

## HOW TO CARVE A JACK-O'-LANTERN

*Remember: Any activity involving sharp knives requires adult help!*

First, you need to find the perfect pumpkin. Consider that the shape of the pumpkin will have an influence on the kind of face you carve. Do you want a wide, short face? A long, thin face? Is symmetry important?

After you have chosen the best pumpkin for your jack-o'-lantern, wash and dry the outside completely. Then you can begin the first step of transforming your pumpkin into a jack-o'-lantern: hollowing the pumpkin.

Draw a circle around the top of the pumpkin (where the stem is located). The circle should be at least as big as your hand. Carefully cut open the top of the pumpkin by cutting into the pumpkin following the line you drew. Save the stem of the pumpkin.

Next, you will need to remove all the seeds and *pulp*, the stringy material, using a large spoon. Place all of pulp on sheets of newspaper to keep the area clean. After all of the seeds and pulp have been removed, wash and dry the outside of the pumpkin again to make sure you have a clean surface to work on.

Use markers to draw the face you want on the outside of the pumpkin. You can make it as scary or as funny as you like. Pumpkins can be very thick and their skin can be slick, so the features you draw should be large enough that you will be able to easily cut them out. It is usually easiest to use the knife to very carefully cut the features, and then push the cutout pieces out from the inside.

Your jack-o'-lantern is ready to work! Decide where you will put it (many people use them to decorate their front porch or a front window). Put a light inside the pumpkin, put the top back on, and let him scare –or delight— your neighbors and visitors!

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT  
HOW TO CARVE A JACK-O'-LANTERN**

1. Why is an adult necessary for this activity?
  - a. for carrying and placing the heavy pumpkin
  - b. for drawing the face
  - c. for reading the newspaper
  - d. for using or supervising the use of sharp knives
  
2. Why are newspapers needed to do this activity?
  - a. to keep the area clean
  - b. to light the inside of the jack-o'-lantern
  - c. to provide entertainment
  - d. to write on
  
3. What is the first step in changing a pumpkin into a jack-o'-lantern?
  - a. choosing the pumpkin
  - b. cutting off the top
  - c. drawing the face
  - d. getting an adult to help with the knives
  
4. Jack-o'-lanterns are used \_\_\_\_\_ at Halloween.
  - a. as candles
  - b. as matches
  - c. as decorations
  - d. as treats

Number the steps in order:

- \_\_\_\_ clean the pumpkin
- \_\_\_\_ clean the pumpkin again
- \_\_\_\_ cut off the top
- \_\_\_\_ cut the face
- \_\_\_\_ draw the face
- \_\_\_\_ get the pumpkin
- \_\_\_\_ push out the cut outs
- \_\_\_\_ put a light inside
- \_\_\_\_ save the stem
- \_\_\_\_ scoop out the insides

## ANSWERS TO HOW TO CARVE A JACK-O'-LANTERN

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

Actions in order:

1. Get the pumpkin
2. Clean the pumpkin
3. Cut off the top
4. Save the stem
5. scoop out the insides
6. clean the pumpkin again
7. draw the face
8. cut the face
9. push out the cut outs
10. put a light inside