

# How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?

1. A baby pumpkin, like ALL other plants, begins as a SEED, buried in the dark soil, waiting to grow. *[Curl up into a tight ball with head tucked down]*
2. When the time and weather is *just* right, the little seed splits a bit, and it send *up* a small SHOOT to grow a leaf towards the sun (all plants need sun). Then it sends *down* a small ROOT to get a drink (all plants need water). *[Send one arm up to the sky, and push both feet into the ground]*
3. With the right soil, sun, and water, the little pumpkin plant starts to grow *sideways* a long VINE, with more and more leaves to get more sun, and more and more roots to get more water. *[Stretch body out as long as possible - extend one arm & opposite leg to sides]*
4. Next, the pumpkin vine grows FLOWERS. With sweet nectar, bees visit the flowers to drink and spread dusty pollen from flower to flower. *[Open both hands up like flowers]*
5. Finally, wherever there was a pollinated flower, the pumpkin vine begins to grow a tiny, green, fresh FRUIT - A PUMPKIN! This little pumpkin swells and grows, still attached to the vine, turning from green to a ripe orange. *[Make hands into small ball and expand the sphere shape]* When ready, the STEM (handle) gets brown and hard and breaks off of the vine, ready for YOU to pick.
6. Seed, shoot, root, vine, flower, fruit - this takes 3 months. When did these pumpkins need to be planted in order to be ready for Halloween?

