

# Science Spin<sup>®</sup>

Watch a video about pumpkins  
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A woman wearing a red beanie, sunglasses, and a red life vest is smiling while paddling a large yellow pumpkin boat on a body of water. In the background, another person in a blue shirt and cap is also paddling a similar pumpkin boat. The water is blue and the background shows a rocky shore with spectators.

## Grow, Grow, Grow Your Boat!

Every year, this town has a boat race. But the boats are a little strange. Can you tell what they're made of? Hint: It's something that grows in autumn.





Many people dress up in costumes for the pumpkin boat race.

# Growing a Pumpkin Boat

These bobbing boats are made from giant pumpkins! A farmer named Howard Dill started growing them in the 1970s. He called them Dill's Atlantic Giant Pumpkins. How do they grow so big?

First, a farmer plants the seeds for giant pumpkins. They sprout into vines that grow along the ground. Many baby pumpkins start to grow on each vine. But the farmer finds the biggest one and cuts the rest off that vine.

## A Closer Look:

## ed to Pumpkin



1. The seed sprouts. The sprout will grow into a long vine.



2. The vine grows a flower. A tiny green pumpkin forms too.



3. The small pumpkin starts to grow bigger.

Now the big pumpkin has room to grow even bigger and bigger.

A giant pumpkin grows fast. It can gain as much as 50 pounds a day. That's like gaining the weight of a second-grader every day! The vines grow fast too. They spread all across the ground. The vines from one giant pumpkin plant can cover a space as large as a classroom.

When the pumpkin is done growing, the fun really starts. People scoop out its guts. They paint and decorate the outside. Finally, they put it in the water. It's time to race!



## Why Does It Float?

Pumpkins—even giant ones—are filled mostly with air. Air is lighter than water. That means all pumpkins, big or small, float in water!



green  
rts to



4. The pumpkin turns orange. It's growing fast!



5. This pumpkin is a giant!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Pumpkin Size Chart

This chart shows the height of four different pumpkins.



1. Which pumpkin is the tallest?

☐ New Zealand blue      ☐ peanut      ☐ cotton candy

2. Which pumpkin is the shortest?

☐ cotton candy      ☐ New Zealand blue      ☐ jack-be-little

3. Which is NOT taller than the New Zealand blue?

☐ peanut      ☐ jack-be-little      ☐ cotton candy

4. Which pumpkin is about 10 inches tall?

☐ jack-be-little      ☐ peanut      ☐ cotton candy

❏BONUS❏

Say you put the jack-be-little on top of the New Zealand blue. Together, would they be taller than the peanut pumpkin?

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