

# The Pumpkin Rot Experiment

What happens to our pumpkin after the fall season?



## NGSS Core Disciplinary Idea introduced with the Pumpkin Rot Experiment:

Cycles of Matter and Energy Transfer in Ecosystems (LS2.B)- Students conduct an experiment, making observations about how a decomposing pumpkin returns its material back to the environment.

Growth and Development of Organisms (LS1.B)- Students will explore the lifecycle of a pumpkin plant, finding new life as the pumpkin decomposes in the form of seeds. A discussion can follow about reproduction as an essential part of a plant lifecycle.

## NGSS Cross Cutting Concept introduced with the Pumpkin Rot Experiment:

Patterns- students will record or observe similarities and differences between the rotting pumpkins. They will use their understanding of the patterns of the changing season to predict the changes in their pumpkin over time. They will apply this understanding to other pumpkins or decomposing fruits, noticing that decomposition or rot is happening to many organisms during the fall season. They may also notice lifecycle patterns of annual plants.