

Pumpkin Carving

A fun creative activity to be enjoyed with your section, family or on your own. *

Safety First



Although not an exhaustive risk assessment, the following safety advice should help reduce the risk of injury during this activity.

Use the Right Tools

Instead of the knives in your kitchen, use specialty tools in a pumpkin carving kit—readily found online and in stores designed for pumpkin carving safety. These tools can saw through rinds, poke holes, and scoop out innards without being razor-sharp.

Carve Your Pumpkin with Its Top On

You won't be tempted to put your hand inside and cut toward your hand.

Keep Things Clean, Dry, and Bright

Work in a clean, dry, and well-lit area, keep your hands and tools clean and dry, and take your time.

Careful with knives

Young children should not be allowed to handle sharp objects, older children may use knives if closely supervised and instructed by a responsible adult and where the adult responsible judges that the young person is able to use one safely.

Pay attention to the non-carving hand.

The hand used to hold the pumpkin is often the hand that is injured the most! Keep this hand out of the path of the carving knife.

Time 45 minutes (or as long as you like...)

Preparation

Prior to carving your pumpkin, consider what style or design you would like to use. A traditional scary face, a Scouts theme or something completely different?

Equipment

- Good sized pumpkin.....
- Marker pen.....
- Sharp knife (Be careful!).....
- Spoon.....
- Container.....
- Tealight or LED Light.....



This is a very basic guide to pumpkin carving there are many other techniques you can research so we have included some useful links below...

1

To start, use a sharp knife to cut off the crown of the pumpkin. If you imagine the pumpkin as a big cooking pot, the 'crown' would be its lid.

2

Using your spoon carefully scoop out the flesh of the pumpkin and place the flesh in the container. You should leave at least a 5cm shell of the pumpkin or it may collapse when you carve it.

Sustainable Idea...

Why not use the flesh of the pumpkin to make a delicious pumpkin treat.

Follow these links for some recipe ideas:

- <https://tinyurl.com/yyavwt5s>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y69esgn8>
- <https://tinyurl.com/y6xgjr22>

3

With a marker pen, draw a simple outline of a face on the pumpkin. Be creative – do you want them to look happy, scary or something else. What shape do you want the eyes, the nose and mouth? Use a sharp knife to cut out the eyes, nose and mouth. Always cut away from you in case the knife slips.

When Cutting...

Remember - if you cut a whole shape, anything inside of that shape will be removed so be careful with your design. Think of how a stencil works. Always leaves a small part connected to the rest of the pumpkin.

4

Finally, pop a tealight or an LED style candle inside the pumpkin, light it up, replace the 'lid' and put your amazing achievement on display!

Why Pumpkins?

The 'jack-o'-lantern' has a long history with Halloween, although our favourite demonic faces haven't always been carved out of pumpkins.

Their origin comes from an Irish myth about Stingy Jack, who tricked the Devil for his own monetary gain. When Jack died, God did not allow him into heaven, and the Devil did not let him into hell, so Jack was sentenced to roam the earth for eternity. In Ireland, people started to carve demonic faces out of turnips to frighten away Jack's wandering soul.

When Irish immigrants moved to the U.S., they began carving jack-o'-lanterns from pumpkins, as these were native to the region.

Pumpkin Carving

Safety First Continued...

Although not an exhaustive risk assessment, the following safety advice should help reduce the risk of injury during this activity.

First Aid

Know First Aid
If you or a family member gets cut whilst carving a pumpkin, apply direct pressure to the injury using a clean, dry cloth. If bleeding does not stop in 15 minutes seek urgent medical assistance.

Always wash and dry your hands after removing the seeds.
The insides of the pumpkin can be extremely slippery, leading to greater chances of injury to your hands. Once you are done removing the seeds, wash and dry your hands before starting to carve.

Naked Flames

If you use a candle rather than an LED light, please ensure that appropriate adult supervision is in place whilst handling the naked flame to avoid risk of burns. Never leave the pumpkin unattended as it may catch alight and always have suitable fire extinguishing means available in proximity should you need them.

* - On your own

You should only undertake this activity if you are an appropriate age to handle sharp objects.

Our Top 10 Tips

- 1. Choose your pumpkin wisely.** The lines on the skin could form a witch's wrinkles, while a misshapen squash could provide a devilishly different canvas.
- 2. Use a template to perfect your spooky design.** Create your own or find inspiration from the many websites dedicated to pumpkin carving.

We have shared two Scouts templates with you below.

Secure your chosen template to the front of your pumpkin, then carefully trace the image by poking holes along the lines. Once finished, remove the template and carve. Voilà!

- 3. Create some eerie shadows by carving another pattern into the back of your pumpkin.**

Place next to a wall, light from the inside and watch your design come to life.

- 4. Coloured tissue paper behind the face of your design creates an eerie filter.**

Make sure you light your pumpkin with a torch rather than a naked flame though!

- 5. Funny faces and ghoulish grins not your thing?** Try making simple shapes like stars or spooky creatures with cookie cutters or use an apple corer or drill bits to add polka dots for a more grown-up pumpkin.

- 6. Try shaving parts of your pumpkin rather than cutting all the way through.** This will give your design a two-tone effect and add depth.

- 7. Use something other than a candle to light up your creation.** Multicoloured Christmas lights may add a new dimension to simple styles, or try using a red bicycle light, set to flash, for a sinister touch.

- 8. Use everyday items from around the house to bring your pumpkin to life.** Create a face from nuts and bolts, use white reflective tape as bandages or simply chop off the top and add some colourful flowers for your own spooky vase! Beans and Spaghetti in tomato sauce make good brains too!

- 9. Can't get hold of a pumpkin or dare to be different?** Use a green variety pumpkin or a watermelon using the same methods to make your spooky creation, but it will certainly make your neighbours look twice!

- 10. Painting your pumpkin can work wonderfully, especially if you want to keep little hands away from sharp objects.** They will also look great in the daytime. Either paint a design over the whole pumpkin or use paint to add accents to an already carved design.

Take it further

Why not explore the history of the pumpkin and why it is now associated Halloween?

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Halloween in the UK?

Did you know that in other countries they call carved pumpkins 'Jack O Lanterns'?

Why not challenge your friends to a pumpkin carving competition?



Speak to your section leader to see how this activity can count towards one of the creative activity badges...

Further information

For further tips, tricks and ideas for creating the perfect Halloween Pumpkin check out the following links:

<https://tinyurl.com/yx989bn>

<https://tinyurl.com/afzohsb>

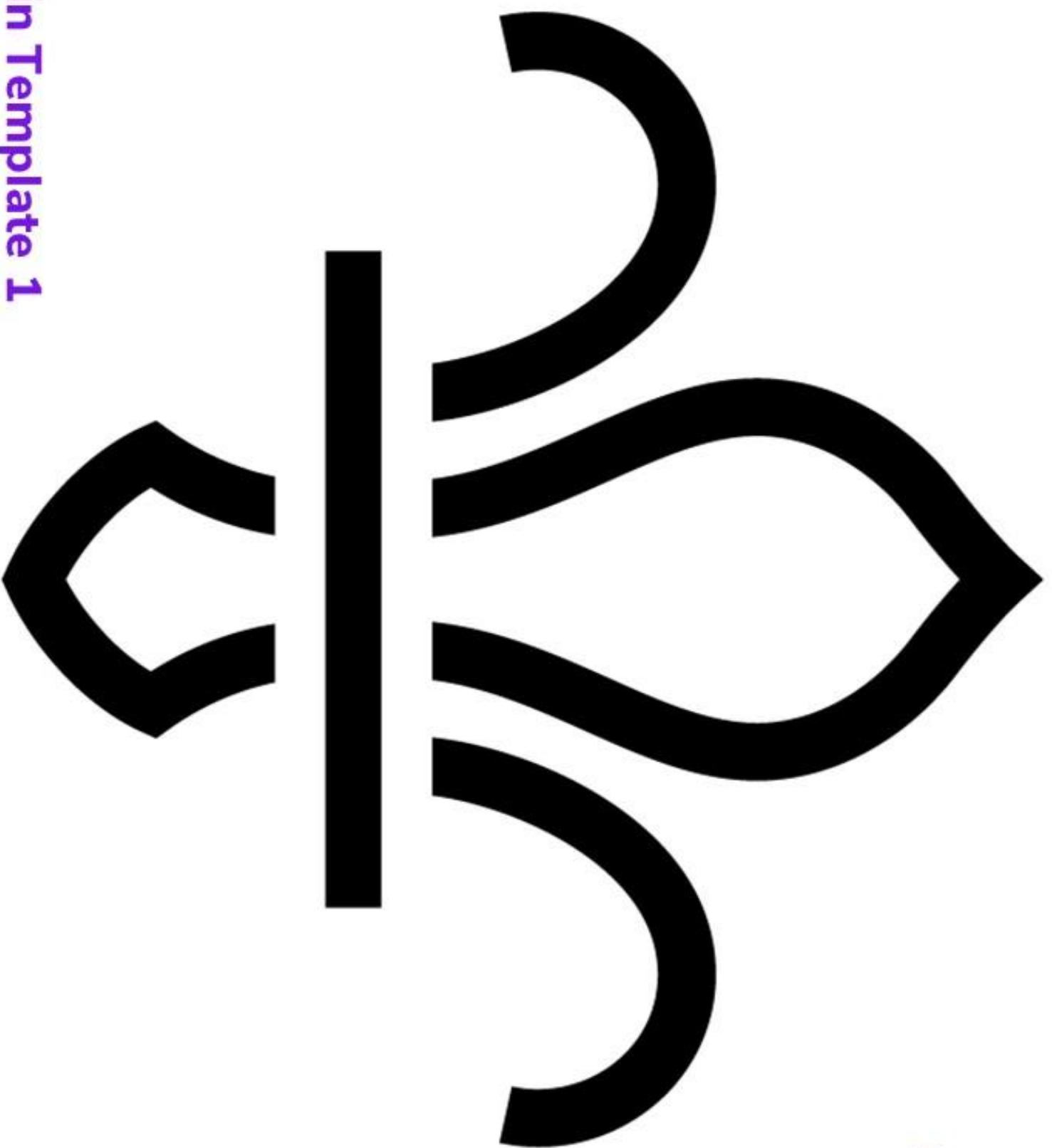
<https://tinyurl.com/y38y2m8s>

<https://tinyurl.com/y59kpzde>





Scouts



Pumpkin Template 1



Scouts

NB. Leave this small piece of the 'O' in place.

Scouts

Pumpkin Template 2