

# National Pumpkin Day

Cambridge Starters  
Theme: National Pumpkin Day (Oct 26)



## All About Pumpkins!

A pumpkin is a big, round vegetable. They are orange!

They grow in a garden called a "pumpkin patch."

Pumpkins grow in summer and autumn.

People use pumpkins to make pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup, and jack-o'-lanterns for Halloween.

Every year on October 26th, people celebrate National Pumpkin Day!

*Fun fact: Some pumpkins are as big as a car!*



| Vocabulary                                                                          | Part 2 — Order the Letters                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     | Put the letters in the right order to make a pumpkin word. |
|  | 1. E S D E S → _____                                       |
|  | 2. I P E → _____                                           |
|  | 3. T P C A H → _____                                       |
|  | 4. A V R E C → _____                                       |

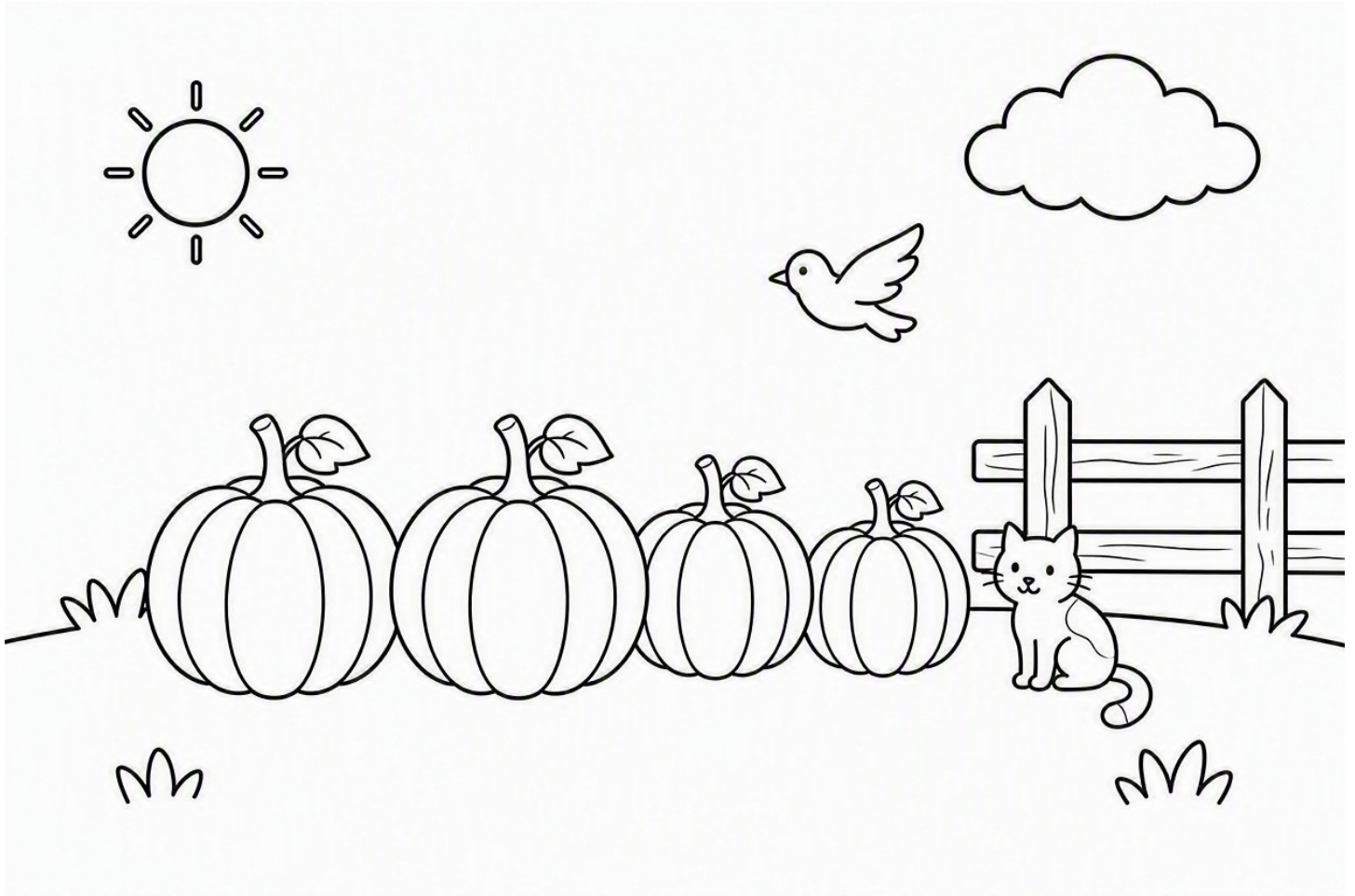
# Pre-Task Game: Spot the Difference!

Look at Picture A and Picture B. They look the same, but 5 things are different! Circle the differences you find.



|                                                                              |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| I found 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 differences! (colour a star for each one you find) |  |  |  |  |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|

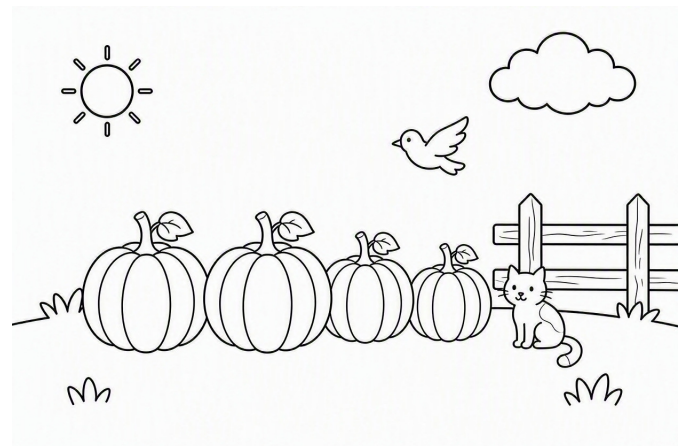
## Part 1 — Listen and Colour



## Part 2 — Look and Read

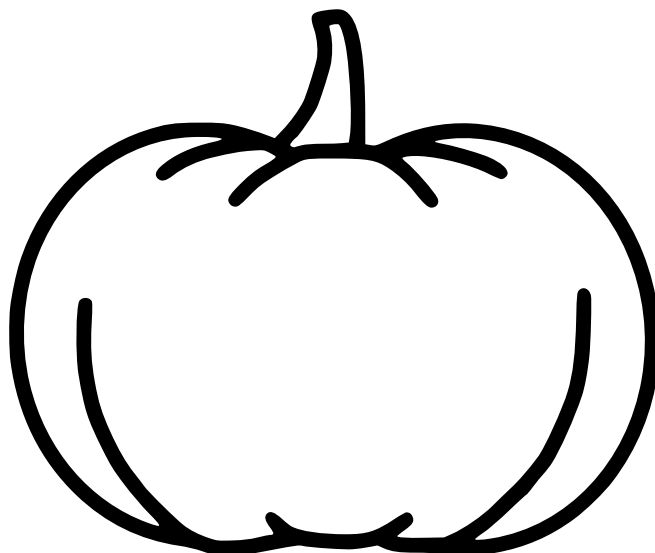
Look at the pumpkin patch picture. Read the sentence. Is it right or wrong? Tick ✓ if it's true and X if it's false.

1. Some of the pumpkins are bigger than others. ☐
2. There is a cat on the fence. ☐
3. The bird is flying. ☐
4. The sun has six rays. ☐
5. There are three pumpkins. ☐



## Part 5 — Speaking: Design a Jack-o'-Lantern!

1. Draw a face on your pumpkin! Give it eyes, a nose, and a mouth.
2. Now tell your partner about your jack-o'-lantern:
  - Is your jack-o'-lantern happy, silly, or scary?
  - What shape are the eyes? (circles, triangles, stars?)
  - What shape is the mouth? (a smile, a zigzag, teeth?)
  - Does your jack-o'-lantern have a hat or a hair?
  - What colour is your jack-o'-lantern?



# TEACHER'S GUIDE & ANSWER KEY

## National Pumpkin Day — Starters (Pre-A1)

Suggested Lesson Pacing (approx. 45 minutes)

| Section                            | Time   | Teacher tip                                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Warm-up chat / intro reading       | 5 min  | Read "All About Pumpkins" aloud first; hold up realia or a picture of a real pumpkin if possible            |
| Vocabulary: Order the Letters      | 8 min  | Let students work in pairs; first pair to finish all 4 gets to choose the next class song/chant             |
| Pre-Task: Spot the Difference      | 8 min  | Do it in pairs — one difference each, then compare as a class before revealing the answer                   |
| Listen and Colour                  | 10 min | Read each line twice; walk around to check students are colouring the right object before moving on         |
| Look and Read                      | 7 min  | Do item 1 together as an example before students continue alone                                             |
| Speaking: Design a Jack-o'-Lantern | 7 min  | Give students 1–2 minutes to draw before speaking; monitor and note 2–3 nice sentences to praise at the end |

### Vocabulary — Order the Letters: Answer Key

1. ESDDES → **SEEDS**
2. IPE → **PIE**
3. TPCAH → **PATCH**
4. AVREC → **CARVE**

## Pre-Task Game — Spot the Difference: Answer Key (4 differences)

1. Picture A has **3 pumpkins**; Picture B has **4 pumpkins**.
2. In Picture A, all the pumpkins are the **same size**; in Picture B, they get **smaller from left to right**.
3. Picture A has **no bird**; Picture B has a **bird flying** in the sky.
4. In Picture A, the cat sits **on top of the fence**; in Picture B, the cat sits **on the grass** next to the fence.
5. In Picture A, the sun is **big**, and in Picture B, the sun is **smaller**.

## Listen and Colour: Teacher Audio Script & Key

Read aloud slowly, twice. Pause between each line so students have time to colour.

Look at the picture. There are some funny colours here today!

There's a sun in the sky. Usually the sun is yellow, but this sun is green.

Next to the sun, there's a pink cloud in the sky.

Do you see the bird flying in the sky? Colour it blue.

Now look at the pumpkins. Do you see the biggest pumpkin? Colour it purple.

Some of the pumpkins are smaller. Do you see the smallest pumpkin? Colour it red.

There are two other pumpkins in between the purple pumpkin and the red pumpkin. I think those pumpkins should be yellow.

Do you see the cat? I think it should be an orange cat, those are my favorites. What do you think about the picture? Do you think the colours are funny?

## Key — the finished picture should show:

- Sun = **green**
- Cloud = **pink**
- Bird = **blue**
- Biggest pumpkin = **purple**
- Smallest pumpkin = **red**
- Other two pumpkins = **yellow**
- Cat = **orange** body

*Teacher tip: before starting, quickly elicit/pre-teach "biggest" and "smallest" with two objects of different sizes (e.g., two pencils). The "funny colours" framing at the start and end gives a natural moment to hold up finished pictures and let kids laugh at the silly pumpkin patch together.*

## Look and Read: Answer Key

1. Some of the pumpkins are bigger than others. → **True ✓**
2. There is a cat on the fence. → **False ✗** (the cat is on the grass)
3. The bird is flying. → **True ✓**
4. The sun has six rays. → **False ✗** (there are 8)
5. There are three pumpkins. → **False ✗** (there are four)

## Speaking: Design a Jack-o'-Lantern — Suggested Rubric

No fixed answers — free-speaking task. Listen for:

- Uses 2+ descriptive words (colour, size, shape) → ✓
- Forms a complete sentence ("It has a triangle nose") → ✓
- Asks the partner the final question → ✓

*Teacher tip: model one example yourself first ("My jack-o'-lantern is scary! It has triangle eyes and a zigzag mouth.") before students describe their own*