

THE CARVING OF OLD JACKS



NAME _____ DATE _____

THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

1 PUMPKIN (ANY SIZE YOU CHOOSE)
1 KNIFE OR PUMPKIN CARVER
NEWSPAPER (3 SHEETS)
MARKERS
CANDLE
MATCHES
LARGE SPOON
1 OR MORE PARENTS FOR HELPING WITH KNIFE AND
MATCHES

Carving a jack-o-lantern is a tradition or custom in many American families. Families will go to area stores that sell pumpkins and spend hours just looking for the right one. When the right pumpkin has been chosen, take it home and wash the outside of the pumpkin and dry it completely. An adult will be needed to carefully cut open the top of the pumpkin where the stem is located. Save the stem of the pumpkin.

Next, you will need to remove the pulp or stringy part of the pumpkin and the seeds using a large spoon. Place all of the insides of the pumpkin on the sheets of newspaper to keep your area clean. After all the seeds and pulp have been removed, you may want to wash the outside of the pumpkin again to make sure you have a clean surface to work on. Markers can be used to draw the face you want on the outside of the pumpkin. You can make it as scary or as funny as you like. You will need the help of a parent or other adult to help cut out the face you drew on the pumpkin. This may take a few minutes to do because pumpkins can be very thick and their skin can be slick. You must practice safety rules when using a knife or pumpkin carving knife. Then, place a candle inside the pumpkin and light the candle using matches. At this time, place the top with stem back on the pumpkin. Finally, place the jack-o-lantern on your front porch and wait for the trick or treaters. Have a safe and Happy Halloween!

ANSWER EACH OF THE FOLLOWING :

1. The word custom means _____.
 - a. something shiny
 - b. something outside
 - c. the usual thing done by someone
 - d. a time for playing

2. What should you do when using a knife or pumpkin carving knife?
 - a. use it quickly
 - b. have a parent to help
 - c. practice safety rules
 - d. both b and c

3. Why are newspapers needed to do this activity?
 - a. to keep the area clean
 - b. to write on
 - c. to light the candle with
 - d. none of these

4. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - a. Pumpkin skins can be thick and slick.
 - b. It takes time to find just the right pumpkin for this activity.
 - c. This is an activity you can do without an adult.
 - d. Making a jack-o-lantern is a custom in many American families.

5. Which of the following IS true?
 - a. Pumpkins are used to decorate homes at Easter.
 - b. Markers can be used to make funny or scary faces for carving.
 - c. You can leave the pulp and seeds inside the pumpkin before carving.
 - d. None of these

6. Jack-o-lanterns are used _____ at Halloween.
 - a. as matches
 - b. for decorations
 - c. as candles
 - d. to give to trick or treaters

7. Which of the following should you do LAST in this activity?
 - a. wash the pumpkin
 - b. cut the top off
 - c. place it on your porch
 - d. draw on the face

8. Which of the following should you do FIRST in this activity?
 - a. wash and dry the pumpkin
 - b. choose the pumpkin you want
 - c. draw on the face
 - d. clean out the pulp and seeds

HAPPY HALLOWEEN EVERYONE !