What Is Inside a Halloween Pumpkin?



A Pumpkin’s Secret

Here is a Halloween pumpkin. Its orange outside keeps a secret. What could the middle be like? Have a guess before we peek inside!

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> What do you think is inside the pumpkin?





A Space Inside

Peek! A thick orange wall goes around a space in the middle. Seeds and stringy bits fit in that space. This pumpkin is not solid all the way through. Let’s look closer at its seeds.

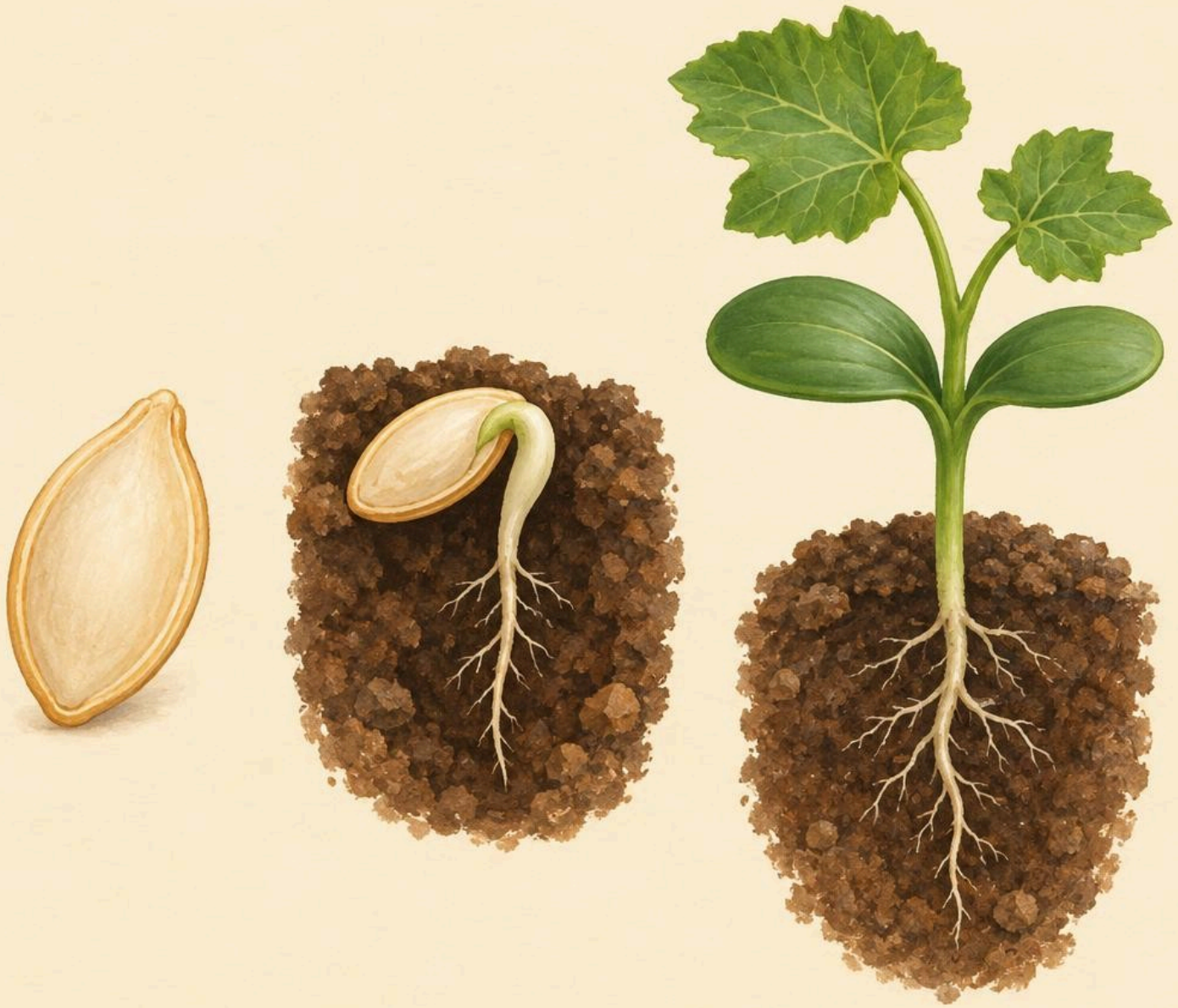
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Look Closely at Seeds

These pale, flat pieces are seeds. One pumpkin can hold hundreds of them! Each seed could grow. What do you think comes first—a little plant or a little pumpkin?

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> What grows first from the seed?





First Little Leaves

In warm, damp soil, a seed can begin to grow. First a little root grows down. Then green leaves open above the soil. There it is: a tiny pumpkin plant! It will need time to grow bigger.

Along the Vine

Over many days, our plant grows big. Its leafy stem spreads along the ground. Yellow flowers open. At the bottom of some flowers, a baby pumpkin can grow. Find the baby pumpkin in this picture.

> **TALK ABOUT IT**
> Which part is the baby pumpkin?





The Story Can Begin Again

The pumpkin grows bigger. This one turns orange as it ripens. Peek inside: more seeds and strings! A seed could grow into a little plant. Later, that plant could make new pumpkins with seeds inside. The growing story can begin again.

Check your wonder

1 **What did we find inside the thick pumpkin wall?**

- **A.** A space with many seeds and strings
- **B.** Solid orange pumpkin all the way through

2 **Which comes first: a little plant or a new pumpkin?**

- **A.** The little plant comes first
- **B.** The new pumpkin comes first

3 **Where can a new pumpkin begin to grow?**

- **A.** At the bottom of a flower on the bigger plant
- **B.** Straight out of the seed

ANSWERS 1-A 2-A 3-A

1. Yes! We found a space full of seeds and stringy bits. 2. That's it! A seed grows into a little plant. Later, its bigger plant can make pumpkins with seeds inside. 3. Yes! The bigger plant grows flowers, and some can grow pumpkins.

THE END

Put your child in this story

Free to try. Scan the code or visit

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