ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

GRADES 3–5

ALL ABOUT PUMPKINS

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

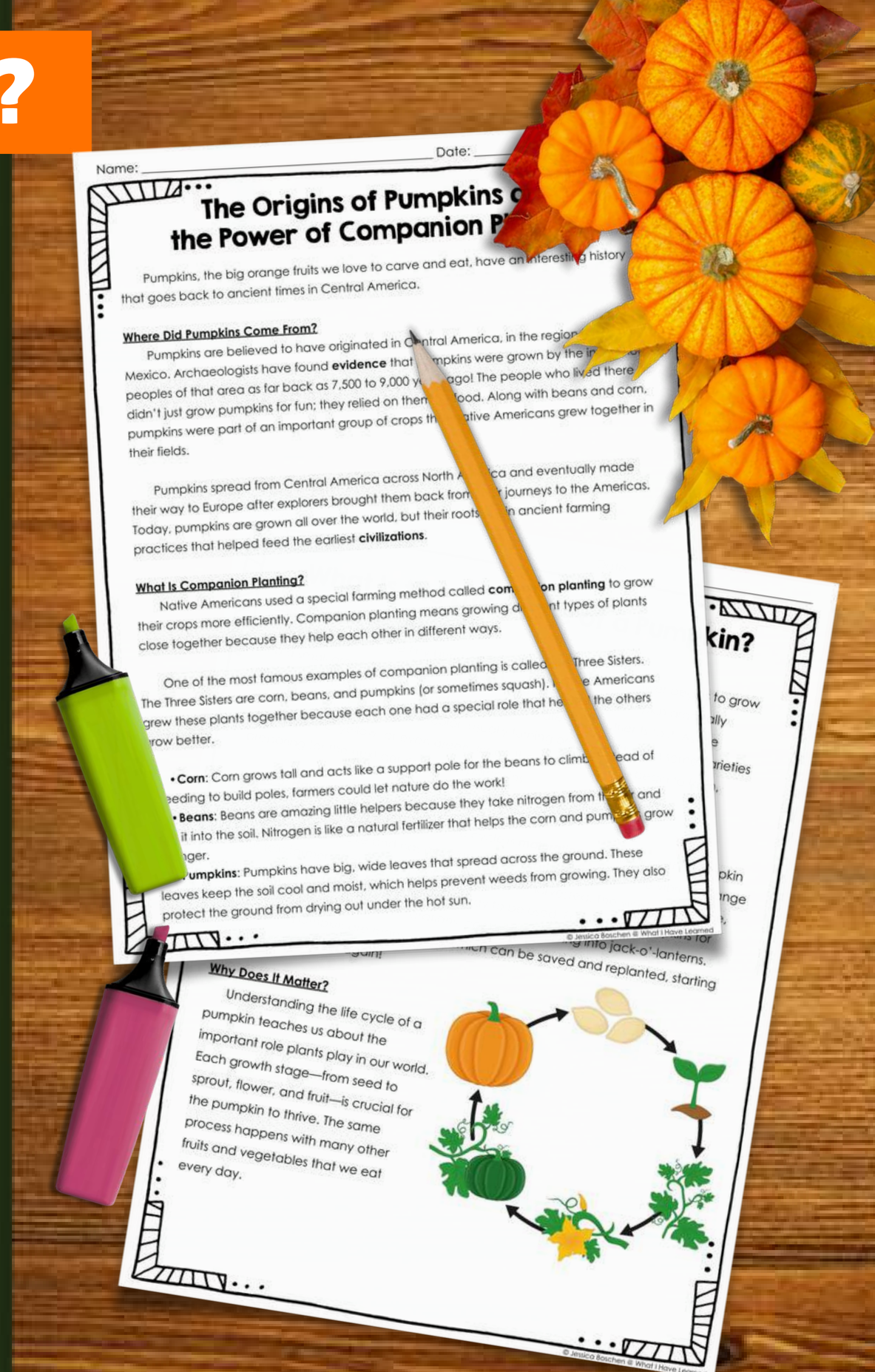
📚 **5 Informational Articles –** engaging passages for grades 3–5 covering science, social studies, and math topics about pumpkins

🔑 **Vocabulary Cards –** real-image cards with pumpkin-related terms

📝 **Vocabulary Activities –** practice to reinforce word knowledge

❓ **Comprehension Questions –** short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple-choice for each passage

🎯 **Content-Linked Activities –** hands-on and academic tasks tied to each article



VOCABULARY CARDS

final stage of a plant life cycle



maturation



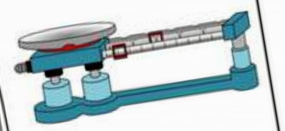
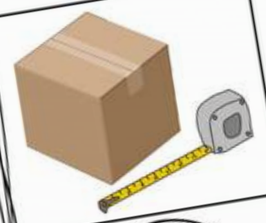
seedling

when a seed starts to grow

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pumpkin Density

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	density	a measure of how tightly packed the material inside an object is
	mass	how much matter is in an obje
	volume	the a sp obje
	weight	th gr or

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Do Pumpkins Sink or Float?

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the

weight	a measure of how tightly packed the material inside an object is	weight
density	the amount of space an object takes up	density

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pumpkin Density

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition | Characteristics

Examples | **density** | Non-Examples

Definition | Characteristics

Examples | **mass** | Non-Examples

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols

!	when you find something interesting
?	when you are unsure or confused by something
*	when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

yellow	vocabulary words or key words
green	key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

symbol or color	meaning

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Did you know that pumpkins are actually a type of fruit? The large, round pumpkins we see in the fall start off as tiny seeds.

Stage 1: Germination

Every pumpkin begins its life as a seed, planted in warm, nutrient-rich soil during the spring. This seed is small, flat, and brown. For the seed to start growing, it needs the right conditions: warm temperatures, plenty of water, and sunlight. This process is called germination. During **germination**, the seed absorbs water and begins to swell. The outer seed coat cracks open, and a small root pushes downward into the soil to gather nutrients while a tiny shoot grows upward toward the light. This shoot, called the **seedling**, will eventually become the pumpkin vine!

Stage 2: The Seedling Develops Into a Vine

As the seedling breaks through the soil, it begins to grow into a larger plant. The stem becomes stronger, and more leaves appear. These leaves are important because they help the plant absorb sunlight, which it uses to make food through process called **photosynthesis**. During photosynthesis, the plant converts sunlight water, and carbon dioxide into the energy it needs to keep growing. The roots continue to spread out under the soil, anchoring the plant and absorbing wat nutrients. Soon, the seedling transforms into a vine, which stretches along the As the vine grows, it develops long, twisting tendrils and more broad leaves.

Stage 3: Flowering

Once the vine has matured, it enters the flowering stage. Large yellow bloom along the vine, signaling the next important step in the life cycle. Th two types of flowers: male and female. The male flowers appear first and pollen, while the female flowers, which have a small bump at their base, that can develop into pumpkins. Before that can happen, **pollination** m Pollination happens when pollen from one flower is moved to another wind. Without pollination, pumpkins cannot grow!

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Stage 4: Fruit Development

After pollination, the tiny bump at the base of the female flower begins to grow into a small green pumpkin. This stage is called **fruiting**. The pumpkin gradually increases in size as the vine continues to send water and nutrients to it. As the pumpkin matures, it changes color, usually turning orange, although some varieties may be white, yellow, or even green. Inside the pumpkin, seeds begin to form, preparing for the next generation of pumpkins.

Stage 5: Harvest

The final stage of the pumpkin's life cycle is **maturation**. At this point, the pumpkin has reached its full size and has developed its signature hard shell. The vibrant orange color tells farmers that the pumpkin is ready to be harvested. The vine's job is done, and the pumpkin is cut from the vine, ready to be us Farmers sell pumpkins for different purposes, such as decorations, cooking, or carvin to jack-o'-lanterns. Inside each pumpkin are many seeds, which can be saved an eplanted, starting the life cycle all over again!

Why Does It Matter?

Understanding the life cycle of a pumpkin teaches us about the important role plants play in our world. Each growth stage—from seed to sprout, flower, and fruit—is crucial for the pumpkin to thrive. The same process happens with many other fruits and vegeta



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CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

ARTICLE 1&2: PUMPKIN DENSITY

ARTICLE 3: WHAT IS THE LIFE OF A PUMPKIN?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 1: Do Pumpkins Sink or Float?

Have you ever noticed that some things float in water while others sink right to th bottom? The answer to why this happens is all about **density**.

Density is a measure of how tightly packed the material insi an object is. think about holding a rock and a piece of wood—both are soli but one is mu heavier than the other, even if they're the same size. That's because th rock is de r than the wood.

So, what about pumpkins? They can be pretty heavy, but do find out how density plays a big role in what happens when water!

What is Density?

To understand why things sink or float, let's start by talking measures how much "stuff" (or **mass**) is packed into a ce

Imagine you have two boxes that are the exact same s feathers, and the other is filled with rocks. Which one is That's because rocks are denser than feathers—they the same amount of space.

Why Do Objects Float or Sink?

Whether something floats or sinks in water depends water. If an object's density is less than the density object is denser than water, it will sink.

What About Pumpkins?

Now, let's think about pumpkins. Pumpkins migh them than just their weight. If you could look in spaces, seeds, and fibrous strands. These deta that air inside help a pumpkin float, or is it still find out, you'll have to test it for yourself!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Part 2: Pumpkin Density

You've just explored whether pumpkins float or sink and discovered that most pumpkins float because they have air-filled spaces inside, making them less dense than water.

The water pushes the pumpkin up with a force equal to the weight of the water the pumpkin displaces. This upward force that makes the pumpkin float is called buoyancy. Now that you've tested your hypothesis about floating let's explore other factors that affect whether objects float or sink.

Why Do Objects Float or Sink?

It's not just about the weight of an object—density plays a key role in floating and sinking. An object will float if its overall density is less than the water it displaces. Since pumpkins have lots of air inside, they float even though they might feel heavy. But what happens if you change certain things about the pumpkin, like its size or what's inside?

In the next activities, you'll test different pumpkins to see how their size, shape, and what's inside affect their ability to float. You can also try testing a hollow pumpkin or adding weights to see how much a pumpkin can hold before it sinks. These experiments will help you understand that objects float or sink based on their structure and how much water they displace, not just their weight.

How Does This Help Us Understand the World?

Learning why pumpkins float is more than just a fun experiment—it teaches us important scientific principles! The same concepts apply to boats, which are made from heavy materials like steel. So why don't boats sink? Like pumpkins, boats are designed with hollow spaces filled with air, making them less dense than water. This clever use of buoyancy allows massive ships to float, even when they carry heavy cargo. Understanding buoyancy helps us design things that can float, carry weight, or even travel across oceans.

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pu

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Date: _____

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ARTICLE 4: WHAT ARE PUMPKIN WEIGHING CONTESTS?

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Are Pumpking Weighing Contests?

Have you ever seen a giant pumpkin and wondered just how h… pumpkins can grow so large that they weigh more than a smal… That's … people all over the world hold pumpkin weighing contests—… see who c… grow the biggest, heaviest pumpkin of the season. But how did the… contests start, and why do people compete to grow such massive pumpkins?

The History of Pumpkin Weighing Contests

The **tradition** of growing giant pumpkins and weighing the… 1900s. Farmers and gardeners would compete to see who c… pumpkin, and eventually, this friendly competition turned in… of the first known pumpkin weighing contests was held in C… 1970s. Since then, the competition has grown (pun intend… with thousands of people taking part.

Each year, farmers and gardeners enter their prize p… theirs is the heaviest. These contests are now held all o… pumpkins keep getting bigger and bigger. In fact, the… weighed a whopping 2,702 pounds! That's as much …

How Do People Grow Giant Pumpkins?

Growing a giant pumpkin takes time, **dedicatio**… simple as planting a regular pumpkin seed and w… pumpkin that can weigh over a thousand pound…

It all starts with choosing the right seeds, typi… producing massive pumpkins. These pumpkins … often absorbing hundreds of gallons of water …

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Are Pumpking Weighing Contests?

The soil must be rich in nutrients, so farmers add **compost**, fertilizers, and other materials to keep the plants healthy. Careful protection is also necessary, so farmers shield the pumpkins from pests and sunburn by covering them and monitoring their growth closely to ensure nothing goes wrong.

How Are Pumpkins Weighed?

Weighing a pumpkin isn't as simple as stepping on a bathroom scale! Because giant pumpkins are so heavy, they are weighed using special industrial scales, like the ones used to weigh large objects in factories. The pumpkins are often lifted by a crane or forklift and placed on the scale. Once the weight is measured, the winning pumpkin is announced!

The Fun Doesn't Stop There!

After the contest, what happens to the pumpkins? Some giant pumpkins are carved into enormous jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween, while others might be used in fun events like pumpkin drops—where the pumpkin is dropped from a height to see it splatter! Some farmers also save the seeds from their giant pumpkins to plant them next year, hoping to grow an even bigger pumpkin for the next contest.

Pumpkin weighing contests are a fun and exciting way to celebrate fall and the growing season. Whether it's the challenge of growing the biggest pumpkin or seeing these giants on display, pumpkin weighing contests bring communities together to marvel at what nature—and a little bit of farming magic—can do.

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ARTICLE 5: THE THREE SISTERS: COMPANION PLANTING

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Origins of Pumpkins a… the Power of Companion Pla…

Pumpkins, the big orange fruits we love to carve and eat, have a… that goes back to ancient times in Central America.

Where Did Pumpkins Come From?

Pumpkins are believed to have originated in Central America, … Mexico. Archaeologists have found **evidence** that pumpkins were… peoples of that area as far back as 7,500 to 9,000 years ago! The… didn't just grow pumpkins for fun; they relied on them for food. A… pumpkins were part of an important group of crops that Native … their fields.

Pumpkins spread from Central America across North Ame… their way to Europe … explorers brought them back from t… Today, pumpkins are … own all over the world, but their roots … …es that helped … ed the earliest **civilizations**.

What is C…panion …anting?

Native … …s used a special farming method ca… their crops … …fficiently. Companion planting means … … because they help each other in differen…

One … the most famous examples of companion planting is called the Th… The Th… sisters are corn, beans, and pumpkins (or sometimes squash). Native Americans grew … se plants together because each one had a special role that helped the others gr… better.

- **Corn**: Corn grows tall and acts like a support pole for the beans to climb. Instead of needing to build poles, farmers could let nature do the work!
- **Beans**: Beans are amazing little helpers because they take nitrogen from the air and put it into the soil. Nitrogen is like a natural fertilizer that helps the corn and pumpkins grow stronger.
- **Pumpkins**: Pumpkins have big, wide leaves that spread across the ground. These leaves keep the soil cool and moist, which helps prevent weeds from growing. They also protect the ground from drying out under the hot sun.

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Date: _____

The Origins of Pumpkins and the Power of Companion Planting

Why Use Companion Planting?

Companion planting is a smart way to grow crops because it helps plants work together like a team. When plants are grown in this way, they don't need as much fertilizer, water, or space because they help each other **thrive**. Here are a few reasons why companion planting is a great idea:

- **Saves Space**: By growing plants that benefit each other in the same area, farmers can use less space but still get more crops.
- **Helps the Soil**: Certain plants, like beans, naturally add important nutrients to the soil, so farmers don't need to use as much fertilizer.
- **Protects Crops**: Some plants help keep pests away from others. For example, the strong scent of some herbs can keep bugs from bothering vegetables.
- **Conserves Water**: Plants like pumpkins that cover the ground help keep the soil moist, meaning less water is needed to grow the crops.

How You Can Try It

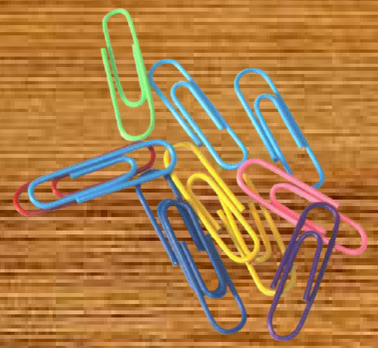
You don't need a big farm to try companion planting! If you have a garden or even just a small patch of land, you can try growing different plants together to see how they help each other. Try planting beans near sunflowers, or grow marigolds next to your vegetables to keep pests away. It's a fun way to learn about how nature works and how plants rely on each other.

Pumpkins Today

Today, pumpkins are part of many fall traditions, such as jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween and pumpkin pie at Thanksgiving. No matter how we use them now, pumpkins have a long history that connects us to ancient farming practices and the wisdom of the Native Americans who first grew them using companion planting.

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COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS



Pumpkin Density

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following best describes density?
   a) The amount of space an object takes up
   b) The force that makes objects sink
   c) The measure of how much material is packed into a certain area
   d) The amount of air an object contains

2. Why do objects like rocks sink, while objects like wood float in water?

3. When an object floats, the water pushes up on it with a force called _____.

4. Explain how density determines whether something floats or sinks.

5. What happens if the density of an object is greater than the density of water?
   a) The object will float.
   a) The object will sink.

6. Even though pumpkins m
they float because their ov
is less than water.

8. How are boats similar

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Why did Native Americans grow corn, beans, and pumpkins together?

2. Pumpkins are believed to have originated in _____ America, in the region that is now Mexico.

3. Which of the following is a benefit of companion planting?
   a) It requires more space.
   b) It helps plants grow better together.
   c) It only works for one type of plant.
   d) It requires no water.

4. What advantages do pumpkin
hem to be effective in
lanting?

What might happen if pumpkins were
he Three Sisters companion
planting me
a) The soil would dry
quickly.
b) Beans would not have enough nutrients.
c) Corn would grow taller than normal.
d) The soil would become too acidic.

as a natural support system for beans in companion planting.

eans to grow _____ around the corn stalks.

he practice of companion planting improve the health of the soil

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What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is the first stage of a pumpkin's life cycle?
   a. Vine
   b. Germination
   c. Flowering
   d. Fruiting

2. What are the ideal conditions needed for a pumpkin seed to germinate?

3. The _____ stage involves the growth of large yellow flowers on the pumpkin vine.

4. How do bees help in the life cycle of a pumpkin?

5. Which part of the pumpkin plant provides stability and absorbs nutrients and water?
   a. Leaves

age of the
called?

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What Are Pumpking Weighing Contests?

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The tradition of growing giant pumpkins and weighing them
egan in the early
_____.

2. What is one of the main reasons farmers compete in pumpkin weighing contests?
   a) To make pumpkin
   b) To win money
   c) To see who can grow
   pumpkin
   d) To carve the pumpkins in
   lanterns

3. How
did the
est recorded
pum
weigh?

What do farmers add to the soil to
lp giant pumpkins grow?

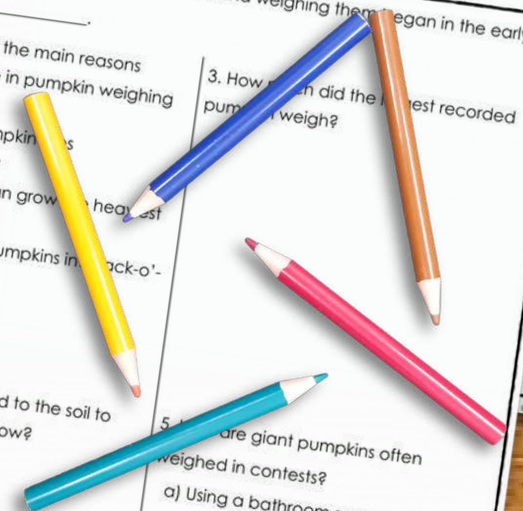
5.
are giant pumpkins often
weighed in contests?
   a) Using a bathroom scale
   b) Using a forklift and industrial scale
   c) By estimating their weight based on size
   d) By weighing them by hand

ers often save the _____ from their giant pumpkins to plant
next year's contest.

are some things farmers do to protect their pumpkins from damage while
v?

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SHORT ANSWER, FILL-IN-THE-BLANK, MULTIPLE CHOICE

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

Extension #1: Testing Different Objects

Objective: To see how density affects different materials

Materials Required:
- ☐ Various small objects (fruits, small toys, etc.)
- ☐ Large container of water

Procedure:
1. Before placing each object in the water, predict if it will float or sink.
2. Place each object in the water and observe it.
3. Record whether it sinks or floats. Were you right?

Object	Prediction	What Actually Happened

Compare the behavior of the

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pumpkin Life Cycle Part I

Cut out the pumpkin images. Glue them in the correct order. The
happens at each stage. Use words from the word bank in your de

Word Bank
seedling
anchoring
nutrient
germination
photosynthesis

Name: _____ Date: _____

Compare the Weight of Different Pumpkins

Objective: Compare the weights of different pumpkins and practice estimation, measuremen
analysis skills.

Materials Required:
- ☐ 5 pumpkins of various sizes and weights
- ☐ A digital or manual scale (able to measure in pounds and ounces)
- ☐ Measuring tape to measure the circumference of each pumpkin
- ☐ Graph paper for charting data

Procedure:
1. Measure around each pumpkin. Write down the circumference.
2. Estimate the weight of each pumpkin.
3. Weigh each pumpkin and write down the weight.

	Pumpkin #1	Pumpkin #2	Pumpkin #3	Pumpkin #4	Pumpkin #5
Circumference					
Estimated Weight					
Actual Weight					

Procedure:
1. Using graph paper, create a bar graph of the estimated weight and the actual weight of each pumpkin.
   1. **Prepare Your Graph Paper**: Turn your graph paper vertically. Draw an X-axis (horizontal) and Y-axis (vertical) meeting in the bottom left corner.
   2. **Label the X-Axis**: At the bottom (X-axis), label each pumpkin (Pumpkin 1, Pumpkin 2, etc.).
   3. **Label the Y-Axis**: On the side (Y-axis), label weights in pounds, starting from 0 and going up in equal increments (e.g., 5 or 10 pounds).
   4. **Draw Two Bars per Pumpkin**: For each pumpkin, draw two bars—one for the estimated weight and one for the actual weight. Use different colors for each.
   5. **Add Title and Labels**: Title the graph "Estimated vs. Actual Pumpkin Weights." Label the X-axis ("Pumpkins") and Y-axis ("Weight in Pounds").
2. Answer the questions.

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Objective: Students will visually organize and connect key ideas from the reading by creating a web diagram that shows the relationships between the different plants in the Three Sisters companion planting method and how they benefit each other.

Materials Required:
- ☐ Large sheet of paper or poster board (one per group or student)
- ☐ Markers or colored pencils
- ☐ The reading passage (or students' notes from the reading)
- ☐ Optional: Printed images of corn, beans, and pumpkins for students to glue to their diagrams

Activity Directions
1. **Review the Text**: After reading the passage, briefly revi
   how each of the Three Sisters (corn, beans, pumpk
   method. Discuss why each plant is important and
2. **Explain the Activity**: Tell students they will create a
   work together. They will draw a web with each
   connect them, showing how each plant bene
3. **Create the Web**:
   1. At the center of the paper, students should
   2. Draw three circles around the center and
   3. Students will then draw arrows from one p
      plant helps the others grow. For exam
      1. Corn to Beans: "Corn acts as a supp
      2. Beans to Corn: "Beans add nitroge
      3. Pumpkins to Corn and Beans: "Pu
   4. Students can color the circles or ad
4. **Alternative**: Have students draw a pi
   companion planting relationship
   vines and leaves.
5. **Group Discussion**: After students
   Discuss how each plant's rol
   sustainable for growing cro
   the key points.
6. **Reflection**: Ask students to re
   and how it helped them
   what they learned abo
7. **Extension**: For an additio
   marigolds to repel p
   Sisters garden.

ts with the students. Focus on
the planting

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting Web

pumpkins

corn

beans

RELATED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE
- **5 PUMPKIN DENSITY ACTIVITIES**
- **LIFE CYCLE ORDER PLUS WRITING**
- **PUMPKIN WEIGHT & GRAPHING**
- **READING COMPREHENSION MAPPING**

WHAT IS THE LIFE CYCLE OF A PUMPKIN, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Did you know that pumpkins are actually a type of fruit? The large, round pumpkins we see in the fall start off as tiny seeds.

Stage 1: Germination

Every pumpkin begins its life as a seed, planted in warm, nutrient-rich soil during the spring. This seed is small, flat, and brown. For the seed to start growing, it needs the right conditions: warm temperatures, plenty of w[illegible]r, and sunlight. This process is called germination. During **germination**, the seed [illegible]nd begins to swell. The outer seed coat cracks open, and a small roo[illegible]e soil to gather nutrients while a tiny shoot grows upward[illegible] the **seedling**, will eventually become the pump[illegible]

Stage 2: The Seedling Develops Into a Vine

As the seedling breaks through the soil, i[illegible] stem becomes stronger, and more leaves[illegible] because they help the plant absorb sunli[illegible] process called **photosynthesis**. During p[illegible] water, and carbon dioxide into the en[illegible] continue to spread out under the soil[illegible] nutrients. Soon, the seedling transfor[illegible] As the vine grows, it develops long[illegible]

Stage 3: Flowering

Once the vine has matured[illegible] bloom along the vine, signalin[illegible] two types of flowers: male a[illegible]
- pollen, while the female flo[illegible] that can develop into pum[illegible] Pollination happens whe[illegible] wind. Without pollinatio[illegible]

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Stage 4: Fruit Development

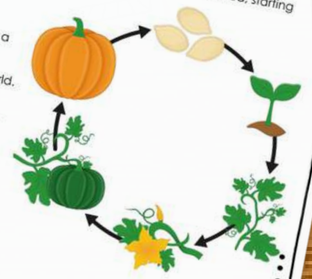
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Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	De[illegible]
		
		
		
		

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpki

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pi[illegible]

germination	the transfer of pollen from one flower to another
final stage of a plant life cycle	**seedling**
photosynthesis	when a seed starts grow
a tiny plant that emerges from the soil	**pollinatio**
fruiting	the process of tur[illegible] sunlight and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	**germination** / Non-Examples

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	**seedling** / Non-Examples

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

1. What is the first stage of a pumpkin's life cycle?
   a. Vine
   b. Germination
   c. Flowering
   d. Fruiting

2. What are the ideal conditions needed for a pumpkin seed to germinate?

3. The _____ stage involves the growth of large yellow flowers on the pumpkin vine.

4. How do bees help in the life cycle of a pumpkin?

5. Which part of the pumpkin plant provides stability and absorbs nutrients and water?
   a. Leaves
   b. Flowers
   c. Roots
   d. Seeds

6. What changes occur during the fruiting stage of a pumpkin?

7. What is the final stage of th[illegible] pumpkin's life cycle called?
   a. Germination
   b. Fruiting
   c. Maturity
   d. Sprout

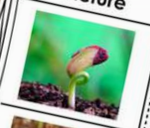
8. Why learn about the pumpkin's life cycle?

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Name: _____ Date: _____

What Is the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin?

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	**germination**	when a seed starts to grow
	**seedling**	a tiny plant that emerges from the soil
	**photosynthesis**	the process of turning sunlight and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen
		
		
		

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pumpkin Life Cycle Part I

Cut out the pumpkin images. Glue them in the correct order. Then, describe what happens at each stage. Use words from the word bank in your descriptions.

rd Bank
edling
choring
trient

final stage of a plant life cycle



maturation



when a seed starts to grow

seedling

THE THREE SISTERS: COMPANION PLANTING INCLUDING ACTIVITIES

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Origins of Pumpkins and the Power of Companion Planting

Pumpkins, the big orange fruits we love to carve and eat, have an interesting history that goes back to ancient times in Central America.

Where Did Pumpkins Come From?

Pumpkins are believed to have originate... ...merica, in the region that is now Mexico. Archaeologists have found **evidenc**... ...own by the indigenous peoples of that area as far back as 7,500 t... ...ved there didn't just grow pumpkins for fun; they reli... pumpkins were part of an important gro... their fields.

Pumpkins spread from Central Ar... their way to Europe after explorers b... Today, pumpkins are grown all ove... practices that helped feed the e...

What Is Companion Planting?

Native Americans used a... their crops more efficiently. C... close together because the...

One of the most fam... The Three Sisters are corn... grew these plants toge... grow better.

- **Corn**: Corn gre... needing to build...
- **Beans**: Bean... put it into the s... stronger.
- **Pumpkin**... leaves kee... protect th...

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Origins of Pumpkins and the Power of Companion Planting

Why Use Companion Planting?

Companion planting is a smart way to grow crops because it helps plants work together like a team. When plants are grown in this way, they don't need as much fertilizer, water, or space because they help each other **thrive**. Here are a few reasons why companion planting is a great idea:

- **Saves Space**: By growing plants that benefit each other in the same area, farmers can use less space but still get more crops.
- **Helps the Soil**: Certain plants, like beans, naturally add important nutrients to the soil, so farmers don't need to use as much fertilizer.
- **Protects Crops**: Some plants help keep pests away from others. For example, the strong scent of some herbs can keep bugs from bothering vegetables.
- **Conserves Water**: Plants like pumpkins that cover the ground help keep the soil moist, meaning less water is needed to grow the crops.

How You Can Try It

You don't need a big farm to try companion planting! If you have a garden or even just a small patch of land, you can try growing different plants together to see how they help each other. Try planting beans near sunflowers, or grow marigolds next to your vegetables to keep pests away. It's a fun way to learn about how nature works and how plants rely on each other.

Pumpkins Today

Today, pumpkins ... ...lanterns at Halloween and pumpkins have a long ... of the Native



gives proof or a reason to believe

eviden



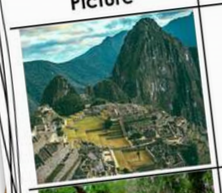
do well, be successful

thrive

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	D
		
		
		

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

companion planting	growing several different plants next to each other to help each of them produce more
evidence	do well, be successful
	gives proof or a reason to believe
	a group of people who

companion planting	growing differen... next t... other... each... produ...
evidence	d... s...
civilization	g...

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
	**civilization**	a group of people who share an advanced way of living for the time period
	**companion planting**	growing several different plants next to each other to help each of them produce more
		

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

companion planting

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

evidence

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

Fill in the matrix for each word.

Definition	Characteristics
Examples	Non-Examples

civilizations

Characteristics
Non-Examples

thrive

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Three Sisters: Companion Planting

1. Why did Native Americans grow corn, beans, and pumpkins together?

2. Pumpkins are believed to have originated in _____ America, in the region that is now Mexico.

3. Which of the following is a benefit of companion planting?
   a) It requires more space.
   b) It helps plants grow better together.
   c) It only works for one type of plant.
   d) It requires no water.

4. What advantages do pumpkins have that allow them to be effective in companion planting?

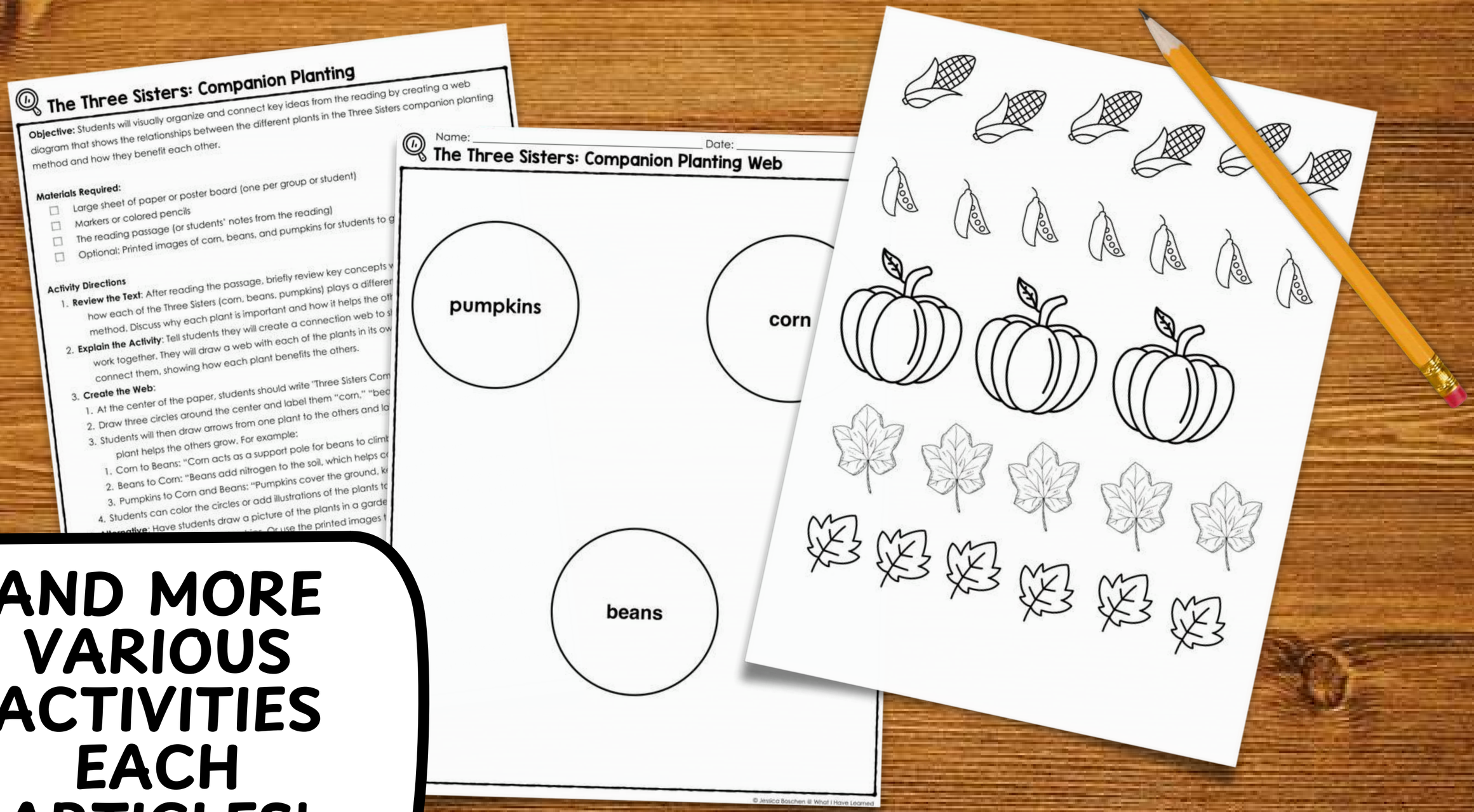
5. What might happen if pumpkins were not part of the Three Sisters companion planting method?
   a) The soil would dry out more quickly.
   b) Beans would not have enough nutrients.
   c) Corn would grow taller than normal.
   d) The soil would become too acidic.

6. Corn serves as a natural support system for beans in companion planting, allowing the beans to grow _____ around the corn stalks.

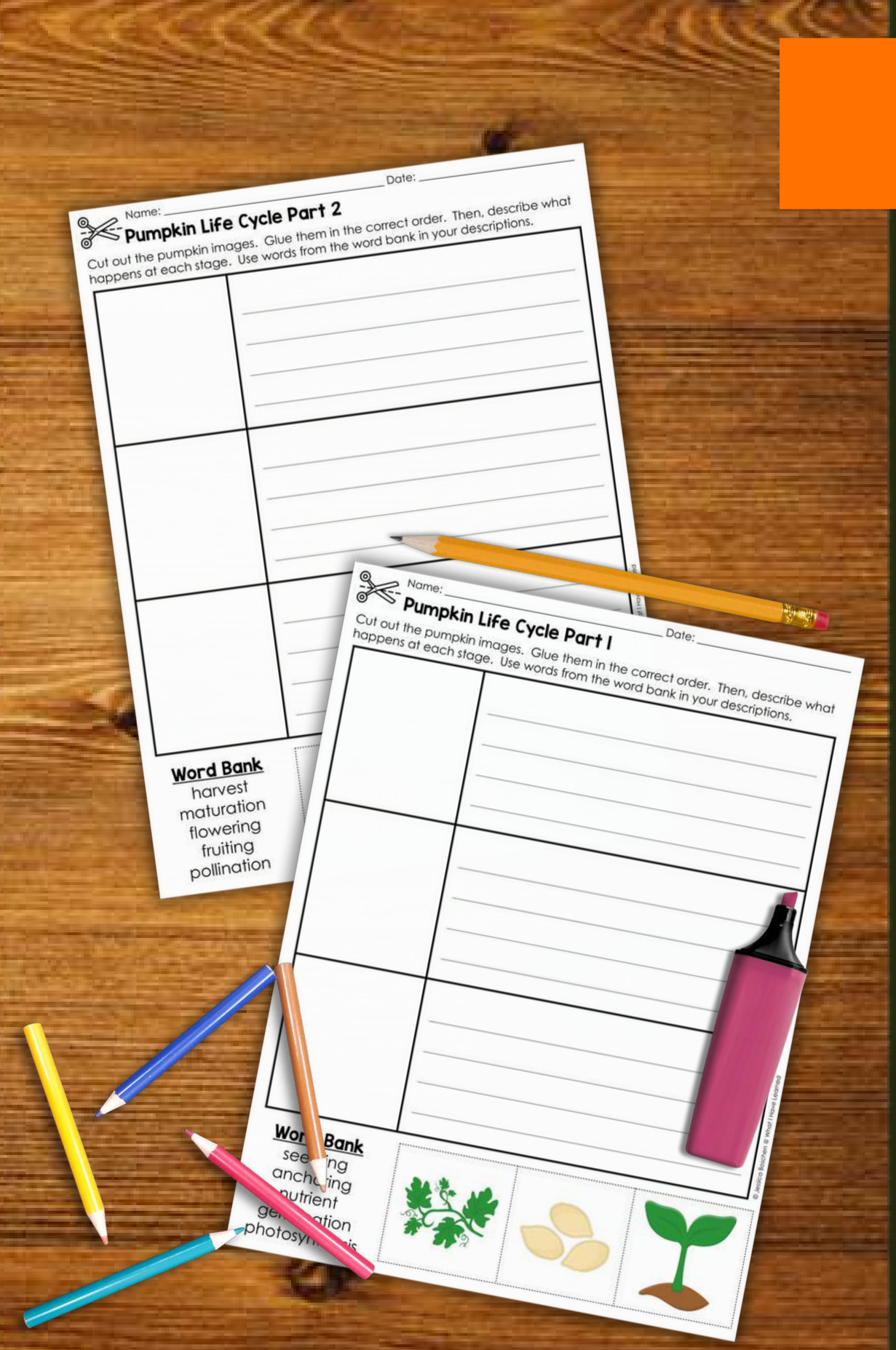
7. How might the practice of companion planting improve the health of the soil over time?

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THE THREE SISTERS: COMPANION PLANTING INCLUDING ACTIVITIES



AND MORE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES EACH ARTICLES!



WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

🌅 **Morning Reading –** holiday-themed warm-up texts

👩‍🏫 **Whole-Group Lessons –** read and discuss passages

📚 **Small Group Practice –** vocabulary cards and organizers

📝 **Independent Work –** comprehension questions and fact sort

💻 **Research Extension –** QR codes and videos

🏠 **Homework –** writing page or discussion prompts

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE

Cross-Curricular Connections

Integrates science, social studies, and math seamlessly, giving students meaningful ways to apply knowledge across subject areas.

Differentiated Responses

Multiple formats—short answer, fill-in-the-blank, and multiple-choice—allow teachers to adapt activities for varied student needs and abilities.

Hands-On Activities

Science experiments, graphing, sequencing, and mapping activities deepen understanding and reinforce key concepts in interactive, engaging ways.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

"A fantastic resource—students were engaged while learning science, math, and history through pumpkins!"

Mrs. L. Ramirez,

"The passages and activities were clear, fun, and easy to use—my class couldn’t get enough!"

Johnson K.



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



What I have LEARNED