



PUMPKIN ART FESTIVAL

Janice Ford, former Teacher Bulletin writer, and her family have established a wonderful October tradition. Janice writes . . .

"Well it all started about 15-20 years ago when my husband Gary started to raise giant pumpkins. We cut those huge pumpkins into smiley faces and people came by to see them. From that it led to more family becoming involved and more intricate carvings. Grandchildren enjoyed carving, and it became a time of fun, laughter and just a great time together.

As we carved more pumpkins close friends and neighbors came to join in the fun. Sometimes friends came by just to watch as we carved. People brought in snacks, pizza, and we ate lots of roasted pumpkin seeds. A friend donated candles.

The most pumpkins we carved was 100. (For one Halloween) We were careful what was carved on the pumpkins, nothing offensive. We called it a Pumpkin Art Festival. The most people we had viewing the carvings was 2,000. (We lit them 2 or 3 evenings)." ~ Janice Ford, Neck Road, Lancaster, MA

Speaking from personal experience, going to see the pumpkins at the Fords has become a "must-do" activity in the Lancaster, Massachusetts area. No one wants to miss the chance to view such beautiful artwork.

Take a look at the photographs of the Fords and their pumpkin carving time. If you'd like to try some carving yourself, visit these Internet links for ideas. The photographer is Ron Paulter, Janice's son-in-law. The photographs on the remaining October pages are also from the Ford's Art Festival. Enjoy!

- <http://pumpkinglow.com/Patterns4.htm>
- <http://pumpkinglow.com/Response.htm>
- <http://pumpkinglow.com/images/PDFpatterns/noahark.pdf>













COOKING UP A STORM

Pumpkin Pancakes with Honey

Prep: 10 min, Cook: 5 min.

For 4 servings:

- 1 cup biscuit mix
- 1 Tbs. brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground allspice
- 3/4 cup evaporated milk
- 1/4 cup solid pack pumpkin
- 1 Tbs. vegetable oil, more for skillet
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup honey, or to taste



Combine first 4 ingredients in a mixing bowl. Add remaining ingredients, except honey, and mix thoroughly with an electric mixer until smooth. Heat a heavy griddle or skillet over medium high heat. Lightly oil griddle and pour about 1/3 cup of batter per pancake. Cook until edges are dry and top is bubbly. Turn cakes and cook until golden. Serve with honey.

Per serving: calories 389, fat 12.8g, 29% calories from fat, cholesterol 61mg, protein 7.5g, carbohydrates 64.0g, fiber 1.5g, sugar 43.7g, sodium 451mg,





Pumpkin Spice Muffins

Prep: 10 min, Cook: 15 min.

For 4 servings:

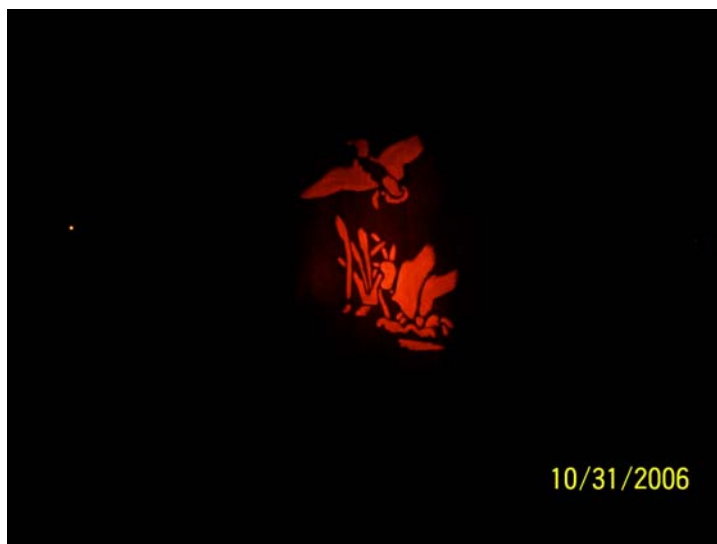
- 1/2 cup canned pumpkin
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 2 cups buttermilk baking mix
- 1/4 cup plus 2 Tbs. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- 3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp. ground ginger
- 2 tsp. unsalted butter



Preheat oven to 400°F. Combine first 3 ingredients in a bowl using a fork to mix. Combine 2 cups biscuit mix, 1/4 cup sugar, nutmeg, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon and ginger in another bowl. Add to pumpkin mixture and stir just until moistened. Spoon into 12 well greased muffin cups. Combine 1 Tbs. biscuit mix, 2 Tbs. sugar, 1/4 tsp. cinnamon and butter in a bowl. Sprinkle over muffins. Bake 15 minutes or until golden brown.

This recipe serves 12 people. Due to the nature of this recipe, it adjusts the number of servings in multiples of 12 only.

Per serving: calories 132, fat 4.5g, 31% calories from fat, cholesterol 19mg, protein 2.5g, carbohydrates 20.5g, fiber 0.8g, sugar 8.3g, sodium 266mg.





Roasted Pumpkin Seeds

An easy and tasty treat that you can make after you have hollowed out your pumpkin.

What You Need

2 tablespoons Butter
2 cups washed, cleaned pumpkin seeds
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/2 teaspoon seasoning salt
Use of oven
Large saucepan
Large cookie sheet or jelly-roll pan
Timer



How To Make It

Preheat oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit.
Melt butter in a large saucepan.
Add seeds and spices; toss to coat.
Spread seeds on a large cookie sheet or jelly-roll pan.
Bake 40 minutes, stirring often, until they're browned and crisp. Yield: 2 cups





PUMPKIN SCIENCE

You can approach almost any topic from a scientific point of view. Just use the scientific approach of posing a question, conducting investigations to get information, thinking about what you have observed and reaching a conclusion. Here are some questions to investigate on the seasonally interesting topic of pumpkins:

➤ Are the seeds scattered randomly within a pumpkin or arranged in some sort of pattern?

➤ Do big pumpkins have larger seeds than small pumpkins?

➤ Is there anything in a pumpkin which lines up with the creases on the outside?

➤ What does a pumpkin seed weigh?

➤ How many seeds does a pumpkin contain?

➤ Do all pumpkins have the same number of seeds?

➤ Can you tell which side of a pumpkin was against the ground? How? Does the stem help you figure it out?

➤ Will pumpkins float in water? If they do, do they float stem up, stem down, or stem sideways?

➤ Can pumpkin seeds be sorted into groups?

➤ How thick is the skin of a pumpkin? How far in is the meat?

➤ Place an empty wastebasket in a dishpan. Fill the wastebasket to the rim with water. Carefully place a pumpkin into the water. Weigh the water that was displaced. Does the weight (mass) of the water equal the weight (mass) of the pumpkin?





- Do birds eat pumpkin seeds?
- Make a list of the properties of a pumpkin and give it to someone. Can they guess what the object is?
- Will pumpkin seeds grow if planted right away?
- What folklore can you find about pumpkins?
- Where did pumpkins come from originally?//
- What other plants do we eat which are related to pumpkins?
- What is a pepo?

If every seed in a pumpkin grew into a plant which produced one pumpkin, and each of the seeds produced a plant which did the same, how many seeds would be produced?

Measure the diameter, circumference, volume (with seeds and pulp taken out), and weight of several pumpkins. Graph your findings. As the size of pumpkins increases, do all these measurements increase at the same rate?

What other pumpkin investigations can you think up?





PUMPKINS ON THE WEB

Pumpkin Links

The Pumpkin Circle Project is designed to connect elementary school children with the web of life by focusing on the miraculous cycle of nature in a pumpkin patch.

www.pumpkincircle.com/links.html

Growing Giant Pumpkins -

Let's talk about Giant Pumpkins pumpkin. Have you seen a large giant pumpkin?

www.backyardgardener.com/pumplink.html

Educational Pumpkin Links

Pumpkin Links. Ms. Pieczko's Pumpkin Patch · Museums in the Classroom Pumpkin Project · Online Puzzle · Pumpkin Exploration · Pumpkin Investigations

www.ksagclassroom.org/pumpkinlinks.htm

Pumpkins and More

Everything you wanted to know about pumpkins and more (UIUC Extension)

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/pumpkins/>

Pumpkin Nook

Another comprehensive pumpkin web site, including tips on growing pumpkins.

<http://www.PumpkinNook.com/>

Happy Halloween All Family Resources,

Includes free pumpkin carving patterns

<http://www.familymanagement.com/holidays/halloween/>

Pumpkin Pie and Bread Recipes for the Holidays

Save the fresh pumpkins for Jack-O'-Lanterns

<http://dan.drydog.com/pumpkin.html>

Pumpkin Links

Links to pumpkin units for Pre-K and Kindergarten.

www.prekinders.com/links_pumpkinunit.htm



Columbus Day



Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. At least that is what all elementary school children were always taught: "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." Of course, Columbus never did "discover" North America, and the regions he did explore were already inhabited. He only discovered them from the viewpoint of the Europeans. Yet his first voyage did prove one thing for sure, that the earth was not only round, but that it was bigger than he had thought, Eratosthenes notwithstanding.

One of the first known celebrations marking the discovery of the "New World" by Christopher Columbus was in 1792, when a ceremony organized by the Colombian Order was held in New York City honoring Christopher Columbus and the 300th anniversary of his landing in the Bahamas. Then, on October 12, 1866 the Italian population of New York organized the first celebration of the discovery of America. Three years later, in 1869 Italians in San Francisco celebrated October 12 calling it C-Day.

To mark the 400th anniversary of Columbus' voyage, in 1892, President Benjamin Harrison made a commemorative proclamation. But it was Colorado, in 1905, that became the first state to observe a Columbus Day. Since 1920 the day has been celebrated annually, and in 1937 President Franklin Roosevelt proclaimed every October 12 as Columbus Day. That's where it remained until 1971 when Congress declared it a federal public holiday on the second Monday in October.

The Nina - a Living History Museum - in Chattanooga, TN 10/2006



Columbus Day

~~1934: First Annual Columbus Day Proclamation:~~

The following is the first of the annual Presidential proclamations of Columbus Day mandated by Congress in 1934.

COLUMBUS DAY BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Public Resolution 21 Seventy-third Congress, approved April 30, 1934, provides: "That the President of the United States is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation designating October 12 of each year as Columbus Day and calling upon officials of the Government to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings. on said date and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places with appropriate ceremonies expressive of the public sentiment befitting the anniversary of the discovery of America.";

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by the aforesaid public resolution, do by this proclamation designate October 12 of each year as Columbus Day and do direct that on that day the flag of the United States be displayed on all Government buildings; and, further, I do invite the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies in schools and churches, or other suitable places.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 30th day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and fifty-ninth.

[SEAL]

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

By the President:

CORDELL HULL

Secretary of State



Writing Activities

Convincing the Queen

Columbus made many appeals before he finally convinced Queen Isabella of Spain to finance his first voyage. Put yourself in his place. What arguments would you have used to sell a king or queen on financing such a venture? Consider the time in history, the risks involved in sailing, and the uniqueness of Columbus's dream. Prepare a four to five minute speech to "sell" the voyage, and deliver it to your class or family.



The Log Book of ...



Walk into any library, and you'll find several biographies of Christopher Columbus. How do biographers learn about Christopher Columbus and his voyages? One primary source of information is the detailed logbooks Columbus kept during each of his voyages. Not only do the logbooks record the progress the sailors made each day, but they also record their actions along the way, their attitudes, and their interactions with one another and the natives they encountered along the way. In many ways, the logbooks resembled a diary or a journal. In fact, some historians have even referred to them as journals because Columbus shares so many of his own thoughts and feelings. Take time to read selections from these logs, and then begin your own journal or diary. Write about what happens each day, what others say about it, and how you feel about it.

Once Upon the Santa Maria

Back in 1492, children often had jobs -- and sometimes-dangerous jobs. It would not have been uncommon for Columbus to have taken cabin boys as young as 11 or 12 along on his voyages. Imagine that you signed onto the crew of the Santa Maria during that first voyage. Write about preparing for the voyage, the journey itself, spotting land, and docking along the shores of San Salvador.



To Celebrate or Not

Today, Columbus Day is among the most controversial holidays in the United States. Some see Columbus as a hero, the courageous explorer whose discovery led to the settlement of North and South America. Others see him as a villain, a ruthless conqueror whose discovery led the destruction of countless Native American people and cultures. Make a list of reasons people give for both celebrating and refusing to celebrate Columbus day. Decide which side offers the most compelling arguments, and then prepare to refute the arguments the other side uses. Debate the issue as a class.

Recommended Books



Admiral of the Ocean Sea: The Life of Christopher Columbus

(ages 12 and up) By Samuel Eliot Morison

A generation ago, this Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Christopher Columbus appeared on almost every recommended reading list for college-bound high school students. Its popularity has waned in recent years, as discovers of the New World have fallen from honor. But its content is still unrivaled. Lengthy as it is, it reads like a novel from cover to cover. This work is a must for school and home libraries.

Christopher Columbus: Adventurer of Faith and Courage **(ages 9-12) By Bennie Rhodes**

A part of the Sower Series published by Mott Media, this biography for younger readers examines the life of Christopher Columbus from a distinctly Christian perspective.

Christopher Columbus, Mariner **(ages 10 and up) By Samuel Eliot Morison**

This condensed version of Morison's Pulitzer Prize winning *Admiral of the Ocean Sea* is ideal for younger readers and those who aren't willing to tackle the 680 pages in the unabridged work. Having read both, I don't think this abridged version equals the original, but it's still a fine biography presented by a masterful storyteller.

Christopher Columbus **(ages 4-8) Written by Stephen Krensky; Illustrated by Norman Green**

This easy-to-read account of Columbus's fateful voyage includes maps and a cutaway view of one of his ships.

Columbus and Cortez: Conquerors for Christ **(ages 14 and up) By John Eidsmoe**

Too often, we evaluate historical figures by modern standards, Eidsmoe contends. In this work, he challenges readers to cast aside their 21st century biases and examine the conquistadors--and their conduct--in the contexts of their 15th- and 16th-century cultures. Eidsmoe uses primary sources to go beyond the "what" and into the "why" of their actions.

Columbus Day

~~Columbus Day~~

(ages 12 and up) By Jimmie Durham

Cherokee poet, artist, and social activist Jimmie Durham vividly portrays the Columbus Day holiday from a Native American perspective.

~~Columbus Day~~

(ages 4-8) Written by Vicki Liestman;

Illustrated by Rick Hanson

This illustrated book tells about Columbus's discovery of the New World and relates the history of Columbus Day. It includes a look at the controversies surrounding the holiday and discusses both the positive and negative effects of Columbus's first voyage.

~~First Voyage to America: From the Log of the 'Santa Maria'~~

(ages 9 and up) by Christopher Columbus

A reprint of a 1938 work, this illustrated book features translated excerpts from the journal Columbus penned during his first voyage. The abridged text ends when the ship reaches land.

~~Follow the Dream: The Story of Christopher Columbus (ages 4-8) (also available in hardcover)~~

By Peter Sis This beautifully-illustrated book, along with its brief, uncontroversial text, serves as an excellent introduction to American history for young children. Sis depicts the world of the 15th century and re-creates the obstacles Columbus faced as he crossed the sea, while avoiding the debates that now surround the discovery of the Americas.

~~If You Were There in 1492 (ages 8-14)~~ By Barbara Brenner This amply-illustrated book helps children visualize the world of Christopher Columbus. It examines school, family, government, work, food, clothing, and other aspects of life in Spain, including little-known facts. It also discusses life after the discovery of the New World and portrays the impact Columbus's discovery had on the lives of his contemporaries.

~~The Life of the Admiral Christopher Columbus by His Son Ferdinand~~

(ages 12 and up) Trans. Benjamin Keen

This thick volume strikes most as a heavy read for adults, much less children. For anyone with a deep interest in the life of Columbus, however, it's fascinating. I read this book from cover to cover when I was in seventh grade and have used excerpts from it even in the elementary classroom. I would highly recommend it for use in the high school classroom or the home school setting.



Columbus Day

The Voyages of Columbus (ages 8-12) By Ken Hills

Teacher and historical writer Ken Hills offers a brief overview of each of Columbus's four voyages, as well as a short biography of the explorer, in this illustrated volume. Now out of print, this book can still be found on the shelves of a few bookstores or special ordered through Amazon.com.

Westward With Columbus (a Time Quest book) (ages 8-12) By John Dyson

In the summer of 1990, a crew of adventurers stepped aboard a replica of the Nina to re-enact Columbus's first voyage. In this book, one of the adventurers takes young readers back to the days of Columbus, describing the journey through the eyes of a fictional cabin boy. Photos taken throughout the journey complete the work.



Columbus