

Interesting Investigations

Here are some intriguing questions that will get your students involved in the learning process. They can be used as part of a group exercise with younger students or with older students working in cooperative groups.

Think about the creases that run from the stem to the bottom of the pumpkin.

1. Are the creases the same distance apart at the top, bottom, and middle of the pumpkin? If not, where are they closer together? Farther apart?

2. Measure the distance between the creases at the middle of the pumpkin. Are all the creases the same distance apart?

3. Compare several different-sized pumpkins. Do larger pumpkins have more creases? Do they have creases that are further apart or closer together?

4. Where on the pumpkin are the creases the shallowest? The deepest?

5. Is the crease visible on the inside of the pumpkin?

Speaking of seeds

1. Is there a relationship between the size of a pumpkin and the size of its seeds? If so, what is it?

2. Do bigger pumpkins have more seeds than smaller ones?

3. Are all of the seeds from the same pumpkin the same size? If not, where are the seeds the largest? The smallest?

Other thoughts

1. Do pumpkins sink or float. when placed in water? Why or why not?

2. If pumpkins float in water, do they float stem side up? Stem side down? On their sides?

3. If you tap on pumpkins of different sizes, do they all make the same sounds? If not, how are the sounds different?

4. Can you make different sound by tapping on different parts of the pumpkin? If so, why do you think this happens?