SEPTEMBER 2025

Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Amara's Farm By JaNay Brown-Wood

Amara is hosting a potluck for friends on her farm, and she needs help finding her pumpkins to serve a tasty dish. What do we know about pumpkins? They're large, round, and orange—and, wait a minute, is that a pumpkin? No, that's an apple. Where, oh, where could those pumpkins be? Can you help Amara find them in time for her potluck?



GEORG

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Fun Facts:

- Pumpkins are fruits! Even though we often think of them as vegetables, pumpkins are actually a type of squash and belong to the fruit family because they have seeds.
- There are over 1,500 varieties of pumpkins grown around the world! They come in different shapes, sizes, and colors
- They can grow HUGE! The world's largest pumpkin weighed over 2,700 pounds, about the same as a small car!
- Pumpkins are 90% water! That's why they're so lightweight compared to their size.
- Every part is edible! You can eat the skin, seeds, flesh, and even the flowers of a pumpkin.
- Pumpkins have been around for thousands of years! Native Americans used them as food, containers, and even for weaving mats from dried pumpkin strips.
- Jack-o'-lanterns started in Ireland! People originally carved turnips, but when they came to America, they found that pumpkins worked even better!
- Perfect timing for Halloween! To guarantee October pumpkins in time for Halloween, North Georgia plants seeds in late May to June, while South Georgia plants in the first half of July.

Videos:

- AgVentures to Smith's Farms in Hart County | AgVentures to UGA's Horticultural Research Farm
- PUMPKIN | How Does it Grow?
- Why Do Pumpkins Get So Big? | SciShow Kids
- <u>A Pumpkin Grows- Scholastic</u>
- Libby's 100% Pre Pumpkin from Farm to Can

Activities:

- Recipes: <u>No Bake Pumpkin Pie in a Bag</u> | <u>Pumpkin Fluff Dip</u> | <u>Pumpkin Patch Dirt Cups</u>
- Printables: <u>Pumpkin Color Page</u> | <u>Pumpkin Bookmark</u>
- Lessons: Pumpkins... Not Just For Halloween <u>K-2</u> and <u>3-5</u>
- Activities: <u>Rotting Pumpkin Journal</u> | <u>Sink or Float (Use Fall Commodities</u>) | <u>Pumpkin Life Cycle Bracelet</u> | <u>Pumpkin Patch Bingo</u>
- FREE printable book: <u>The Prized Pumpkin</u>
- STEM: Pumpkin Launcher | Pumpkin Picker | Erupting Pumpkin | Build a wall, gate, or step that the pumpkin can sit on
- Craft: <u>Pumpkin Fizzy Art</u> | <u>Painted Pumpkin Seeds</u> | <u>Dye Pumpkin Seeds</u> | <u>Parts of a Pumpkin</u> | <u>Suncatcher</u>

Visit gfb.ag/aitc for more agtivities