpkins that adorn each front porch.



### Did you know...?

- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the heaviest pumpkin ever grown was over 2,600 lbs!
- The word "pumpkin" first showed up in the fairy tale Cinderella. 
- The US produces over 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkins each year!
- Each pumpkin has about 500 seeds. 
- Pumpkins are 90% water.
- Pumpkins are actually fruits (they contain seeds).

### Ideas for your Classroom

#### Elementary:

- Estimate height, diameter, weight, and number of seeds with this lesson - [Pumpkins...Not Just for Halloween](#) (National Ag in the Classroom)
- Learn about decomposition with the [Case of the Missing Pumpkin](#) (Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom)

#### Middle:

- Explore force and energy with [Punkin' Chunkin'](#) (Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom)
- Watch [How Does it Grow? - Pumpkins](#) to learn about the history of pumpkins, the different varieties and how they grow

#### High school:

- Pumpkin Math Activity (attached) - may also be good for upper level middle school students



Pumpkins come in many sizes, shapes, and colors!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Pumpkin Math



Let's go to the pumpkin patch! Today we are going to our local pumpkin patch to do some algebra with pumpkins. Your local KY Proud farm, Commonwealth Pumpkins, charges a \$5 admission fee and pumpkins cost \$0.99 per pound.

1. Assuming each student picked one pumpkin, write an equation to represent the total cost per student.
2. You chose a pumpkin that weighs 5.2 lbs. What is the total cost for you?
3. Your friend chose a pumpkin that weighs 7 lbs. What is the total cost to your friend?
4. Graph the equation from question 1 to represent the total cost per student based on the weight of the pumpkin they choose! Don't forget to add in your X and Y axis!

