

OCTOBER FIRST GRADE LESSON

A Pumpkin Grows Video

Show students the short video on how pumpkins grow:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB-dfi_0TsQ

Pumpkin Life Cycle Activity

In this hands-on activity, students will create a Jack-o-lantern that also demonstrates the life cycle of a pumpkin plant. As they color and assemble the pumpkin and plant parts, students will learn how a pumpkin grows from a seed to a flowering plant, produces green pumpkins, and eventually develops ripe, orange pumpkins with seeds ready to start the cycle again.

Materials included in the kit:

- 2 paper plates per student (A printable pumpkin template is also included and can be used in place of the paper plates for future activities.)
- 1 set of pumpkin plant parts per student
- 1 piece of yarn per student
- See the following pages for complete lesson directions and materials.

Pumpkin Seed Samples

Included in your kit are pumpkin seeds for students to sample!

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Giant Pumpkin Growing Time-Lapse:
https://youtu.be/NCSQUNrtgwk?si=npPjwp4jnVN5B_Af

Read Aloud

- *FROM SEED TO PUMPKIN - Kids Stories Read Aloud / Childrens Read Along / Bobby's Backyard - YouTube*



**SCAN TO ACCESS
DIGITAL VERSION**

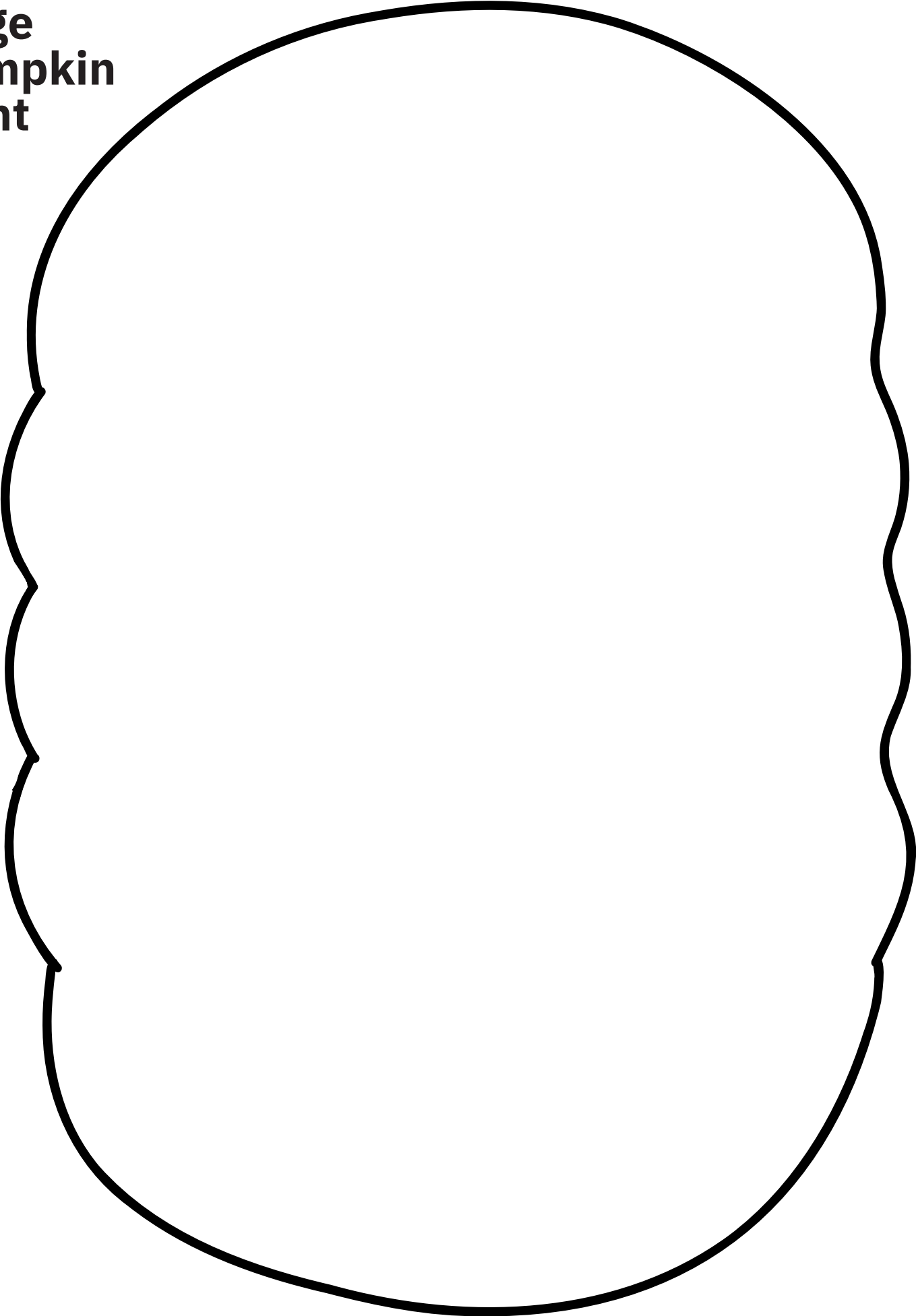
THE GREAT PUMPKIN

Procedures

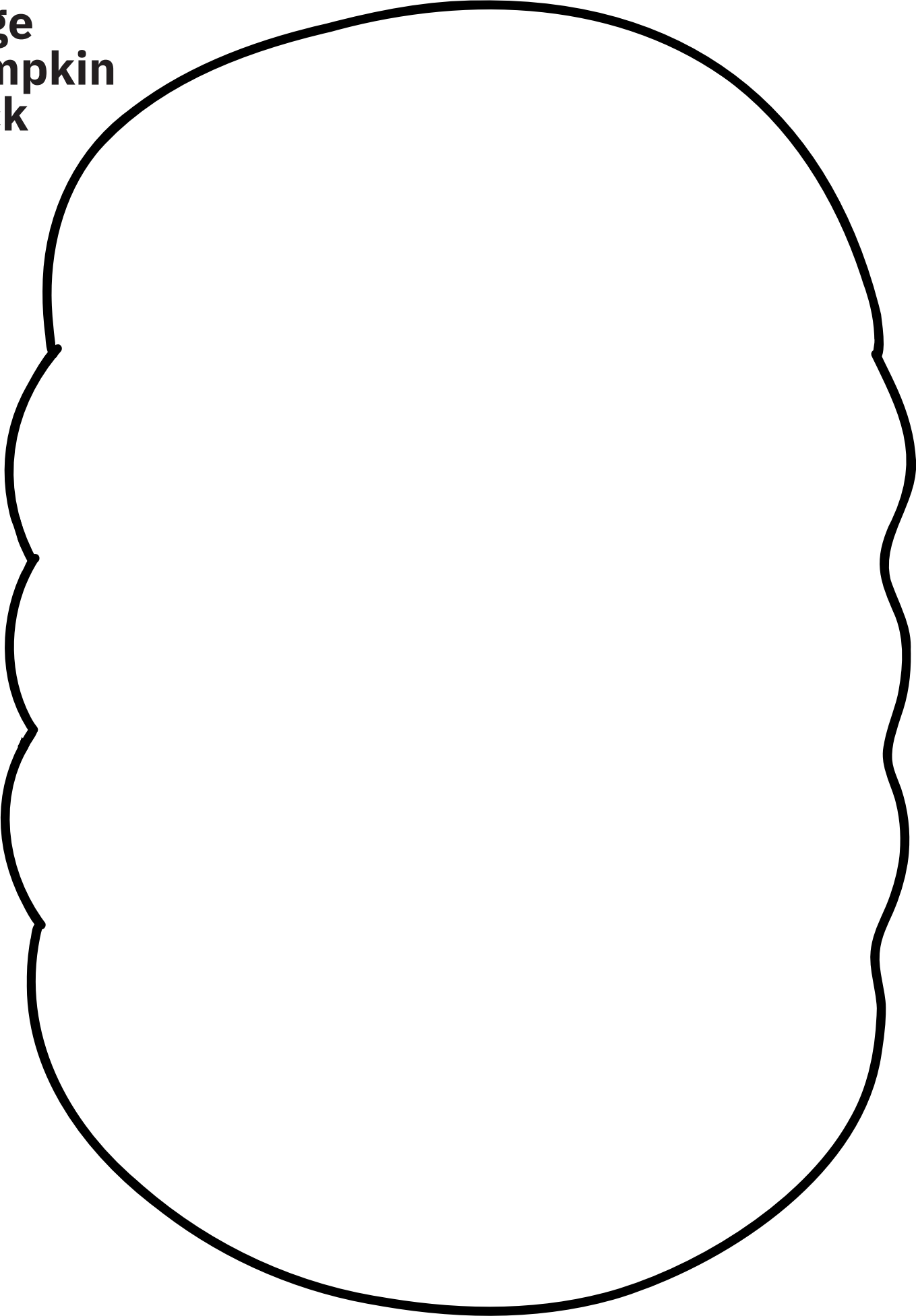
1. Print one copy of the all the parts of a pumpkin pattern for each student.
 2. Have each student draw a Jack-o-lantern face with a black marker or crayon on the outline of one of the large pumpkins. Color the rest of that pumpkin and the other large pumpkin.
 3. Discuss the life cycle of a pumpkin plant with students as they are working. First, the seed is planted. From the seed a plant sprouts, growing leaves and then orangey/yellow flowers. From the flowers, small green pumpkins form. When the pumpkins are ripe, they turn orange and can be harvested. Inside of the ripe pumpkin are many seeds which can be planted to start the cycle again.
 4. As you discuss the life cycle of the pumpkin plant, have students Color the other parts of the pumpkin.
 5. Cut the shapes out and punch a hole in the top of each one.*
 6. Thread the yarn* through the holes of the seed, leaf, flower, green pumpkin and orange pumpkin in the correct order of their formation on the pumpkin plant. Tie a simple knot at the top of each plant part.
 7. Staple* the end of the yarn closest to the orange pumpkin shape to the pumpkin without the face along one of the center sides.
 8. Staple the large pumpkins together around the edges with the orange sides facing out. Leave a gap on the side where the yarn is stapled to pull the seed, leaf, flower, and growing pumpkins out with the piece of yarn. Slide the string of plant parts into the center of the Jack-o-lantern.
 9. The students can practice describing the life cycle of the pumpkin by slowly pulling the seed, leaf, flower, and growing pumpkins from the Jack-o-lantern.
- *Use tape as an alternative to threading/stapling the yarn.

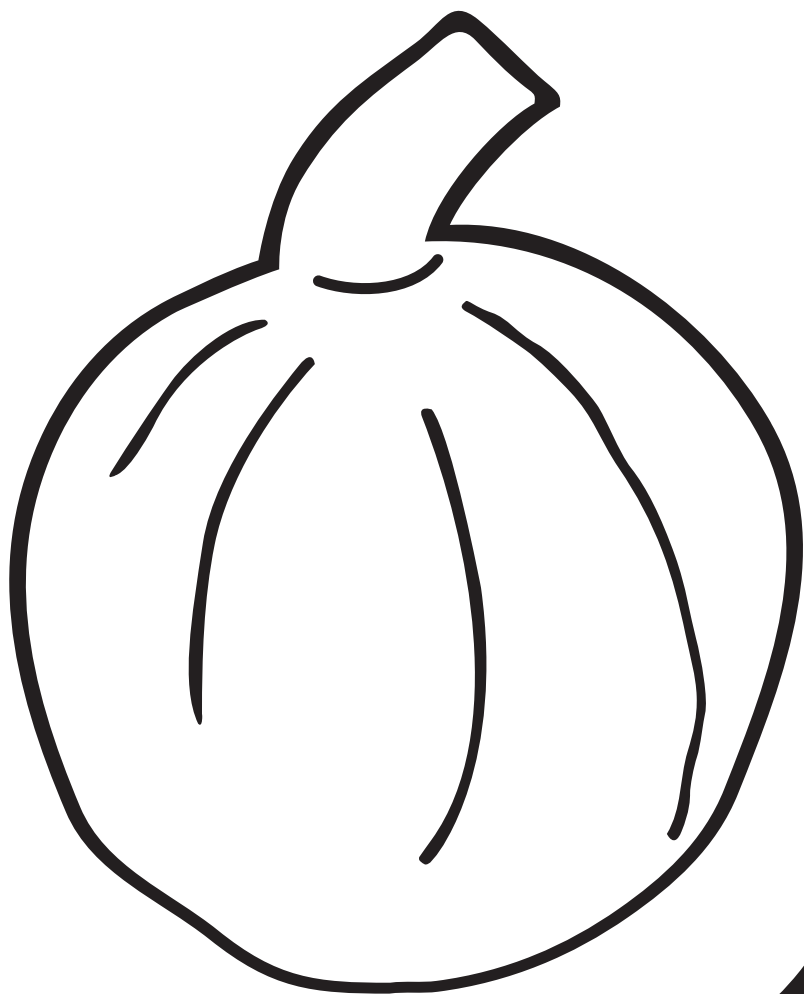


large
pumpkin
front

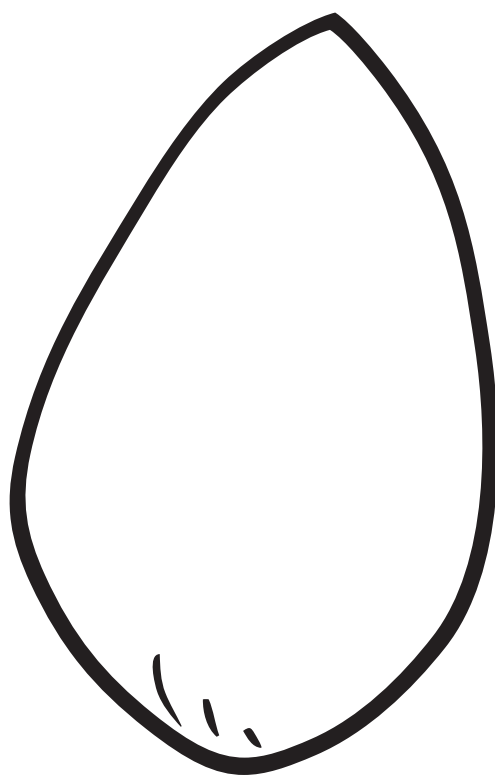


**large
pumpkin
back**

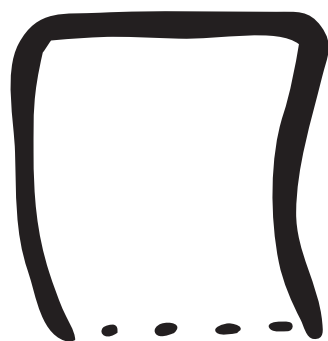




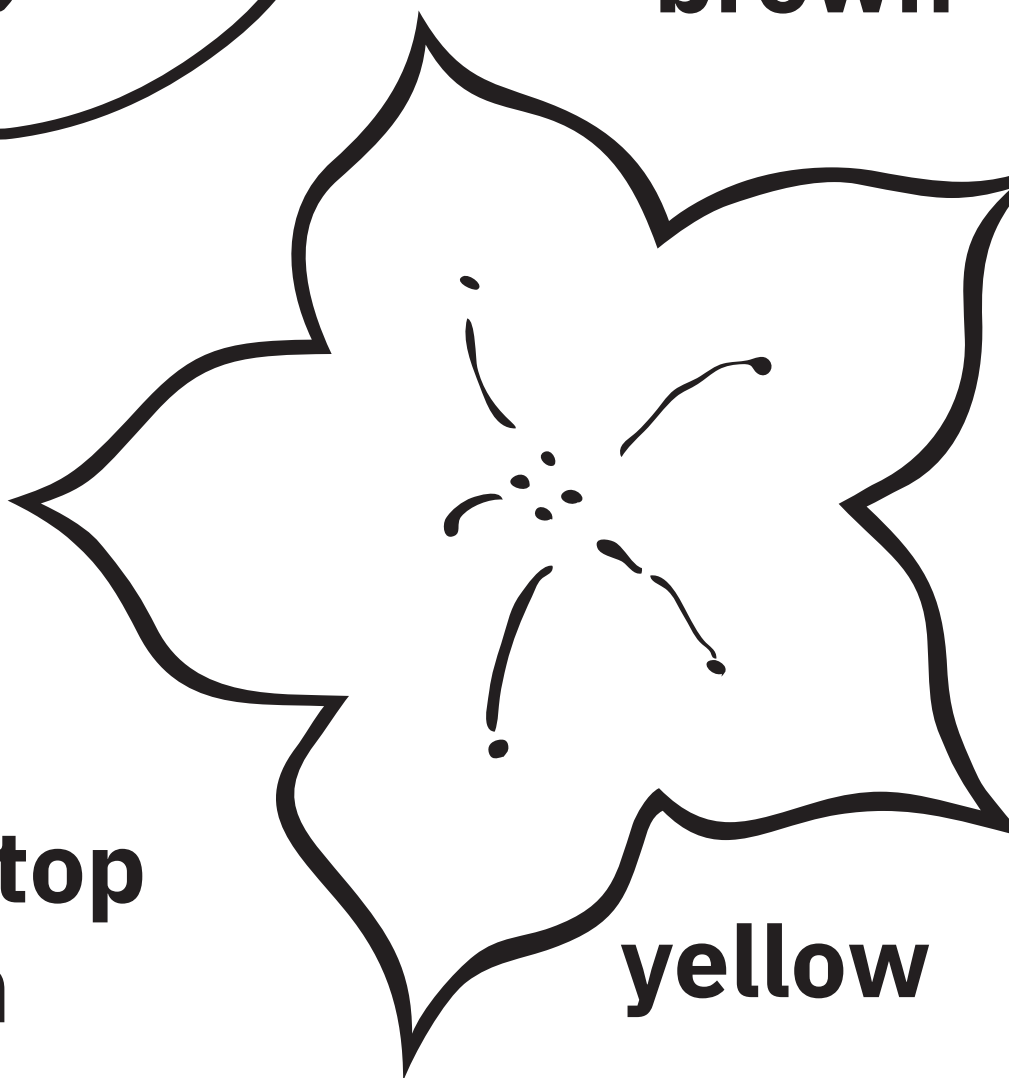
green



brown



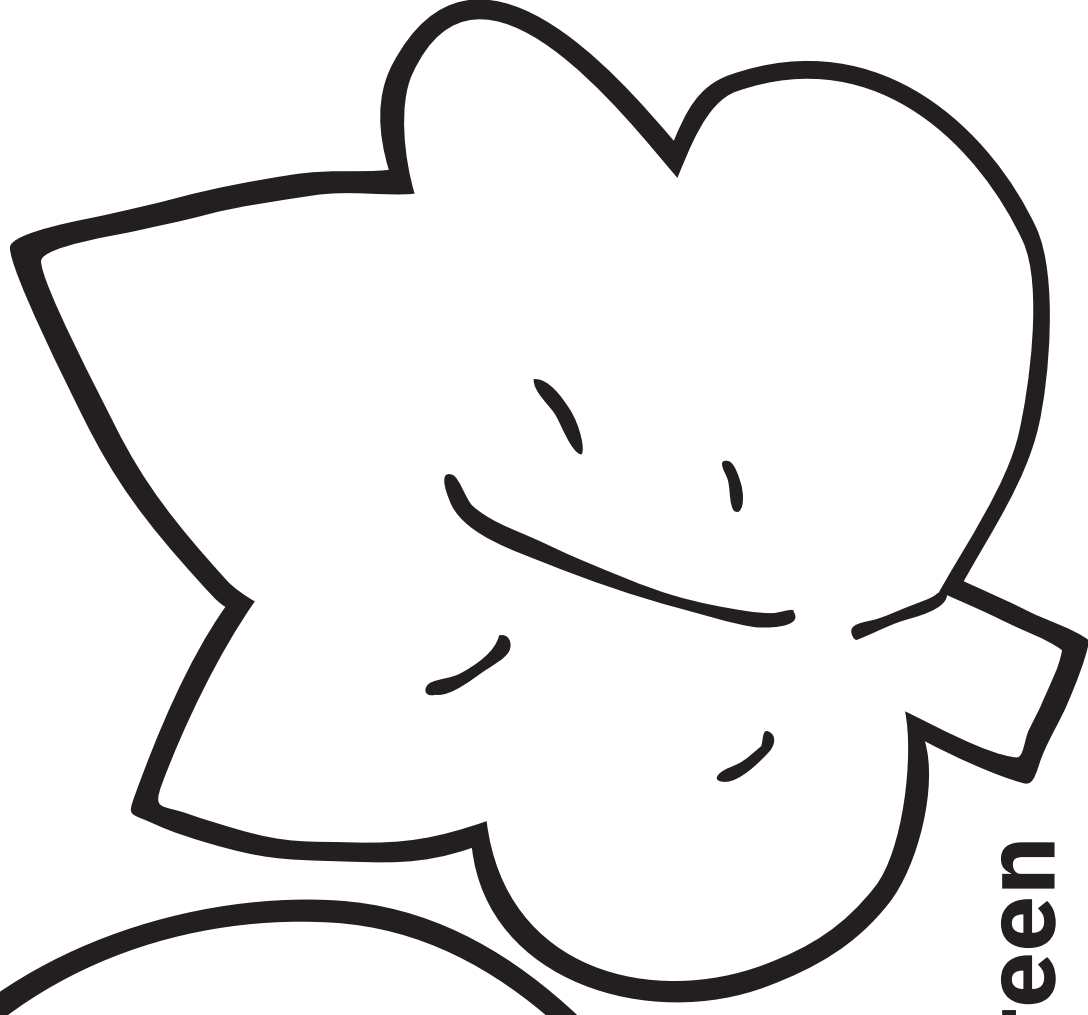
**pumpkin top
brown**



yellow



orange



green