



Decorate your pumpkin!



## Learn some pumpkin facts! (from [sciencekids.co.nz](http://sciencekids.co.nz))

- Pumpkins are usually orange but can sometimes be yellow, white, green or red.
- The name pumpkin comes from the Greek word 'pepon', meaning 'large melon'.
- Pumpkins have thick shells which contain pulp and seeds.
- Scientifically speaking, pumpkins are a fruit (they contain seeds) but when it comes to cooking, they are often referred to as vegetables.
- Pumpkins are usually shaped like a sphere (ball).
- They vary in weight but an average sized pumpkin might weigh around 13 pounds.
- Giant pumpkins can be grown for competitions, with some weighing over 1000 pounds! In 2010, the world record was 1810 pounds! That's huge!!
- Pumpkin plants feature both male and female flowers, with bees typically being involved in pollination (the transfer of pollen).
- Over 1 billion pounds of pumpkin are produced in the US every year.
- As a food, pumpkin can be baked, roasted, steamed or boiled.
- Pumpkin soup is popular, as are roasted pumpkin seeds.
- Pumpkin pie is a sweet dessert that originates in North America and is traditionally eaten during harvest time and holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Pumpkins are popular decorations during Halloween. A carved pumpkin illuminated by candles is known as a 'jack-o-lantern'. The tradition is believed to have come from Ireland, where they used to carve faces into turnips, beet and other root vegetables as part of the Gaelic festival of Samhain.