



# SCIENCE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

## Germinating Pumpkins

**Recommended age group:** 5-10 years

### You will need:

Pumpkin seeds (dried or fresh)  
Warm water  
Paper towel  
Sealable plastic bag  
Soil for planting

### What to do:

Germinating your own pumpkins is easy to do. Here are the simple steps for starting your own garden (or for just observing the transformation)

Buy some dried pumpkin seeds (Of use some from a fresh pumpkin). Soak your seeds in warm water for 4 hours. This will make them swell up considerably

Fold a paper towel in half and spray it with water until it is damp, but not soaking. Place the folded paper towel into a sealable plastic sandwich bag. Make sure the fold is at the bottom of the bag.

Place your seeds inside the paper towel and seal the bag. Place the bag in a sunny area, like a window sill.

Check on your seeds every few days. You should be able to see your seeds sprouting after 1 week.

When the kernel has germinated, it is ready to plant into soil.

Pumpkins need a lot of space in the garden and are best planted in summer or autumn. Pumpkins are from a family called Gourds which grow big, tasty fruit. Usually, plants get nutrients from the soil, which enters the plant through the roots.

Your seeds won't need any soil for a week or two, because they are so packed with nutrients, they don't need external food for some time! This is why eating seeds is so good for us.