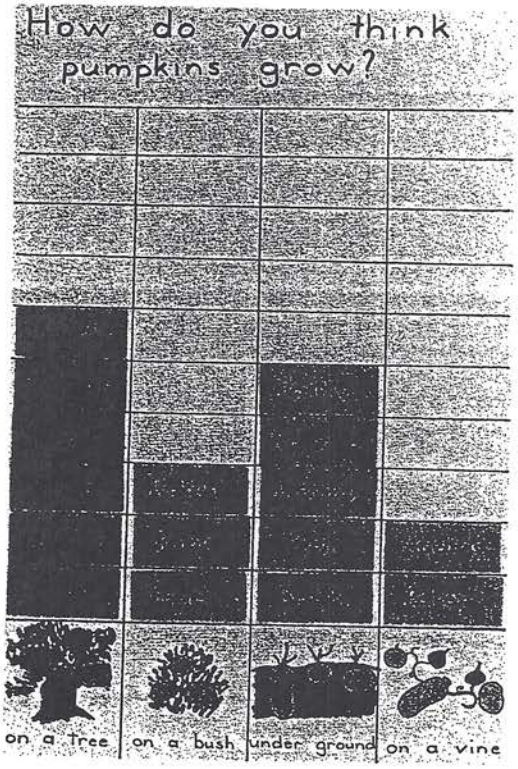
6.6 Pumpkin Growing Prediction Chart

Description

This chart is used prior to a field trip to a pumpkin farm. It encourages children to follow the scientific procedure of forming a hypothesis, collecting data, and checking their hypothesis. Children predict whether pumpkins grow on a tree (like an apple), on a bush (like berries), under the ground (like carrots), or on a vine (like grapes). On the field trip, the children check their hypotheses.



Materials

- ▲ poster board or paper, 12 by 18 inches or a size large enough to accommodate all of the children's decisions, laminated or covered with clear contact paper
- ▲ illustrations of pumpkins growing on a tree, a bush, under the ground, and on a vine at the bottom of the columns
- ▲ a name tag for each child
- ▲ tape to attach name tags to the chart

Child's Level

This graph is most appropriate for older preschool and kindergarten children since it involves prediction and more abstract subject matter.

What to Look For

Most city children do not know where pumpkins grow and therefore have to guess.
Children may want to change their predictions after the field trip.

Helpful Hint

Be sure to look at the graph again after the field trip. Emphasize that scientists also make guesses (hypotheses) to help direct their observations. Scientists also often make wrong guesses!

Questions to Extend Thinking

How many children predict that pumpkins grow on trees? (Repeat for the other columns.)
Which column has the most votes?
Which column has the fewest?
How will we find out how pumpkins grow?