



Creation Lens

Exploring the World, Discovering God

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Title:

What are pumpkins & God is the Creator of growing things

Denomination: Catholic

Lesson ID: LS-GK-01-CA

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Note: Web sites referenced in this lesson were valid at time of publication.

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LIFE SCIENCE – KINDERGARTEN - CATHOLIC
LESSON 1: What are pumpkins and God is the Creator of growing things.

GENERAL CONCEPT: Pumpkins are amazing plants.

SCIENCE LESSON CONCEPT

Pumpkins are amazing plants.

GOAL OF SCIENCE LESSON

1. Student will be able to tell the life cycle of the pumpkin.
2. Student will be able to create a visual display of the life cycle of a pumpkin.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

Student will be able to describe the life cycle of a pumpkin.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Several pumpkins of varying sizes; one cut in half

RELIGION LESSON CONCEPT

God is the Creator of growing things.

GOAL OF RELIGION LESSON

1. Student will know that God is the Creator of growing things.
2. Student will know that God fills the land with many good gifts, like pumpkins.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

Student will be able to identify God as the Creator of everything.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Religion textbook or Children's Bible on the creation of growing things

- Several different types of pumpkins, if available, or pictures; *much more effective with real pumpkins.*
- Either real pumpkin seeds, vines, flowers, and pumpkin or pictures of those stages of growth and development; *much more interesting to use real items.*
- Pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, ready-to-eat pumpkin seeds; *be aware of allergies; but food always adds interest.*
- Balance scale; *be sure scale is large enough. You can also have the students use their hands as scales and estimate heavier/lighter.*
- Tissue paper, pipe cleaners, construction paper; *hands-on activities strengthen learning and interest.*
- Children's books on pumpkins

SCIENCE METHODOLOGY

NOTE: While this lesson is written as one continuous lesson, the age of the students and the time allotted for science class may necessitate several smaller time frames.

- **TEACHER USES** real items or pictures of the seed, vine, flowers, and pumpkin to tell the story of the life cycle of a pumpkin.
- **LOOK** at various types of pumpkins using real pumpkins or pictures of pumpkins.
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- Pictures of growing things
- Globe and/or world relief map – *adds visual interest and allows student to move to see the map or globe.*
- CD player and song about the gifts of creation
- A pumpkin and a child-safe carving tool

RELIGION METHODOLOGY

- **TEACHER SHOULD SHOW** the land and water areas on the earth using a globe and/or the physical relief map of the world. *Very effective for young children to see where they live in proportion to other areas of land and water.*
- **DISCUSS** what lives in the water and what lives on the land.

- **TASTE TEST** the foods made from pumpkins (NOTE: be aware of student allergies and food restrictions): pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, ready to eat pumpkin seeds.
- **HAVE** the students discuss what they liked and what they did not like about each item. **SELECT** one pumpkin. **HAVE** the student estimate the number of seeds in that pumpkin. Compare the size of the pumpkin seed with the size of the pumpkin.
- **TEACHER** should have one pumpkin already cut in half and the students can count the seeds. See if they estimated accurately.
- **WEIGH** a couple of similarly sized pumpkins on the scale. Compare the weights. Briefly discuss why they might be of different weights.
- **SCHEDULE** a field trip to a pumpkin patch, if possible.
- **GIVE** the children time to read books with stories about pumpkins.
- **HAVE** the children work together to create a visual display of the life cycle of a pumpkin.
- **INVITE** principal, pastor, parents, and classes to view the display and allow the student to tell about it.
- **POSIT:** Pumpkins are amazing plants.

- **ASK:** Since God gave us living things and the water and land as gifts, how should we take care of them to show that we are grateful? Allow the student to answer. (not littering, having clean water, recycling.)

CONDUCT a prayer service that includes carving a pumpkin and thanking God for creating our eyes, noses, mouths and ears as the pieces of the pumpkin are carved. *The prayer service is crucial to helping the student connect the concept learned in science and the concept learned in religion class.*

- **POSIT:** God is the Creator of growing things.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Watch the Video “The Pumpkin Who was Not a Squash” and/or make mini-books on pumpkins.

NOTE: *Apples could be used instead of pumpkins.*

SCIENCE RESOURCES, LINKS AND COMPUTER LESSONS.

(Teacher) www.teachingheart.net/apumpkinunit.html

(Teacher) Poems, songs, and ideas from other teachers about pumpkins.

<http://www.teachers.net/lessons/posts/202.html>

(Teacher) Ideas about teaching the pumpkin as science.

<http://www.teachers.net/lessons/posts/212.html>

RELIGIOUS RESOURCES, LINKS AND COMPUTER LESSONS.

(Teacher) William H. Sadlier, publisher site

www.webelieveweb.net

(Teacher) Two sets of coloring pages of creation for teacher to print and copy.

<http://www.coloring.ws/creation.htm>

(Teacher) A mini-book on creation for teacher to copy templates and then print for student. Includes clear direction for assembly.

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/genesis/chapter1-index.htm>

KEY WORDS
LIFE SCIENCE – LESSON 1 – KINDERGARTEN - CA



PUMPKIN
LIFE CYCLE
SEED
SPROUT
SEEDLING
VINE
FLOWER

LIVING
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