



## SUPER FAB LAB INVESTIGATION: The Decayed Pumpkin



Learn about transformation and the effects of decay by comparing and contrasting a decaying pumpkin and a fresh one.

### Materials (The Stuff We Need)

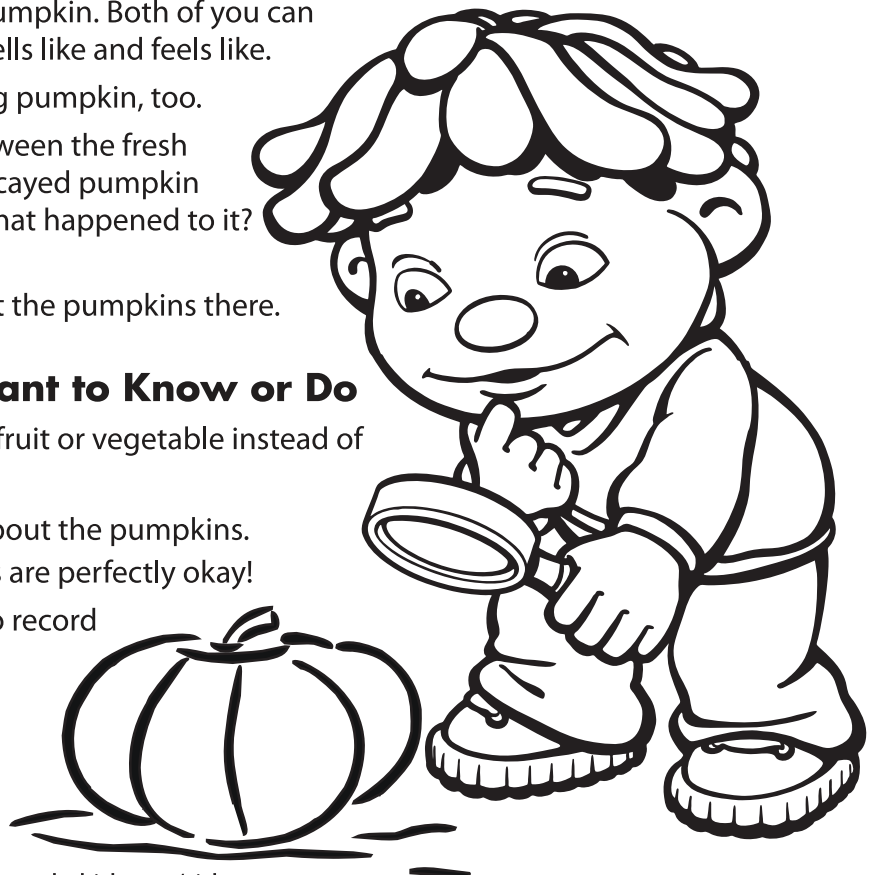
- Old pumpkin that's decaying. A jack o'lantern would be great! You can also decay a pumpkin by scooping out the seeds and guts and then letting it sit outside in the sun for a few days.
- Fresh pumpkin.
- Trays or newspaper to protect the table.
- Knife to cut pumpkins. (
- Gloves or sandwich bags to protect hands when touching decayed pumpkin.

### Procedure (What to Do)

1. Place the two pumpkins on paper cover table or trays.
2. Observe both of the pumpkins. You and your child can describe what they look like, smell like and feel like. (Use gloves if you touch the decayed pumpkin.)
3. Carefully cut open the fresh pumpkin. Both of you can describe what it looks like, smells like and feels like.
4. Cut and describe the decaying pumpkin, too.
5. Talk about the differences between the fresh and decayed pumpkins. The decayed pumpkin was once like the fresh one. What happened to it? Describe the changes.
6. If you have a compost pile, put the pumpkins there.

### Other Stuff You Might Want to Know or Do

- Feel free to observe a different fruit or vegetable instead of pumpkins.
- Use descriptive words to talk about the pumpkins. Words like icky, yucky and gross are perfectly okay!
- This is a great activity for kids to record in their science journals.



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