

# Pumpkin Theme for Preschool

From Miss Cheryl at [Preschool Plan It](http://www.preschool-plan-it.com)

Preschool Pumpkin Activities in Autumn! There are so many activities available to teach so many concepts with this theme! This page includes preschool lesson plans, activities and Interest Learning Center ideas for your Preschool Classroom!

## Let the Pumpkin Theme Planning Begin!



### Hand Pumpkins

Materials Needed: Brown construction paper, orange and green paint. The children make a fist shape with their hand. Dip their knuckles into the orange paint and then print knuckles onto paper (it makes a pumpkin). The children use their thumb to make a thumbprint on top of their pumpkin for the stem and for the leaves. 3,11,13,22,28,31

### Pumpkin Printing

Materials: Small Gourds, paint and paper. Cut gourds in half across the middle. Dip in paint and use to make gourd prints on paper. 3,11,22,28,31

### Sponge Painted Pumpkins

Materials: small sponges cut into shapes, white paper, orange, green and brown paint. The children sponge paint their own pumpkins including leaves and stems. 3,11,13,22,28,31

### Pumpkin Seed Collage

Materials: pumpkin seeds, glue, tag board, other seeds and popcorn kernels (optional) The children use the seeds to create a collage, picture, etc. with. 2,11,13,14,22,30,31

### Create A Pumpkin

Materials: orange, green, brown, black paper, scissors, glue. The children cut out their own shapes from the colored paper to create and glue a pumpkin onto the white paper. They can create faces for them as well! 2,8,13,14,23,25,31



# PRESCHOOL PLAN IT STANDARDS

	<b>Approaches To Learning (ATL)</b>
<b>1 ATL</b>	Demonstrates eagerness, curiosity, & flexibility as a learner.
<b>2 ATL</b>	Developing ability and self-direction to set and follow through with goals to complete an action or task.
<b>3 ATL</b>	Joins in and cooperates with others in play and learning.
	<b>Social and Emotional Development (SED)</b>
<b>4 SED</b>	Expresses affection, empathy and sympathy to others and balances needs and rights of others and self.
<b>5 SED</b>	Engages in positive relationships and interactions with adults involved in their care.
<b>6 SED</b>	Engages in positive relationships and interacts in socially appropriate manner with minimal conflict with peers.
<b>7 SED</b>	Demonstrates increasing ability to self-regulate impulses and emotions, return to equilibrium after experiencing stress
<b>8 SED</b>	Demonstrates ability to ask for as well as offer help when needed.
	<b>Physical Development &amp; Health (PDH)</b>
<b>9 PDH</b>	Developing large muscle coordination and coordination through activities such as pulling, throwing, catching, kicking, etc.
<b>10 PDH</b>	Developing travelling skills by using locomotor skills to maneuver in their environment and in a large group.
<b>11 PDH</b>	Participates in structured and unstructured activities.
<b>12 PDH</b>	Developing large muscle control and balancing skills through activities such as walking (front and backward) skipping, running, climbing, hopping, stretching, reaching etc.
<b>13 PDH</b>	Uses a variety of tools & materials to build grasp & release skills, scissor skills & ability to use thumb/forefinger in pincer grasp.
<b>14 PDH</b>	Developing eye-hand coordination using a variety of materials.
<b>15 PDH</b>	Developing pre-writing & drawing skills using wide variety of tools
<b>16 PDH</b>	Learning about importance of nutrition and healthy routines and how they benefit their bodies (i.e. diff between health/junk food, dental health knowledge, etc.)
<b>17 PDH</b>	Demonstrates increasing ability to complete self-help/personal care tasks & life skills independently (washing hands, toileting, dressing, brushing teeth, using eating utensils, etc.)
	<b>Social Science &amp; Knowledge (SSK)</b>
<b>18 SSK</b>	Developing understanding of their personal and family structure.
<b>19 SSK</b>	Developing awareness of their family, the community, the classroom and their responsibilities in each.
	<b>Mathematical Knowledge &amp; Skills (MAT)</b>
<b>20 MAT</b>	Developing ability to recognize numbers recite them in order and recognize that numbers represent quantities.
<b>21 MAT</b>	Uses numbers, one-to-one counting & subitizing (identifying number of objects in a set without counting them) to determine the quantity.
<b>22 MAT</b>	Developing ability to identify, predict, create & extend patterns.
<b>23 MAT</b>	Developing ability to measure wide variety of objects using many different attributes (weight, length, size, etc.)
<b>24 MAT</b>	Developing ability to classify, compare, sort and order a wide variety of object by different attributes.
<b>25 MAT</b>	Identifies basic shapes and beginning to identify their parts.

<b>26 MAT</b>	Developing understanding of ordination & positional language (1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> ), directionality (up, down) and spatial awareness (next to, on top of) & how to apply to items, stories, etc.
	<b>Scientific Knowledge &amp; Skills (SCI)</b>
<b>27 SCI</b>	Developing observation & inquiry skills using their senses & tools (including technology) to gather & investigate information.
<b>28 SCI</b>	Makes predictions and inferences about changes in materials.
<b>29 SCI</b>	Communicates & documents information gathered using a variety of methods (drawing, maps, graphs, charts & through discussion)
<b>30 SCI</b>	Developing knowledge of science concepts through exploration of the different sciences (Life Science, Physical Science, Earth/Environmental Science, Technology Science)
	<b>Creative Arts (ART)</b>
<b>31 ART</b>	Visual Arts: Uses a variety of materials to make art creations to reflect thoughts, feelings, experience or knowledge
<b>32 ART</b>	Drama: Participates in dramatic play using creativity, imagination and objects/props to express themselves
<b>33 ART</b>	Dance & Movement: Participates in expressive dancing and movement activities
<b>34 ART</b>	Music: Participates in music through activities by listening, performing, singing or using musical instruments.
	<b>Language &amp; Literacy Development (LLD)</b>
<b>35 LLD</b>	Understands and follows at least 2-3 step directions.
<b>36 LLD</b>	Uses increasingly complex and varied vocabulary, grammar and syntax in conversations and storytelling.
<b>37 LLD</b>	Speech is clear and understood by others.
<b>38 LLD</b>	Developing awareness of print (in books & environment) and recognizes that print conveys meaning (i.e. recognizing own name)
<b>39 LLD</b>	Recognizes how books are read (front to back, one page at a time) and characteristics of books (title, author, illustrator)
<b>40 LLD</b>	Listens to & describes items/actions in books; retells stories
<b>41 LLD</b>	Notices and discriminates sounds of language (rhyme, alliteration, etc.) and that letters have distinct sounds associated with them (such as beginning and/or ending sounds)
<b>42 LLD</b>	Recognizes & identifies letters of the alphabet in print, environment, and/or own name.
<b>43 LLD</b>	Demonstrates increased emergent writing skills such as random marks, controlled scribbles, basic shapes, letter-like marks or letters to represent words, stories, ideas, experiences or objects.
	<b>English Language Development (ELD)</b>
<b>44 ELD</b>	Demonstrates progress in understanding & listening to English
<b>45 ELD</b>	Demonstrates progress in speaking English



## Blocks

### Pumpkin Patch

Materials: orange, green and brown paper, scissors, tape, a few small pumpkins and gourds  
Encourage the children to wrap blocks with paper to create pumpkins with stems and leaves for the block area. They can also twist the brown paper to make vines. 3,6,7,12,13,19,22,30,36



## Circle

Circle Time is such a great time for children to learn the social skills of being together as a large group AND to learn more about your theme!

### 5 Little Pumpkins Fingerplay

5 Little pumpkins sitting on a gate (hold up 5 fingers).

The 1st one said "Oh my! It's getting late!" (Hold up 1 finger. Then pretend to look at their watches)

The 2nd one said "It's very windy out here!" (Hold up 2 fingers. Then move hands in air like the wind)

The 3rd one said "But we don't care!" (Hold up 3 fingers. Then hold hands up as you do when saying I don't know)

The 4th one said "Let's run and run and run." (Hold up 4 fingers. Then place fingers on floor and have them move as if they are running).

The 5th one said "Let's have some fun." (Hold up 5 fingers. Then wave hands and arms in air as though dancing!)

WOOOOOSH went the wind. (Make a loud woosh sound with the kids!)

OUT went the lights. (Clap hand very loudly when you say OUT loudly---if your children can handle it, have someone shut out the lights!)

5 little pumpkins rolled out of sight. (Make a rolling motion with your hands).

EXTENSION: Let the children act this out 5 at a time! 3,7,40,41,44,45

### Pass the Pumpkin

Materials: small pumpkin, chart paper, marker. Bring a pumpkin to circle time. Pass it from child to child. Ask each child to say one word that describes the pumpkin and write them all down! (orange, heavy, dirty, smelly, etc.!) 1,7,12,27,30,36,44,45

### Pin The Nail in the Pumpkin

Materials: a couple of large pumpkins, yarn, scissors, hammer, nails (with wide heads)

Let the children help hammer a nail into the pumpkin. Ask what they think will happen when they do! Tie the ends of a few long pieces of yarn to a few nails on each pumpkin.

Show the children how to wrap the yarn around one nail one time and then go to another nail and do the same. You can make cool criss-cross yarn shapes on the pumpkin and other designs. Place the pumpkins in your science or math area for the children to use throughout the week! 3,5-7,12-14,22,35

### Pumpkin, Gourd or Corn?

Materials: covered box, a small pumpkin, a small bumpy gourd and an ear of corn (shucked).

Place one item at a time in the box and give each child a chance to feel the item without looking and guess the item. Have them describe what they feel. Do this with all three items.

When done, discuss the similarities and differences between each (size, color, feel, smell, etc.)

1,5,7,25,27,30,35,37,44,45

### Pumpkin Seed Maracas

Materials: small paper plates, markers, staplers, pumpkin seeds, music

Children decorate their plates and print their names. Place paper plates together (with the bottoms facing out) and help each child staple all the way around the edge, leaving a 1 inch section not stapled. Each child counts out 5-10 pumpkin seeds from a bowl and drops them into the opening of their plate (counting them as they drop them in) and then staples the opening closed. Use these as children dance to music! 13-15,20,27,31,33,35,42,43



Cooking with children helps develop their math skills and helps them to learn how to follow directions. It also allows for some great conversation! Ask many questions while cooking with your children to encourage conversation! Be sure to ask specific themed questions while making these fun snacks!

### Pumpkin Patch Muffins

Ingredients and Items needed:

- Muffin pans and muffin liners, two bowls, mixing spoons
- 1 cup of pumpkin (fresh or canned)
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup melted margarine
- 2 eggs
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt

1. Preheat oven to 375F
2. In a large bowl, mix the pumpkin, brown sugar, margarine and eggs.
3. In a separate bowl, sift the flour with the baking powder and salt

4. Add the dry ingredients to the pumpkin mixture and stir until combined.
5. Spoon the batter in muffin tins.
6. Bake for 20 minutes.

This recipe makes 10-12 muffins. Work the recipe so that each child participates in cooking!  
13,16,17,23,31,35



## Drama

### Storytelling with Props

Provide props to go with several books and place them in your dramatic play area. Some ideas are Pumpkin, Pumpkin--provide large pictures of each growth cycle of a pumpkin for the children to act out while looking at the story for reminders. Place many pumpkins and/or fall themed books and props such as scarecrows, hay, pumpkins, etc. 3,4,6,10,13-15,19,30,32,36, 40



## Easel

### Pumpkin Leaf Painting

Add pumpkin leaves or vines to use to paint with instead of brushes!  
3,4,8,13,14,22,24,30,31,36,45



## Gross Motor

### Hide and Go Seek the Pumpkins!

Materials: small pumpkins and gourds. This game is just what it sounds like! With preschoolers, competition is never the goal! So, be sure to have as many gourds or pumpkins as you have children. Hide the pumpkins and then instruct the children to find just ONE and then come back to a designated area as fast as they can! Once they are all done finding them, try different activities such as: Will it roll across the floor? Will it roll down a ramp?  
3,4,7,10,12,27,28,35

### Pumpkin Freeze

Place pumpkin shapes all over the room. Play music. When the music stops, the children run to a pumpkin shape, stand on it and freeze! Try counting to see how long it takes for everyone to get to a pumpkin shape! 3,7,11,12,20,33,34,44,45

## Pumpkin Parade

Parade around your room (or school) to celebrate all you've learned about pumpkins! Use the opportunity to develop following direction skills and spatial relationships. Suggest a specific way to carry the pumpkin (hold it UP, bend over and hold it low while you walk, etc.).

3,7,11,12,26,33,34,44,45



### Library

**Book Standards:** 1, 6, 38-40, 44

[I'm A Seed](#) by Jean Marzollo

[It's Pumpkin Time!](#) by Zoe Hall

[Patty's pumpkin patch](#) by Teri Sloat

[The Pumpkin Blanket](#) by by Turney Zagwyn

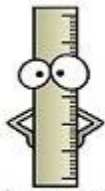
[Pumpkin Pumpkin](#) by Jeanne Titherington (Make pumpkin felt pieces to go with this story for circle time or story time).

[Pumpkin Soup](#) by Helen Cooper

[The Pumpkin Book](#) by Gail Gibbons

[The Pumpkin Fair](#) by Eve Bunting

[Too Many Pumpkins](#) by Linda White



### Math & Manips

## Pumpkin Math Game

Materials: Dried pumpkin seeds, Pumpkin Math Game from this activity pack

2,13,14,20,21,30,35

## Pumpkin Play Dough

Materials: playdough recipe in this packet and ingredients needed to make playdough.

3,23,26,35

## Playdough Pumpkin Face Activity Mat

Materials: activity mat from this packet, pumpkin playdough, playdough rollers, tools, unpopped popcorn kernels, cookie cutters (optional)

The children roll the playdough out over the laminated mats and then use tools to cut the edges, decorate with popcorn kernels or pumpkin seeds. They can also use cookie cutters to make "pumpkin cookies". 13, 23,24, 27, 29, 36

## Increasing sizing

Provide many different sizes of pumpkins for the children to place in increasing size and then decreasing. 13, 23,24, 27, 29, 36



## Music & Move

### Pumpkin Seed Freeze Dance

Use the pumpkin seed maracas while children dance to music. When you stop the music, the children freeze (and stop shaking their maracas!). Use many different tempos of music!  
3,7,11,12,33,34,44,45

### The Pumpkins Are Here!

*sung to the tune of The Farmer In The Dell*

Materials: a mini pumpkin or gourd for each child to hold. (Let them take them home as well!); song poster from this packet. Use this song to help teach them spatial awareness skills!

The pumpkins are here! The pumpkins are here!  
I saw some pumpkins at the farm! The pumpkins are here!  
The pumpkins are up; the pumpkins are down.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are up and then they're down.  
The pumpkins are in; the pumpkins are out.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are in and then they're out.  
The pumpkins are low; The pumpkins are high.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are low and then they're high.  
Add more lines as you think of them!  
3,12,19,22,26,34,37,41,44,45

### Pumpkin Parade

Have a parade around the room walking AROUND pumpkin shapes that are on the floor. Each child has a musical instrument to play while following the leader of the parade who goes from one pumpkin to the next. 3,7,11,12,26,33,33,44,45



## Sand & Water

### Growing Pumpkins

Materials: Add potting soil, spoons, pumpkin seeds and small cups. Let the children explore the seeds and discuss the sizes, weight, color, etc., bury and dig up the seeds as well. Encourage them to count the seeds as they bury/find them. 3,7,11,13,14,17,28,30,36



## Science

### Pumpkin Investigation

Materials: Large pumpkin, cut open, spoons, magnifying glasses, cookie sheets to put the insides of the pumpkin on. The children check out and investigate the pumpkin. Encourage them to describe what they are experiencing through all of their senses (how does it smell, feel, look, sound, taste!). 3,6-8,11,13,23,24,27,36,37,45

### Window Pumpkin Seeds

Materials: pumpkin seeds, ziplock plastic baggies, paper towels, spray bottle with water in it, tape, masking tape, marker

1. Children write their name on a piece of masking tape on their plastic bag.
2. Each child counts out three pumpkin seeds and places them in the middle of their paper towel.
3. Each child sprays their paper towel and seed until damp.
4. Help children fold their paper towels.
5. Place paper towel inside plastic baggie, seal and then tape to a sunny window and observe it over time to watch it grow. 2,7,13-15,20,27,28,30,35,42



## Writing

### Pumpkin Recall Journal:

Have the children draw pictures of what they learned about pumpkins this week!

1,2,13-15,27,30,31,26,37,42,43,45



Calendar Pieces Life Cycle of a Pumpkin - Pumpkin Theme ABCDEF Pattern



1



2



3



4



5



6

Calendar Pieces Life Cycle of a Pumpkin - Pumpkin Theme ABCDEF Pattern



7



8



9



10



11



12

Calendar Pieces Life Cycle of a Pumpkin - Pumpkin Theme ABCDEF Pattern



13



14



15



16



17



18

Calendar Pieces Life Cycle of a Pumpkin - Pumpkin Theme ABCDEF Pattern



19



20



21



22



23



24

Calendar Pieces Life Cycle of a Pumpkin - Pumpkin Theme ABCDEF Pattern



25



26



27



28



29

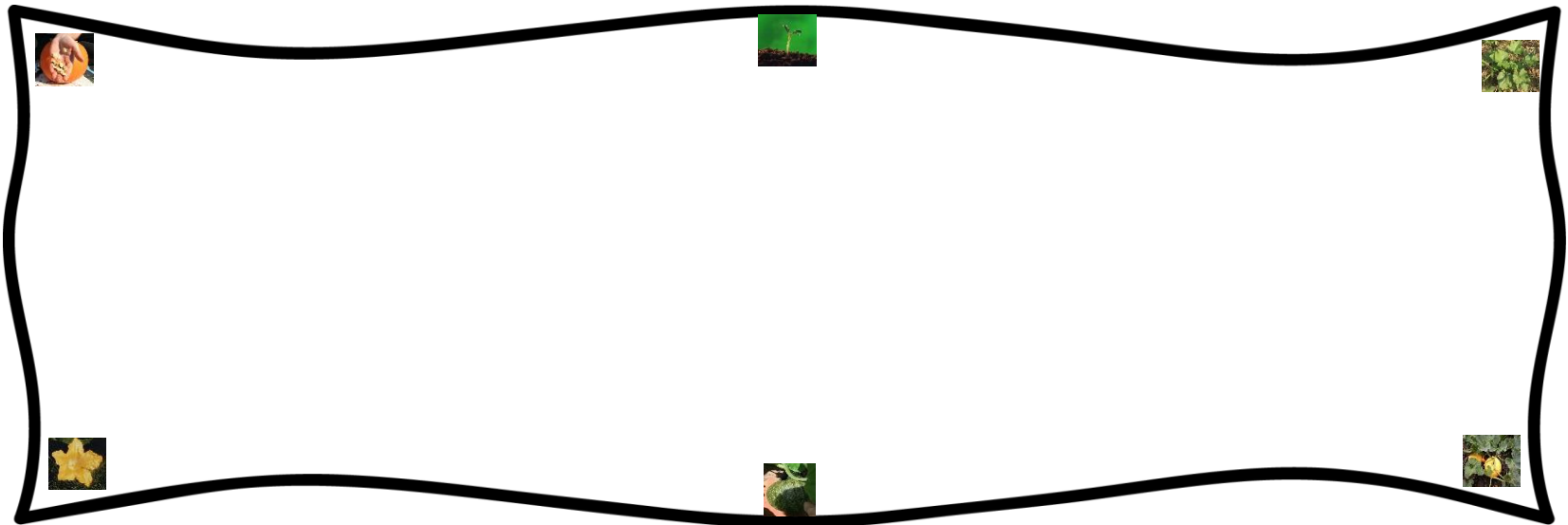


30



31

The blank card below is to add the month you would like! Simply cut out, laminate and print the month's name with a dry erase marker so that you can erase and use whenever you like throughout the year.





## Pumpkin Playdough

4 cups (1000 mg) flour

2 cups(500 ml) hot water

Orange paint

1 cup (250 mg) salt

2 tablespoons (30 ml) oil

1 tsp (5 mg) allspice

- 1.Mix the hot water, oil and paint together in advance.
- 2.Child adds  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of flour,  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup salt and a dash of all spice to their cup.
- 3.Child adds  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of the water/oil/paint mixture to the cup.
- 4.They stir until mixed.
- 5.Add more flour until it is the correct consistency.

# Playdough Pumpkin Faces Activity Mat

Print and laminate as many of the following page as you want in your interest center.

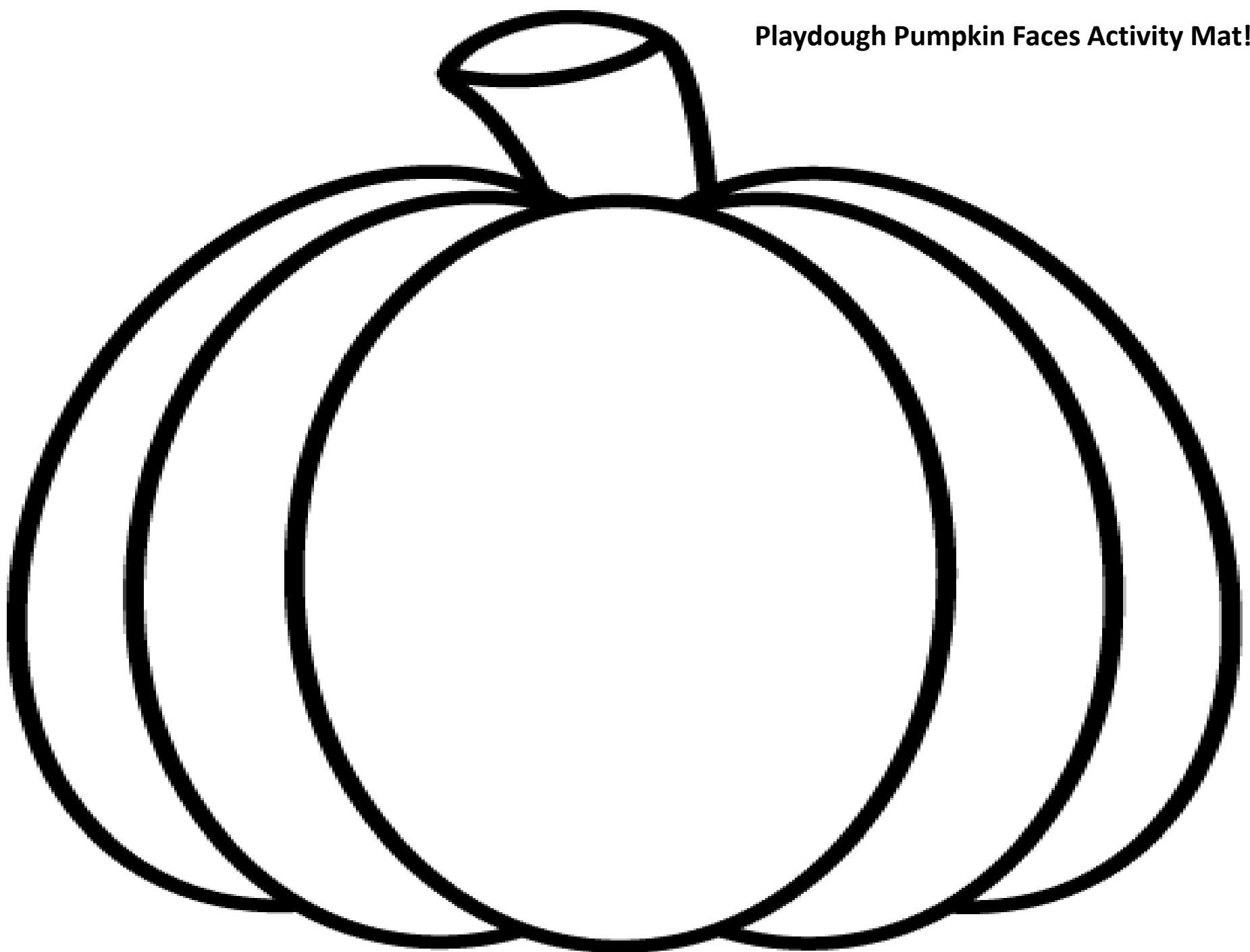
Provide the pumpkin playdough that you made this week along with playdough rolling pins, playdough tools, unpopped popcorn kernels and cookie cutters (optional)

The children roll the playdough out over the laminated mats and then use tools to cut the edges, decorate with popcorn kernels or pumpkin seeds.

They can also use cookie cutters to make “pumpkin cookies”.



**Playdough Pumpkin Faces Activity Mat!**

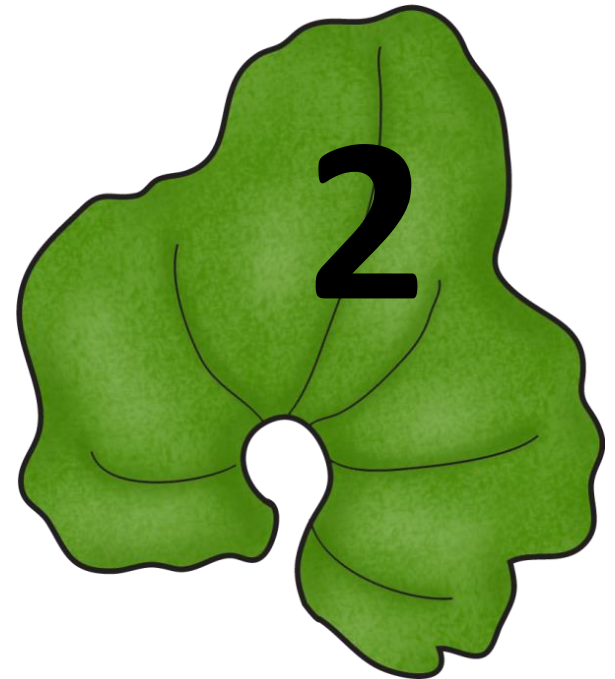
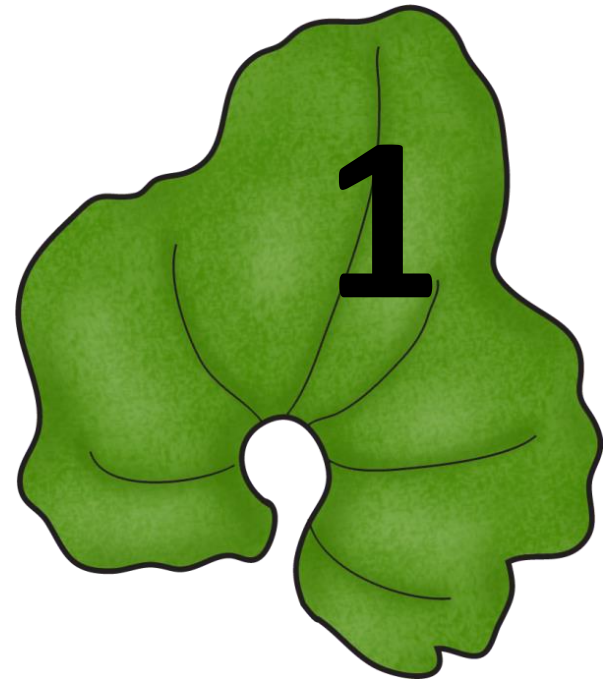


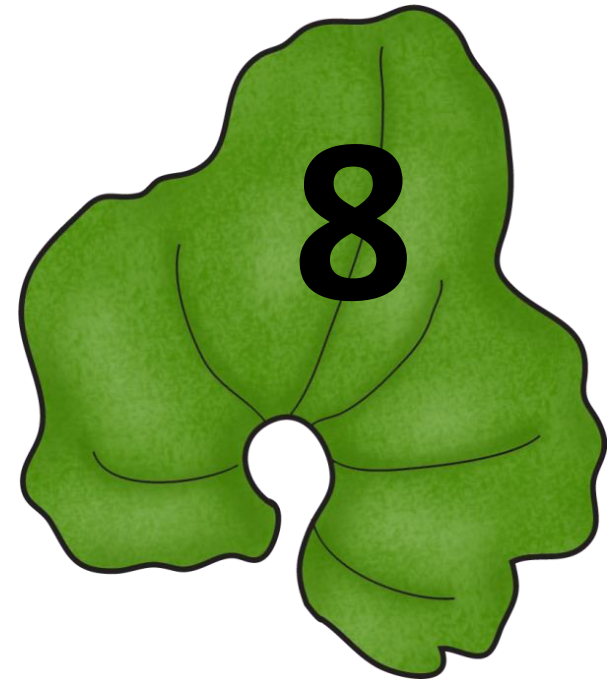
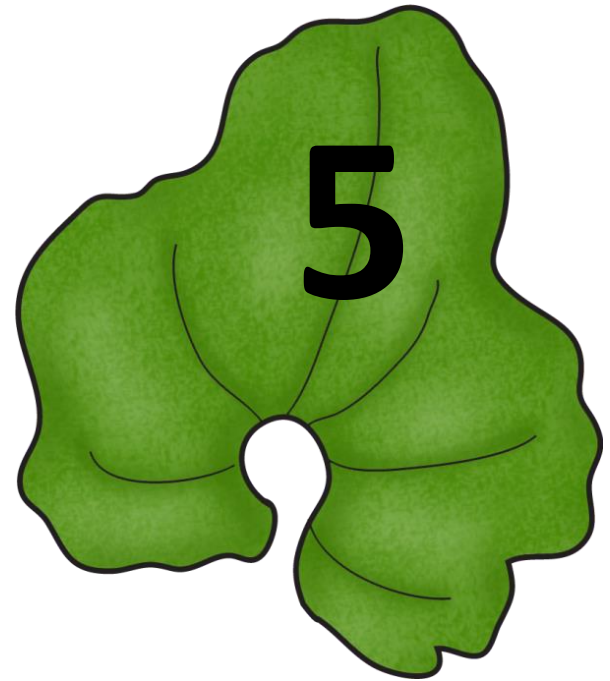
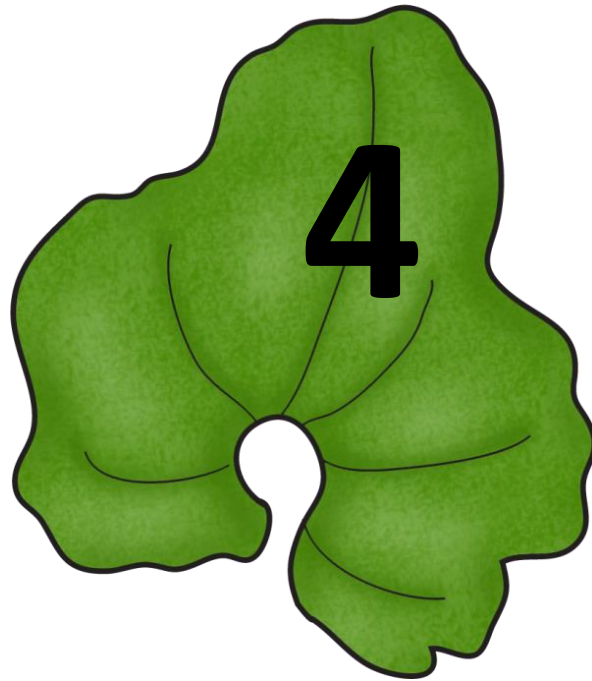
# Pumpkin Math

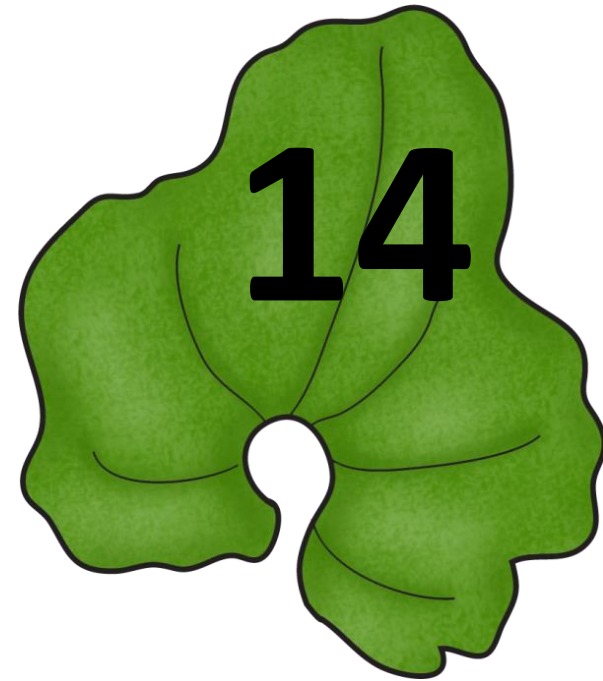
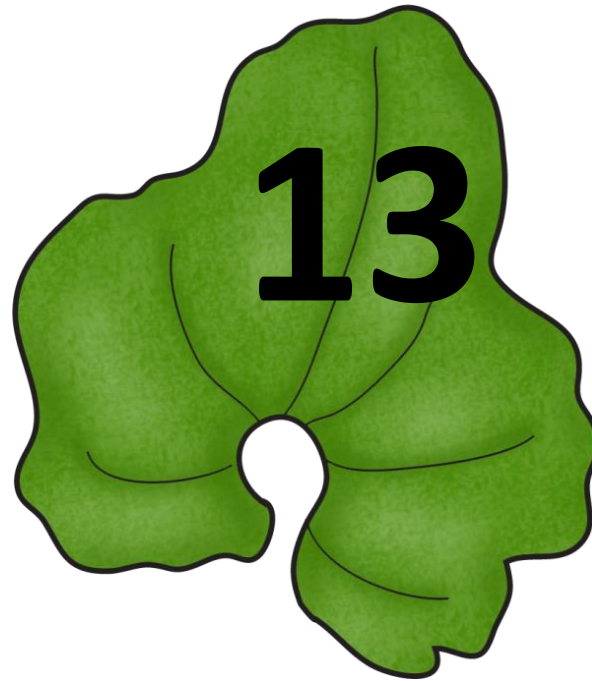
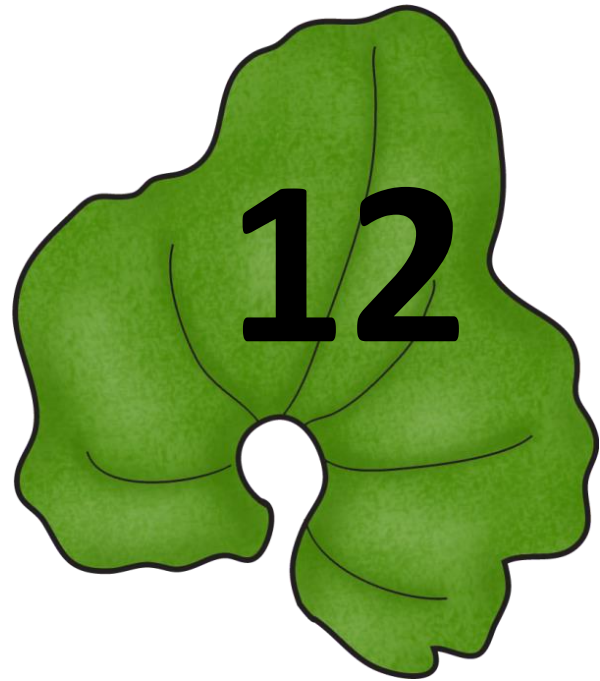
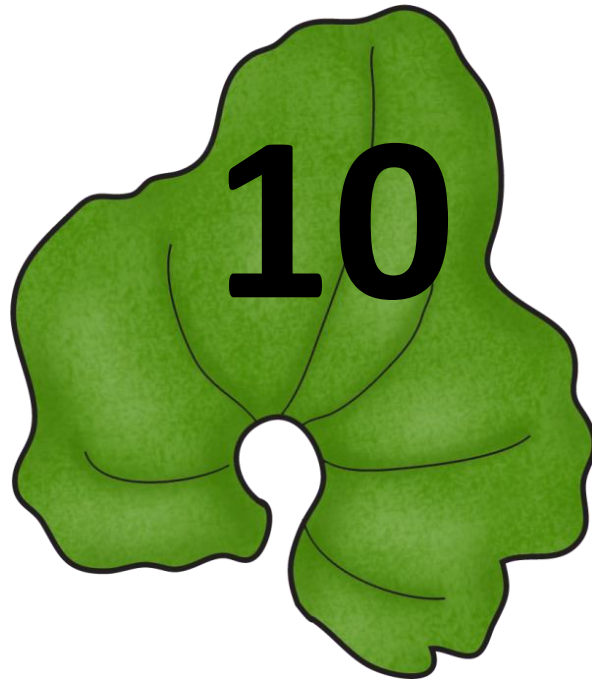
1. Print out the pumpkin leaves and pumpkins on this and the following pages.
2. Laminate the pumpkins and the leaves. Cut them out.

Ways to use this activity:

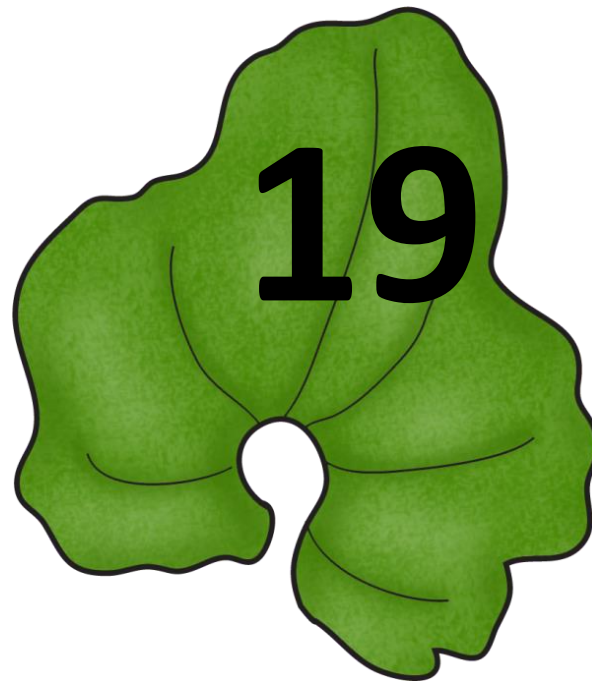
- For **number recognition**, the children match the numbered leaves with the corresponding numbered pumpkins.
- For **one-to-one correspondence; counting** and **fine motor development**, the children place one pumpkin seed on each pumpkin seed shape.

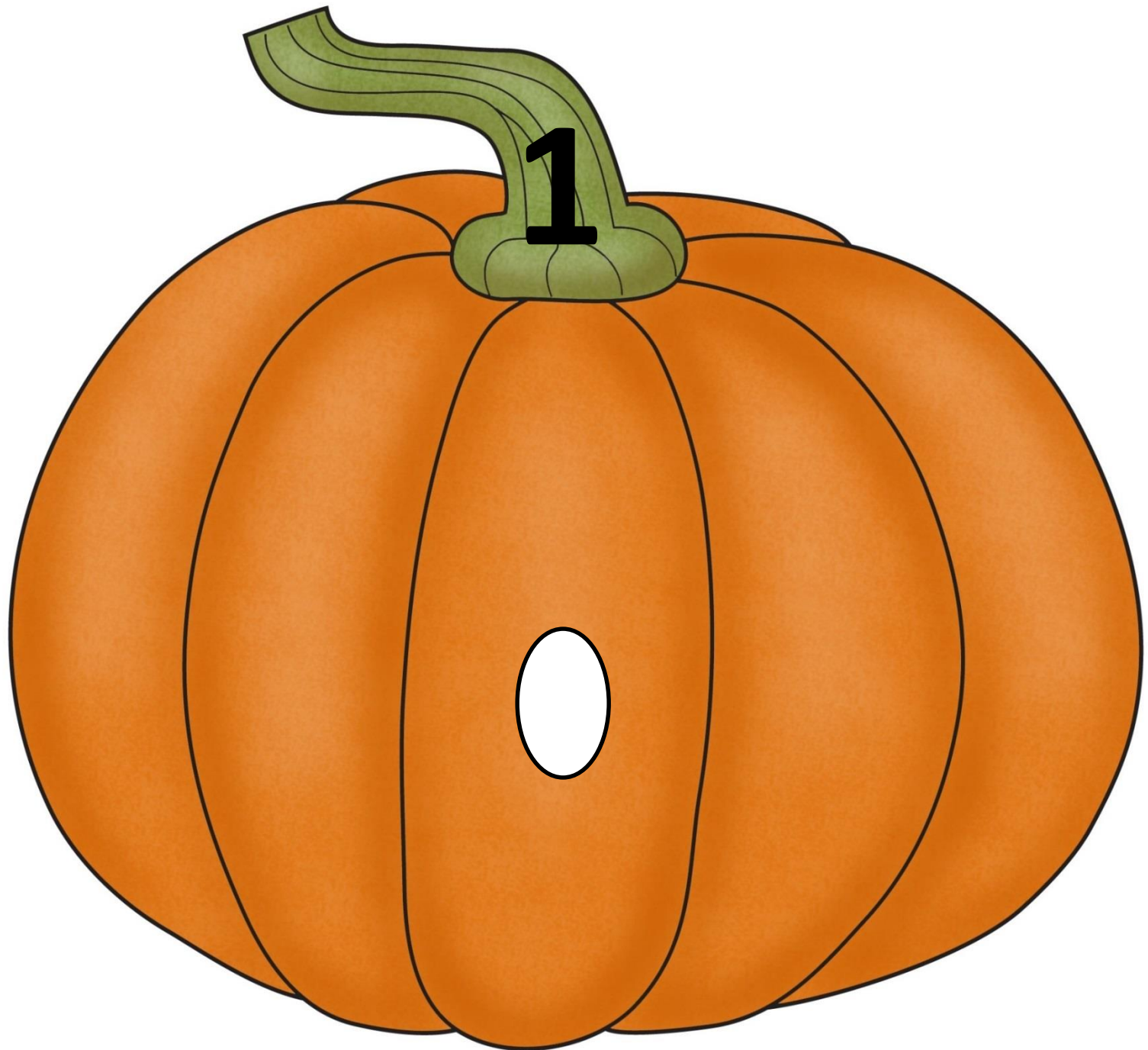










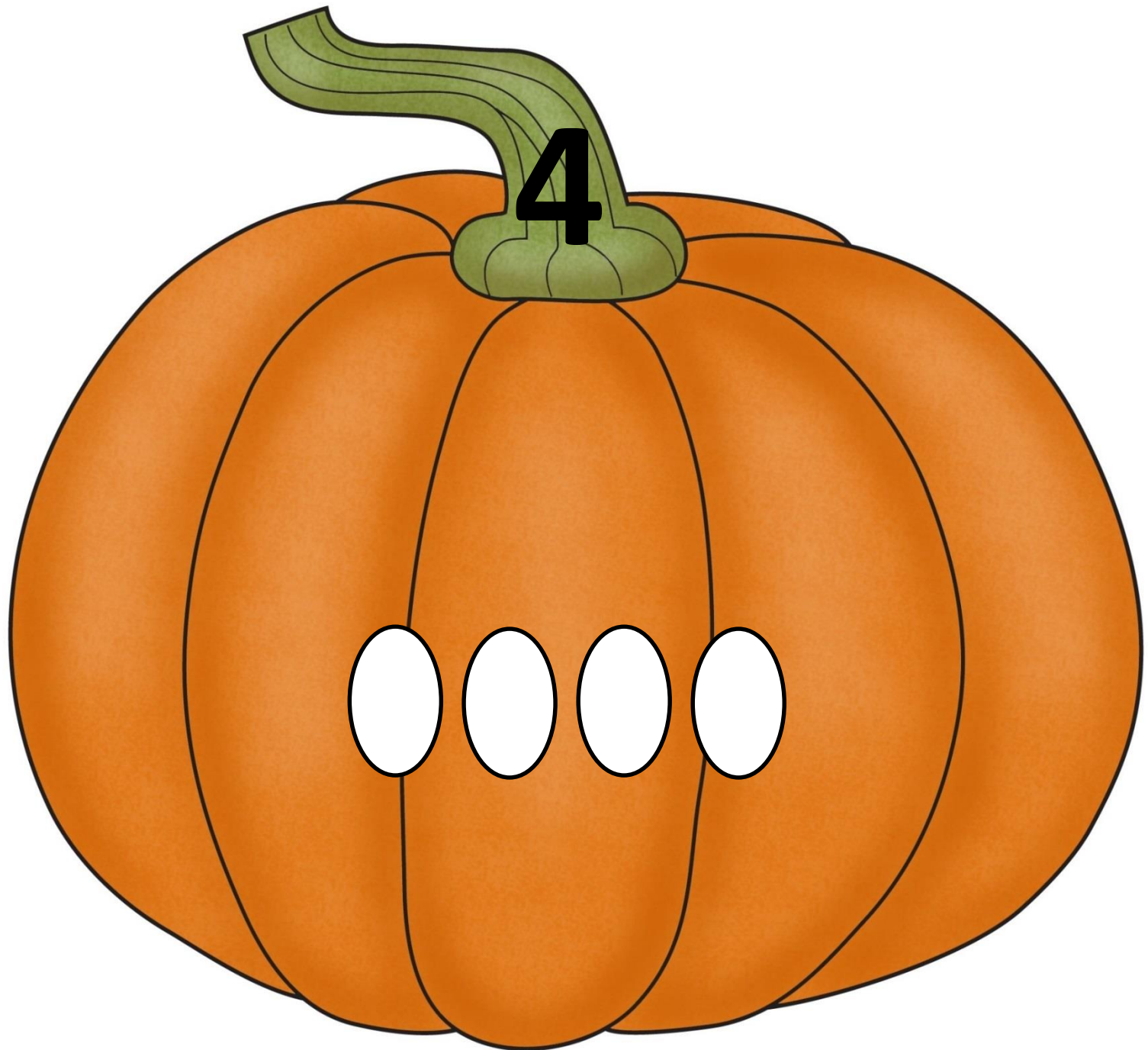


















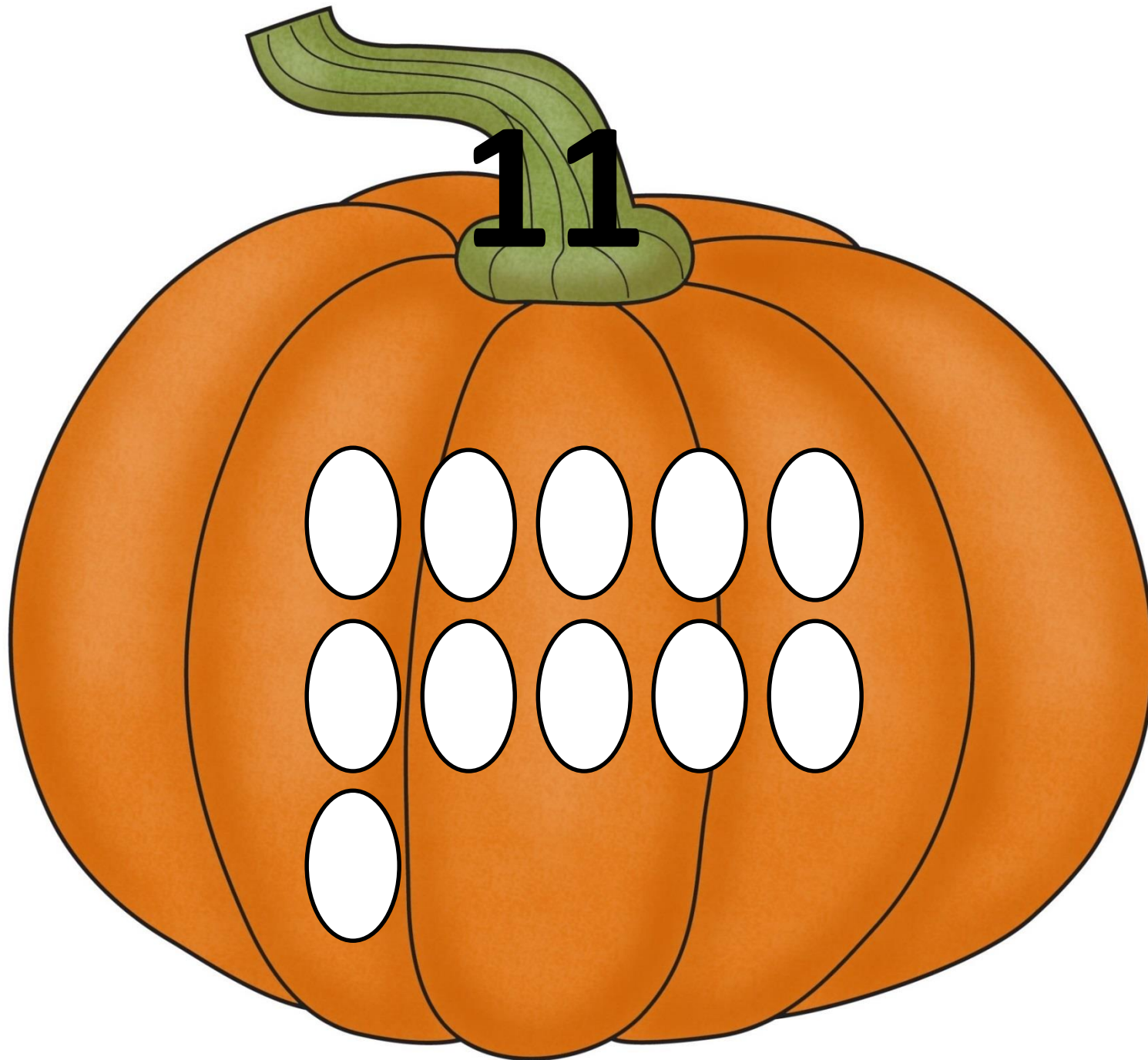




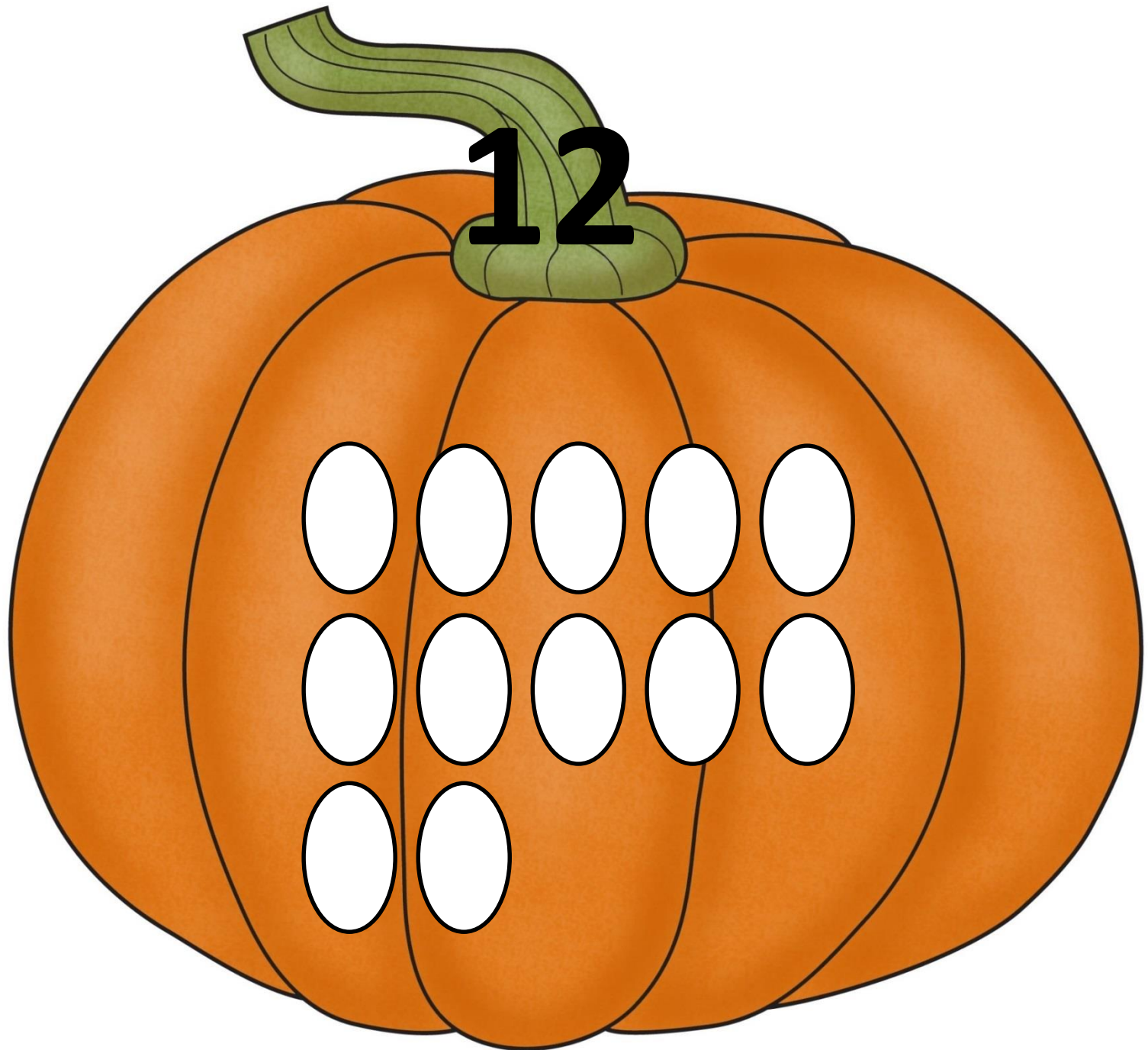


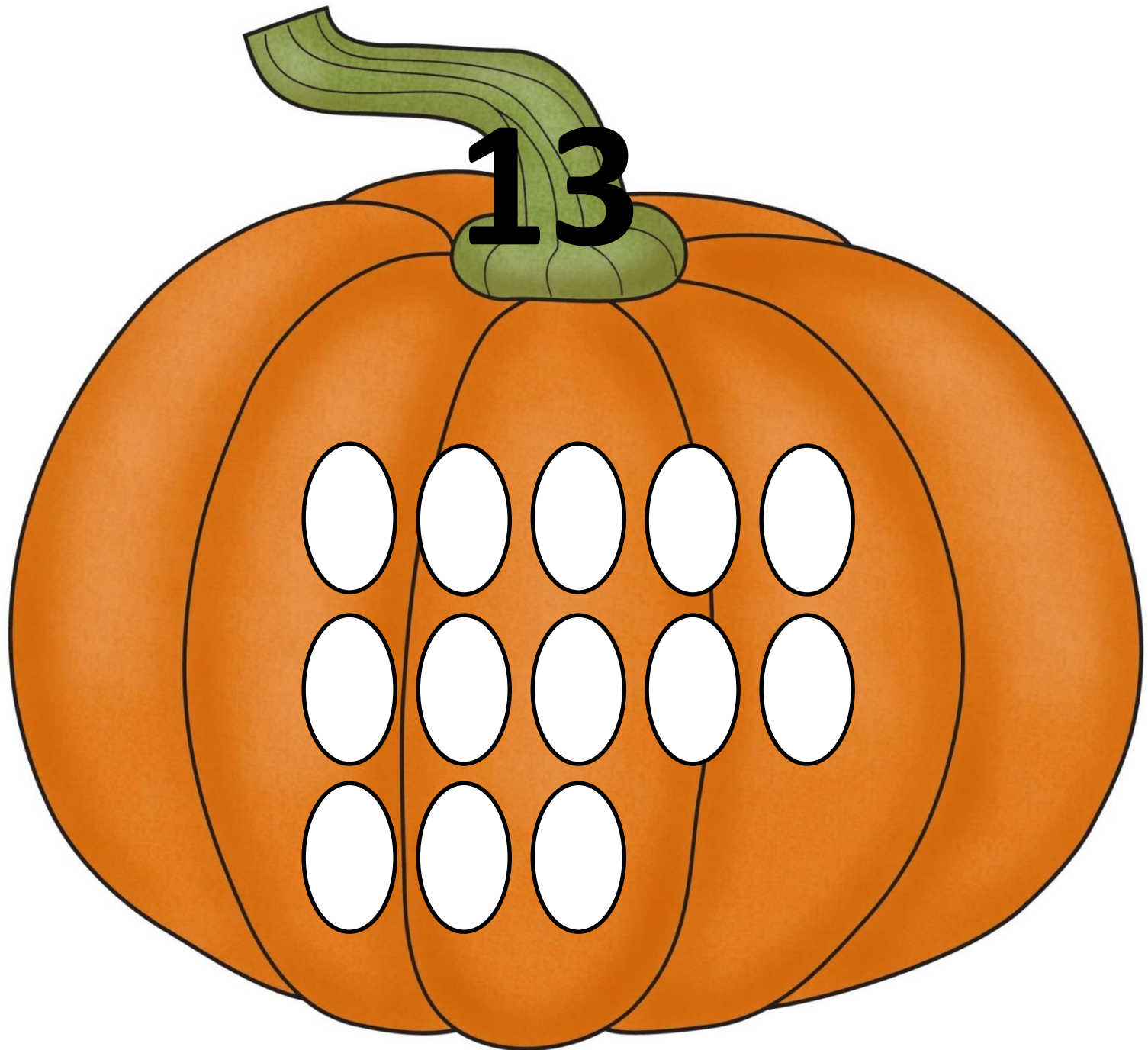


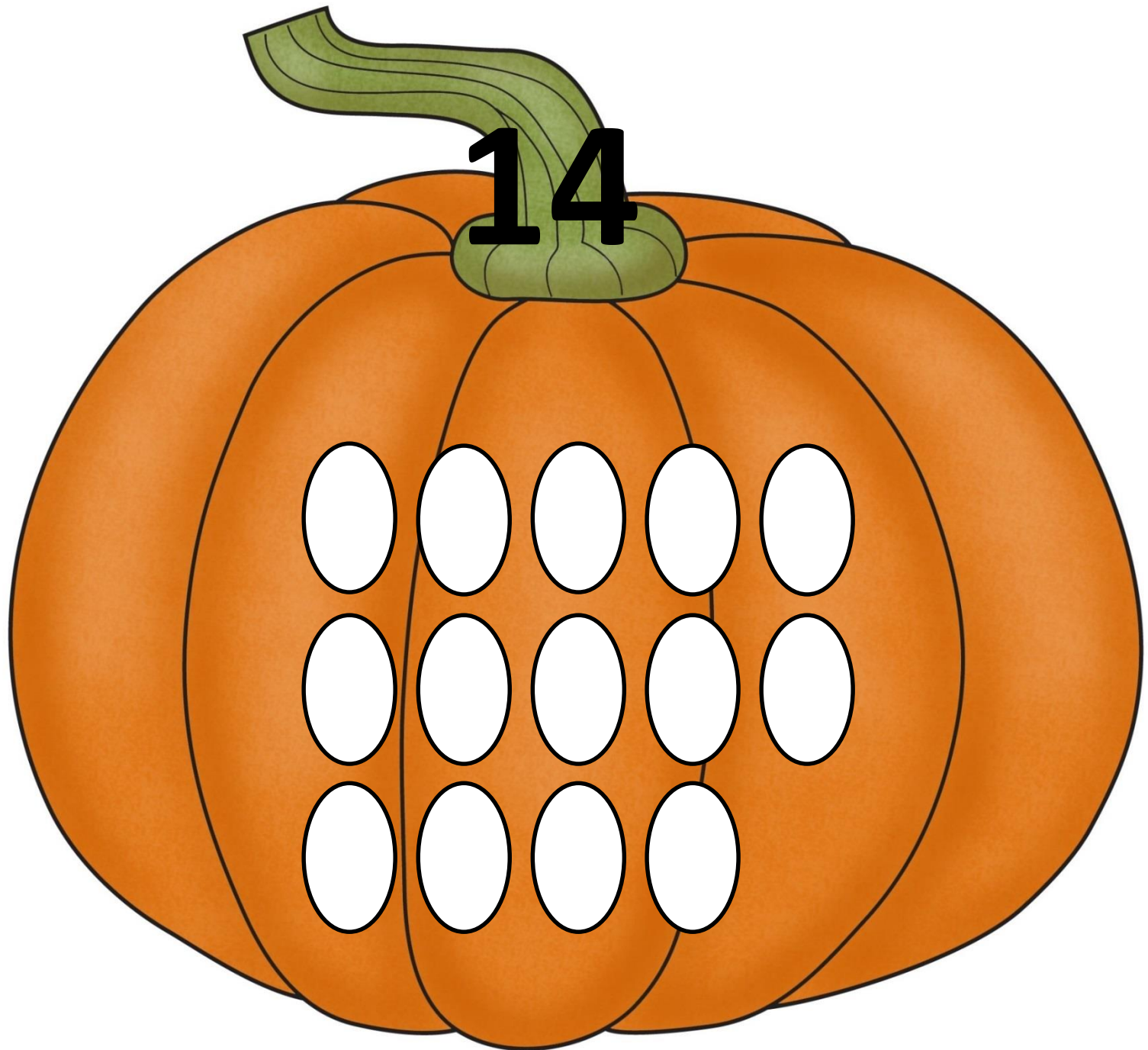




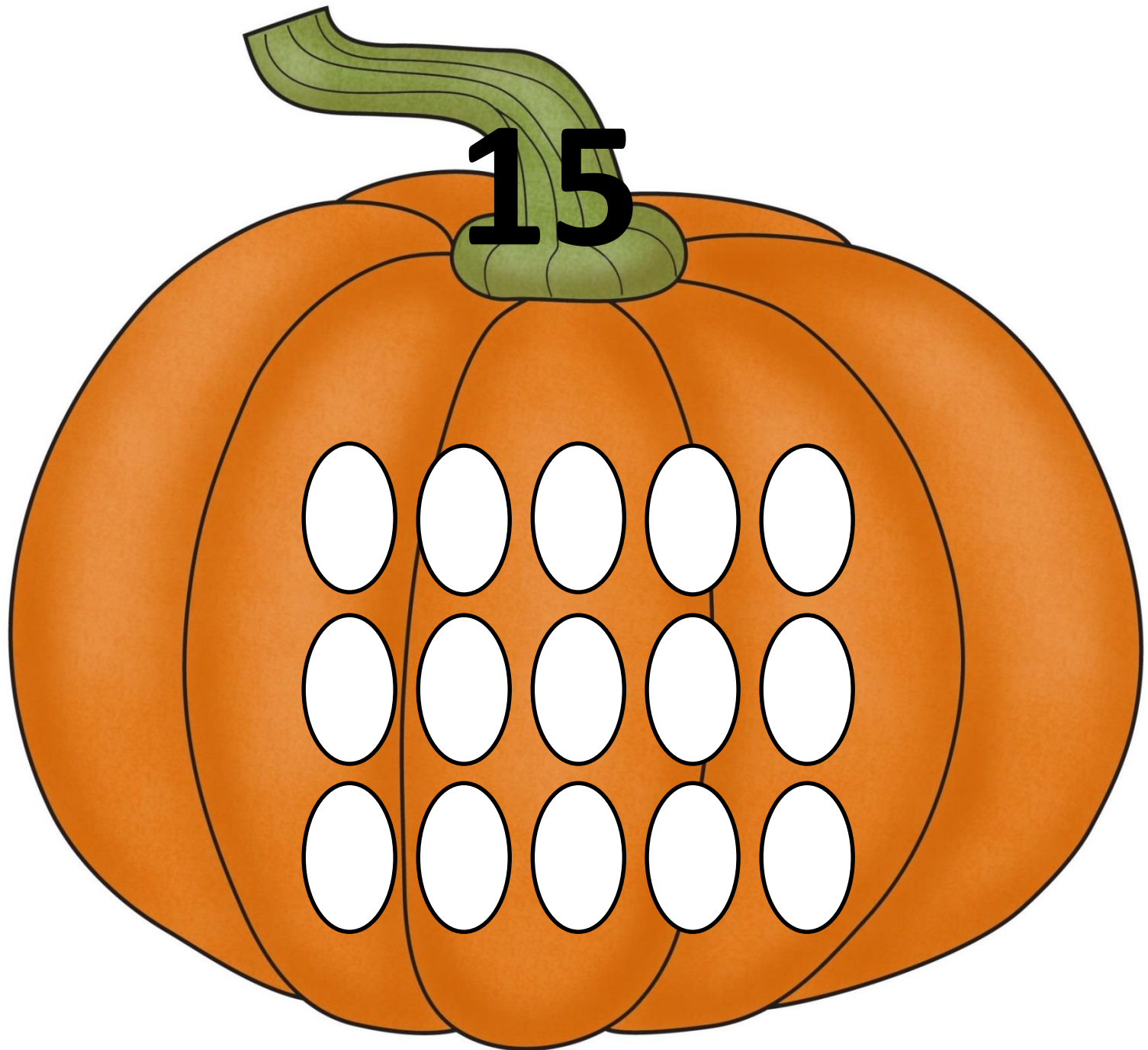


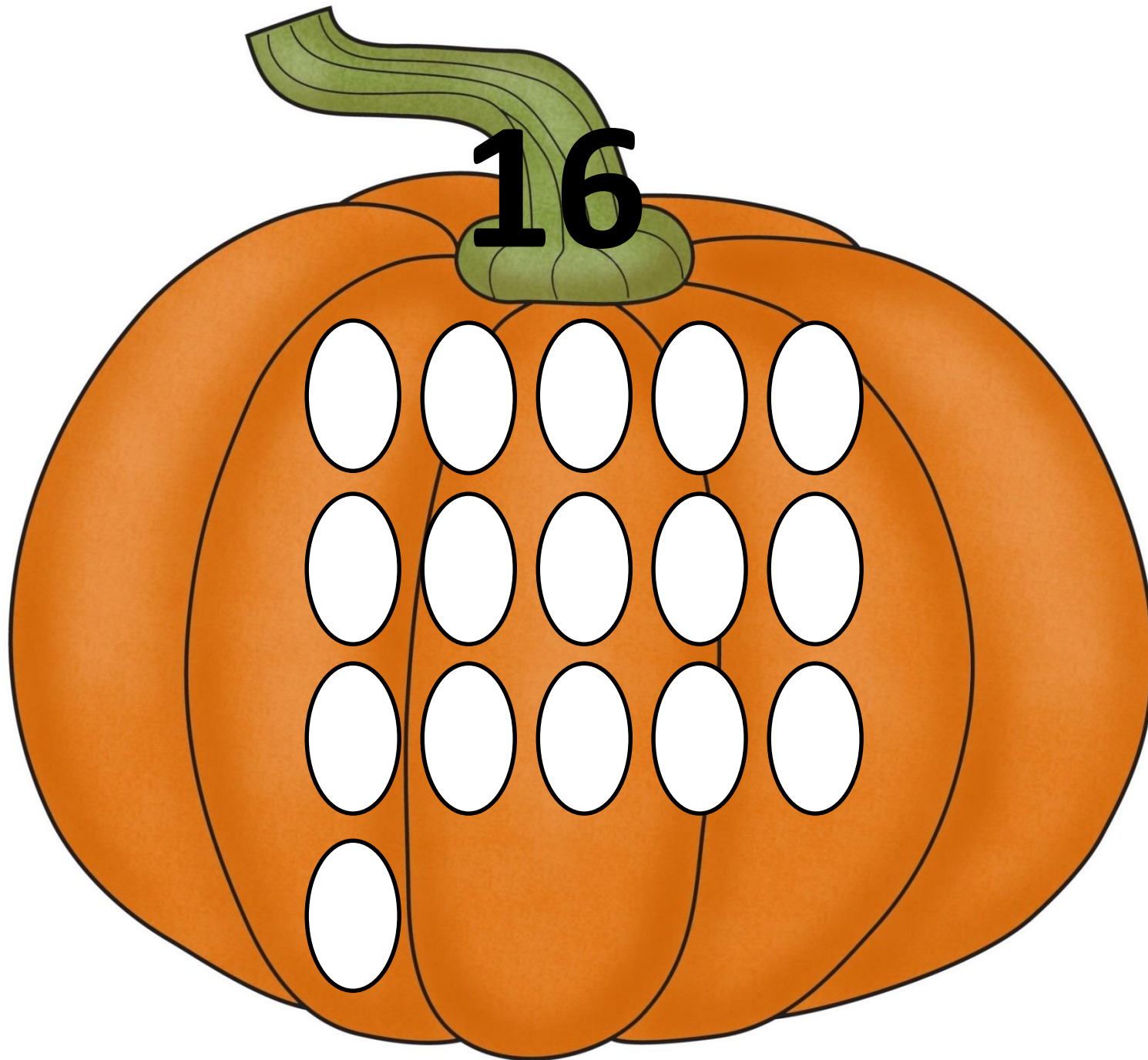


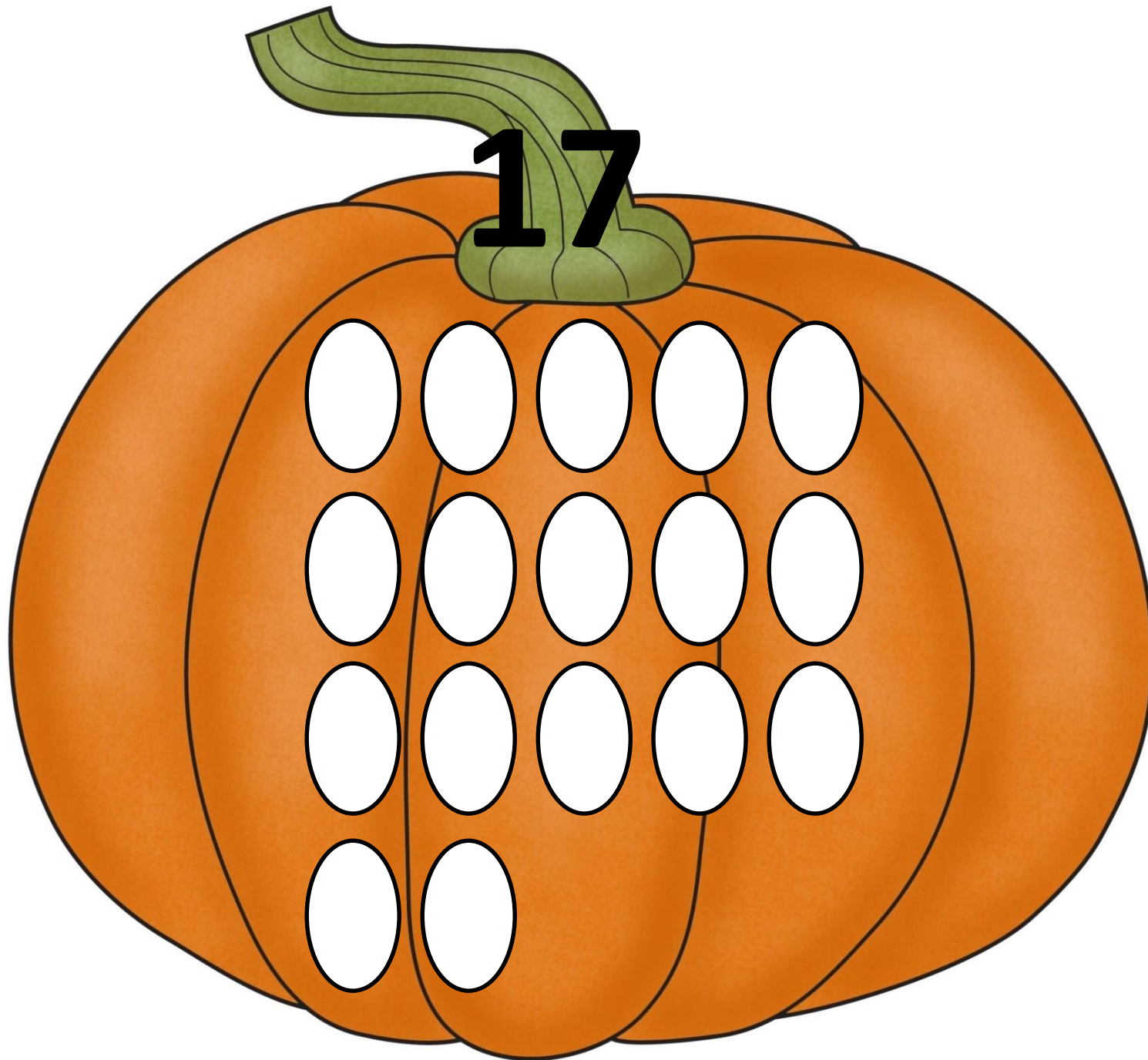




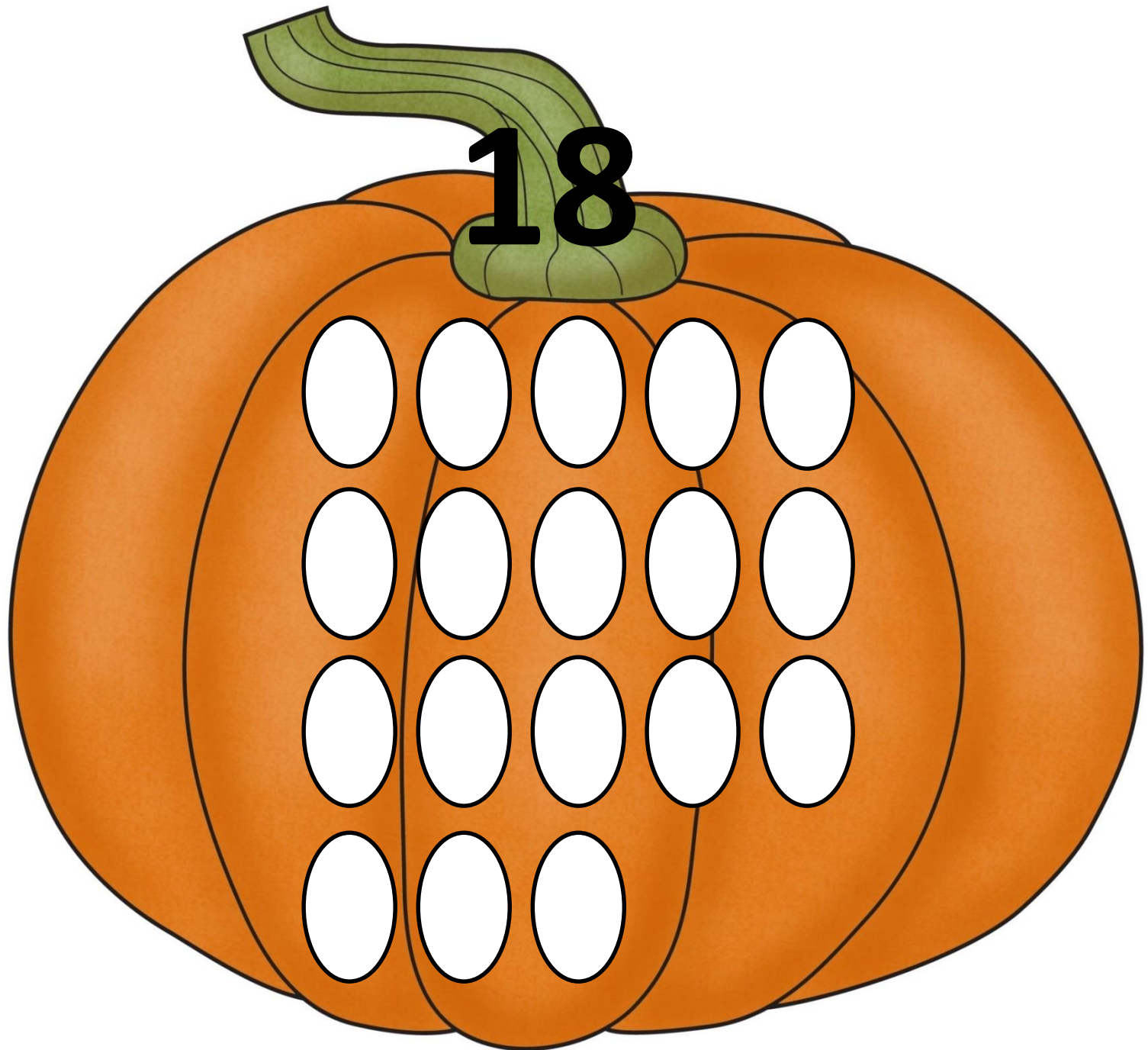


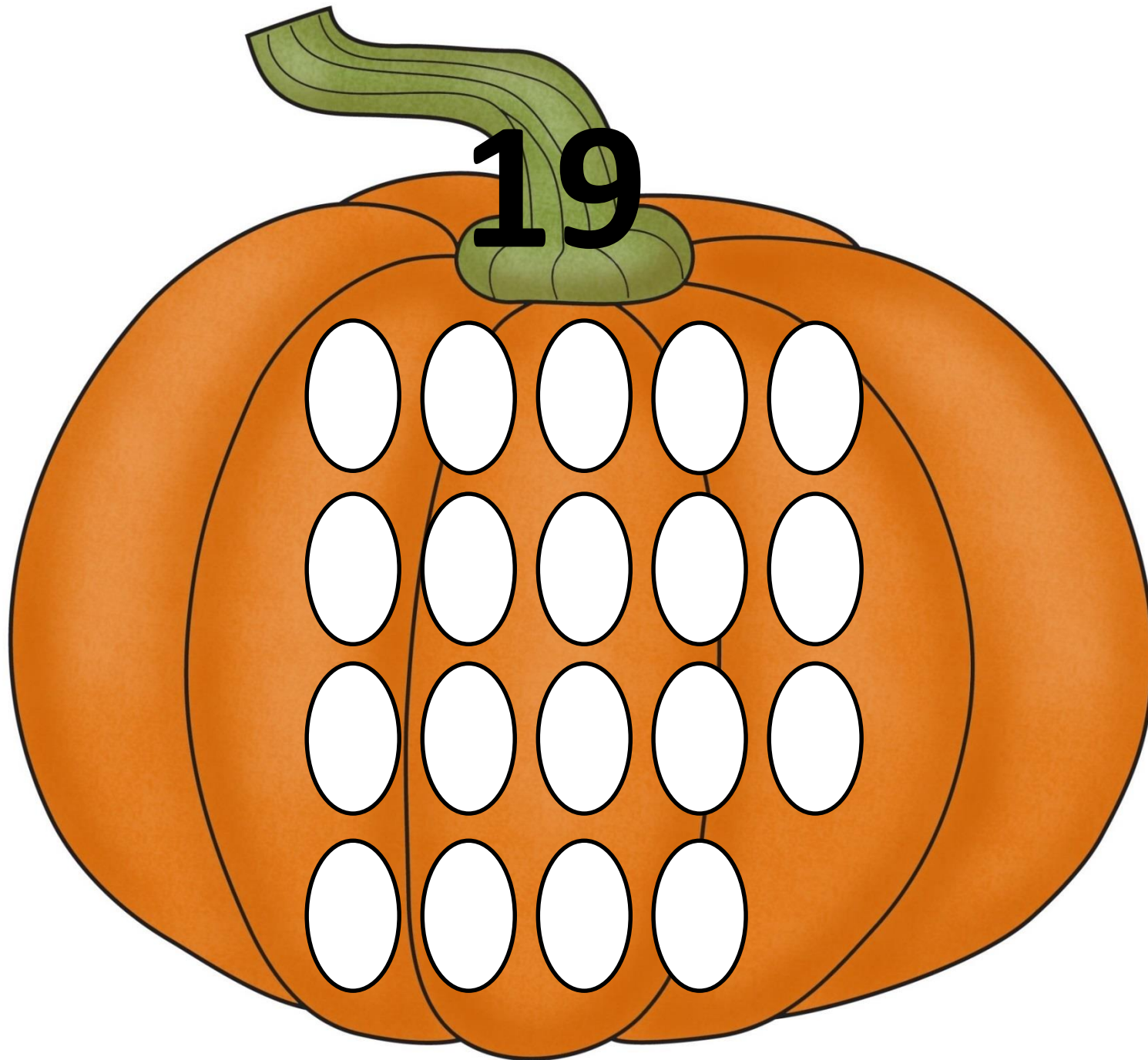




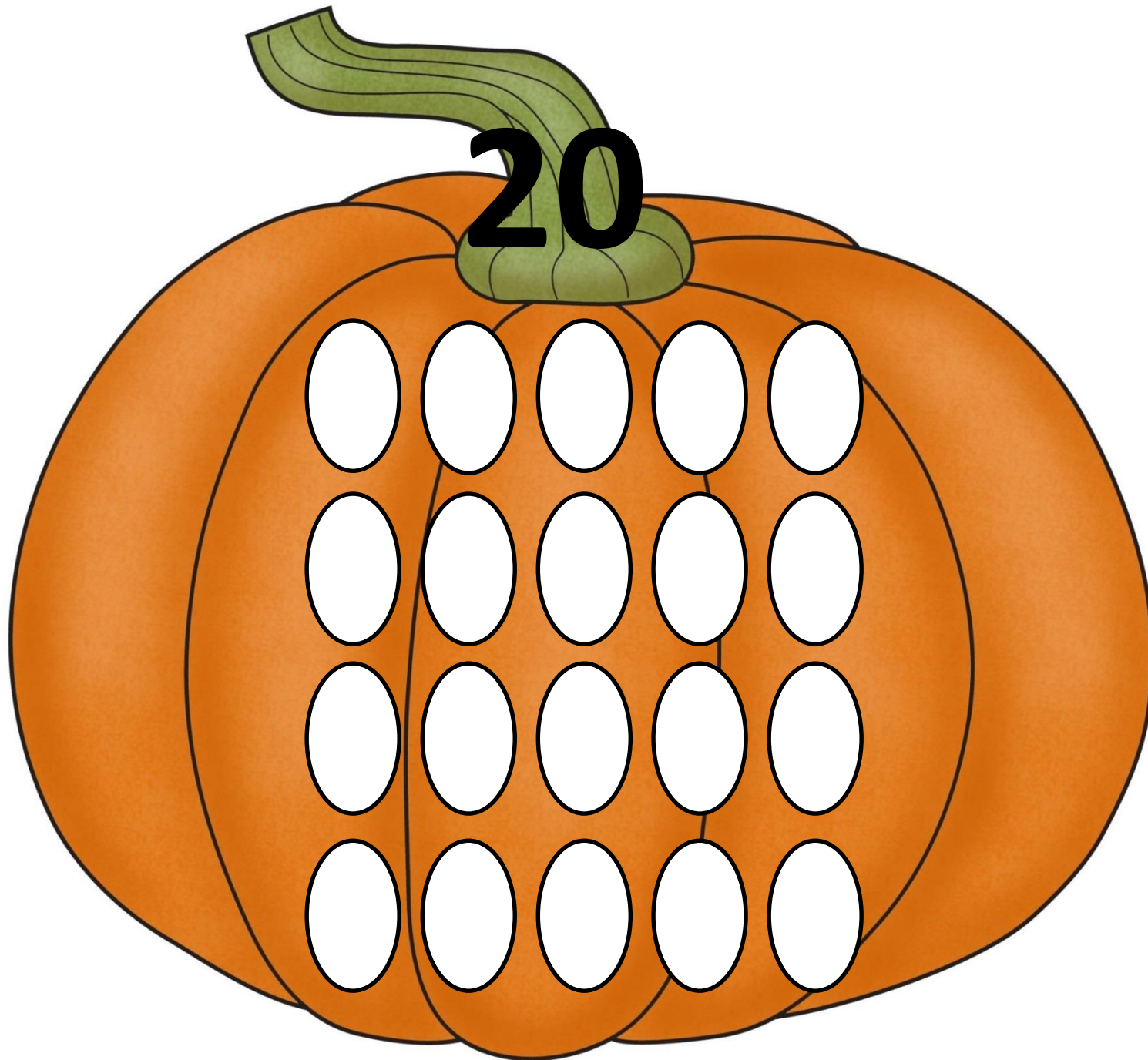












# Song Card & Song Poster

How to use:

- Print and laminate the song card below (it is 5" X 3").
- Place in a can or box with other cards of songs your children love!
- In transitional times (waiting to go outside or wash hands, etc.), pull out your song box or song can (I use a decorated coffee can!).
- Shuffle the cards in your hands saying "Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle" and your children yell "STOP"!
- When they yell stop, whichever card is on top is the one you sing! The kids LOVE this!

Each month you'll receive one of these cards that correspond with the song poster for the month to add to your Song Card Collection!

On the next page, you'll find the Song Poster! Print and laminate for use over the years!

## The Pumpkins Are Here!



Up, down!

High, low!



In, out!



# The Pumpkins Are Here!

*sung to the tune of The Farmer In The Dell*

The pumpkins are here!  
The pumpkins are here!  
I saw some pumpkins at the farm!  
The pumpkins are here!



The pumpkins are up.  
The pumpkins are down.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are up  
and then they're down.



The pumpkins are in.  
The pumpkins are out.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are in  
and then they're out.



The pumpkins are low.  
The pumpkins are high.  
The pumpkins, the pumpkins are low  
and then they're high.