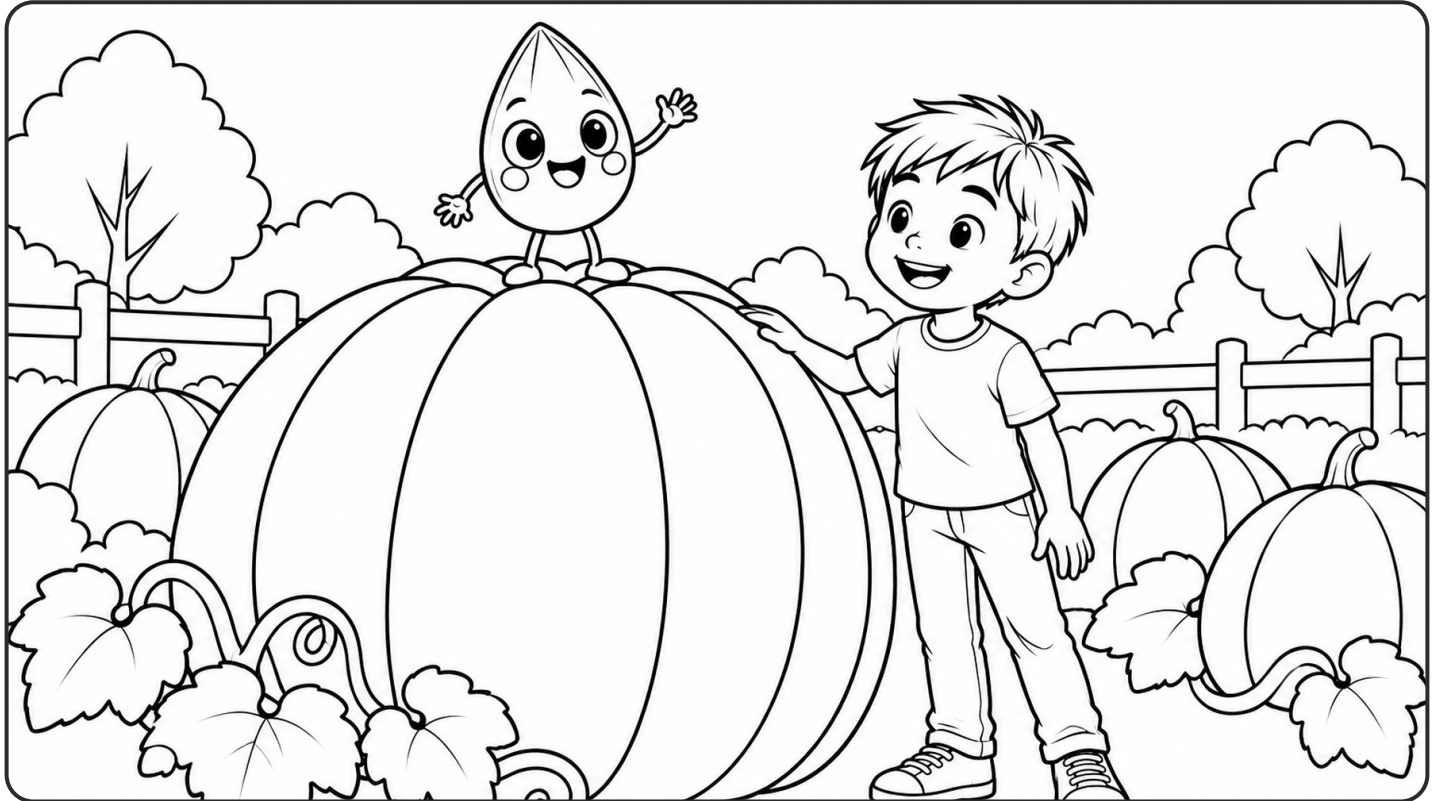


How does a tiny seed grow into a giant pumpkin?



A pumpkin seed is smaller than your fingernail. But a pumpkin can be bigger than you! Where does all that pumpkin come from?



Why?

1. Inside the seed, a baby plant is sleeping, with a little packed lunch.

Someone pokes the seed into warm soil and gives it some water. The water wakes it up! A tiny root pushes down into the soil, and two little green leaves push up into the sunshine.

2. The leaves make the plant's own food.

They catch sunlight, and use it to turn air and water into sugar. That sugar builds the whole plant, one tiny bit at a time. A long, twisty vine grows, with big, wide leaves like umbrellas.

3. Busy bees help, and the vine feeds the baby pumpkin.

In summer, big yellow flowers open up, and bees carry yellow pollen from flower to flower. Where a bee has brought pollen, a tiny green ball starts to grow under the flower. That's a baby pumpkin! The vine sends it water and sugar every day, and it swells up bigger and bigger.

Try it! Plant pumpkin seeds

You need: a few pumpkin seeds, a cup of soil, a sunny window, and a grown-up

1. Save a few seeds from a pumpkin. Ask a grown-up to help you rinse them.
2. Plant them in a cup of soil, near a sunny window.
3. Keep the soil damp. In about a week, can you see a little sprout?

What happened? The water wakes up the baby plant sleeping inside each seed.

Video + more questions:
whywhywhykids.com/grow



scan with a grown-up