

# How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

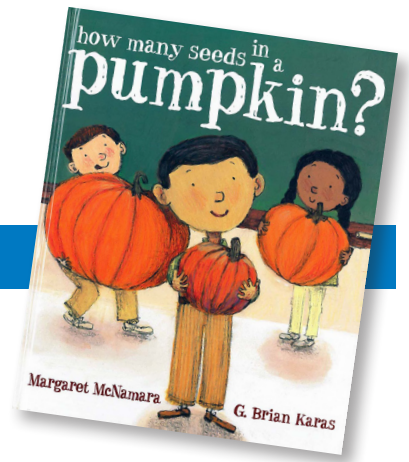
**Themes:** Fall, Counting, Estimation

**Grade Level:** K to 1st grade

**Book Brief:** With the help of his teacher, Charlie discovers that good things really do come in small packages.

**Author:** Margaret McNamara

**Illustrator:** G. Brian Karas



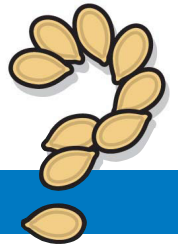
## TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, make connections:** Have you ever carved a pumpkin with your child before? What was it like inside? When do you usually see pumpkins?

**While reading, make predictions:** Let your child guess which pumpkin holds the most seeds. Have them explain their reasoning.

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Based on the number of hands, how many kids are in Mr. Tiffin's class?
- ◆ Why do you think the class lines up by size?
- ◆ Is this classroom like your classroom at school?
- ◆ Did you learn anything new about pumpkins?



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### PUMPKIN PUDDING PIE

Ingredients: graham cracker square, vanilla pudding cup, 1 T. pumpkin pie mix\*, whipped topping

Crumble graham cracker into bottom of a bowl. Mix the pumpkin pie mix into the pudding cup until blended. Spoon mixture on top of the crumbled graham cracker. Top with whipped topping.

*\*If only making one pudding pie, use the rest of the mix to make a real pumpkin pie. Let your child help measure and mix ingredients. Discuss the smell, taste, and texture of the real pie.*

### SEED ART

Materials: clean pumpkin seeds, rubbing alcohol, food coloring, bowls, newspaper

Pour alcohol into bowls. Put a few drops of food coloring in each bowl. The more food coloring you use, the darker the seeds will be. Place seeds in each bowl and let them sit until they reach the desired color. Drain and place on newspaper to dry overnight. Use the colored seeds to create pictures and patterns.

### PUMPKIN PATCH

Visit a local farm that grows pumpkins in the fall. Look at the pumpkin vines. What do you notice about them? Estimate how many pumpkins are grown at the farm. Count how many pumpkins are in one row or in the pumpkin bin. Ask an employee how long it took for the pumpkins to grow. If there's no pumpkin patch near you, look at the pumpkins at a local grocery store or farmer's market.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT PUMPKINS

*Pumpkins*, Ken Robbins (2006), *Pumpkin Circle: The Story of a Garden*, George Levenson (2002), *Seed, Sprout, Pumpkin, Pie*, Jill Esbaum (2009), *The Very Best Pumpkin*, Mark Kimball Moulton (2010).



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