



Name _____

Date _____

The Many Uses for Pumpkin

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

It may surprise you to learn that pumpkin is a fruit. In fact, giant pumpkins are the world's largest fruit. They are members of the squash family. Pumpkins first came from Central America. Now, they grow on every continent except Antarctica.

The Native Americans used pumpkins for many things. They cut long strips of pumpkin and roasted them over an open fire. Then, they dried the strips and wove them into mats. Native Americans used the seeds for food and medicine.

Colonists ate pumpkins. They cut off the tops. Then, they scooped out the seeds. They put in milk, spices, and honey. They baked the pumpkins in hot ashes.

Now, we make pumpkin pie. People use pumpkins to make soup, pie, bread, and cookies. Pumpkin can be put in ice cream and pancakes. It can be made into a spread for crackers.

In other countries, people eat pumpkin in different ways. Often, people eat pumpkin as a vegetable. Some people roast pumpkin with beef or other meat. Pumpkin can be eaten with chocolate, too.

People in Switzerland use pumpkin for many foods. They cook small balls of pumpkin and flour in boiling water. They also make salad oil with pumpkin seeds.

Almost all of a pumpkin is safe to eat. People cook the meat of the pumpkin. They roast the seeds. Pumpkin seeds make a good snack. It is safe to eat the flowers. Some people make salad with the leaves.

People feed pumpkin to animals. Elephants in zoos eat pumpkin. Pumpkin is a healthy food for chickens and goats.

Other people use pumpkin for medicine. Some people think it will get rid of freckles. Others think pumpkin will make skin soft. People from China use it as a cure for snakebites. They believe pumpkin takes away pain. In Mexico and China, pumpkin is made into flour. The flour is used in Japan and other countries.

Pumpkins grow on vines or bushes. People harvest them. Pumpkins can be stored. Keep them in a warm, dry place. They keep best with the stem still on.

Try something new! Find a way to eat some of the world's largest fruit.

-
1. Which part of the pumpkin is *not* safe to eat?
 - a. seeds
 - b. flowers
 - c. skin
 2. What is the relationship between pumpkins and animals?
 - a. Pumpkin is a good food for some animals.
 - b. Animals do not eat pumpkins.
 - c. Animals are afraid of jack-o'-lanterns.
 3. Underline the sentence(s) in the passage that describes non-food uses for pumpkin.



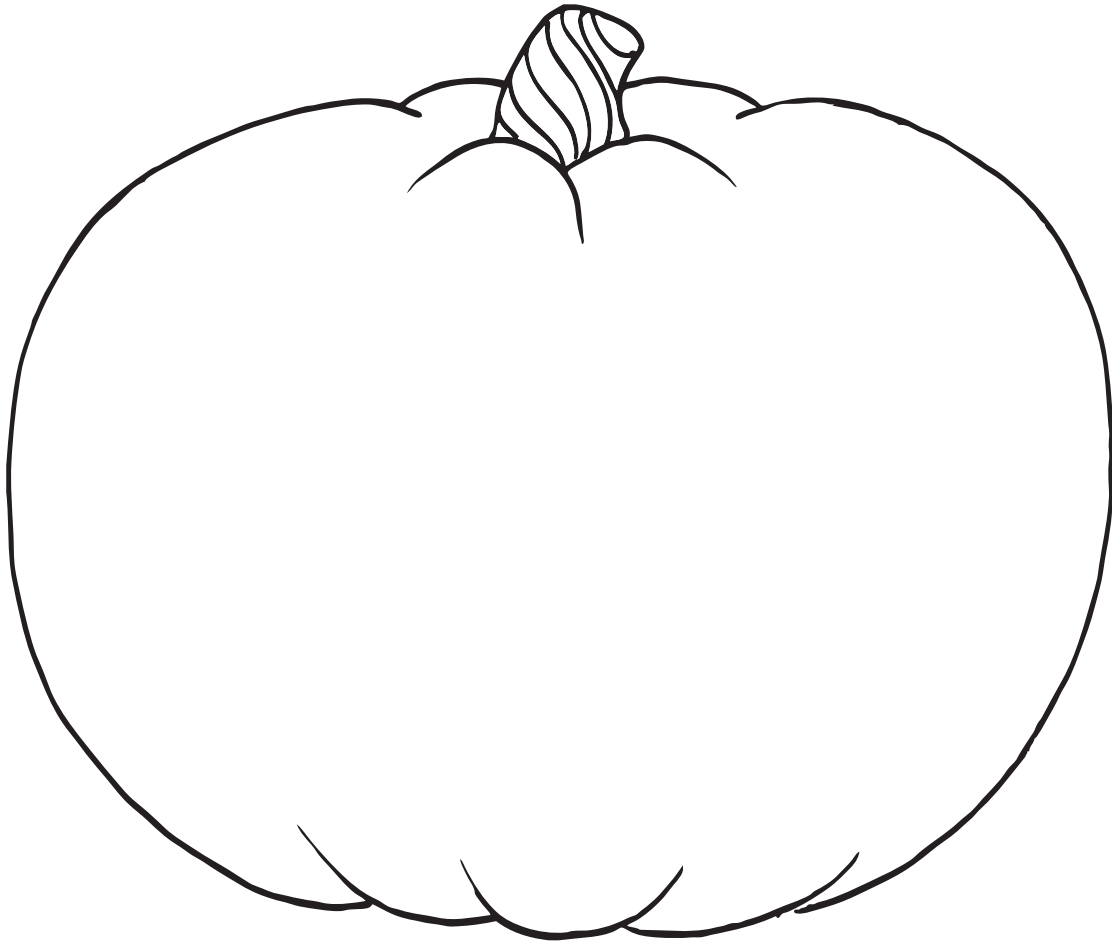
Name _____

Date _____

My Pumpkin

Directions: Think about how you would like to carve a pumpkin. Write your answers to the questions, and then read them out loud to a classmate.

1. What design will you have on your pumpkin? Draw your ideas on the pumpkin.



2. What steps will you take to carve your pumpkin? Write the steps in order.

3. How will you display your finished pumpkin?
