

Pumpkin Jack

Summary

This is a science investigation to go along with the book Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbel.

Time Frame

1 class periods of 60 minutes each

Group Size

Large Groups

Life Skills

Thinking & Reasoning

Materials

The Book Pumpkin Jack Science Journal Jack O' Lantern (after Halloween) Clear Tub with Lid
Potting Soil Some pumpkin seeds Pumpkin Jack Infographic

Background for Teachers

When the lid on the container stays closed, the Jack O' Lantern will decompose over time. If some seeds are left inside the pumpkin the cycle of life will begin again.

Student Prior Knowledge

The life cycle of a plant.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Our essential question will be, "What happens to a Jack O' Lantern over time?" After reading the book students will predict if what happened to Jack could really happen. We will observe and record data with photos and writing in our science journals. At the end of this project we will have created a timeline that we can look back on and check our hypothesis to see if we were correct.

Instructional Procedures

We will read the book Pumpkin Jack as a class. We will use the scientific process and our journals to record what happens as our Jack O' Lantern decomposes over time. Decomposition will be a new concept for most of my students so I might have to add instruction here, but it is mentioned in Pumpkin Jack. Our Jack O' Lantern will be sealed in a clear container in potting soil and we will observe it and record its changes over time.

Assessment Plan

I will grade the students based on participation and completion of the observations in their science journals.

Bibliography

Pumpkin Jack! by Will Hubbel Simple Science DJump 2009 Teachers Pay Teachers

Authors

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