

Numeracy Gr 3 Oct 26

Activity 1: How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin

Materials Needed:

- the book *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin* (or use the video link below) and a pumpkin.

Task Instructions:

Read or watch *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin*. You can find the video [here](#).

Questions to ask as your child reads/listens:

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?
- Did you learn anything new about pumpkins?
- Why do you think the children line up by size?
- What is another word for guessing an amount?
- Which pumpkin do you think holds the most seeds? Why?
- Why is Charlie the only student in the tens group?

Then you can use a pumpkin to estimate how many seeds, then open it up, scoop out the pumpkin innards and separate the seeds from the pulp. Put the pumpkin pulp and pumpkin seeds in a large bowl and fill it with water. You'll see any loose seeds float to the top. Use your fingers to gently separate the rest of the pumpkin seeds from the pulp. It's easier to do this underwater.

Remove the pulp from the bowl, and compost it. You probably won't get all the seeds completely clean. That's okay.

Use the seeds to count—how many did the pumpkin hold? Have your child count them by 10's. Are there more than 100? Explain the total number in terms of place value, and write in expanded form, for example:

257 is the same as $200 + 50 + 7$, or 2 hundreds, 5 tens and 7 ones

FOLLOW UP: Make some tasty healthy snacks by roasting the pumpkin seeds. You can get details [here](#):

Extension: Count the number of ribs in your pumpkin. Do you think the number of ribs relates to the number of seeds? Use a smaller or larger pumpkin to check out your guess.