

October Activities

from
Laura Candler



I created these October activities to use in my own classroom, and I hope you enjoy them in yours! You'll find directions and printables for two fire safety activities as well as numerous pumpkin and Halloween-themed lessons. Be sure to check out the other seasonal activity packs and my free virtual file cabinet at Teaching Resources (www.lauracandler.com). Also, take a look in my TpT store for the two October freebies listed at the bottom of this page. ~ Laura Candler

October Printables in this Packet

- Fire Escape Story
- Pumpkin Request Letter
- Halloween Point Plot
- Pumpkin Predictions
- Halloween Math Puzzlers
- Spooky Story Starters
- Spooktacular Story Board
- October Partner Word Finds
- Pumpkin Talk Science Investigation
- Halloween Homework Pass

October Freebies in Laura Candler's TpT Store

- Pumpkin Seed Multiplication
- Fire Safety Talk Show



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October Activity Directions

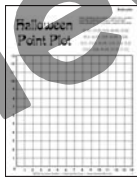
Fire Escape Writing Prompt

In this activity, students imagine they have woken up in the middle of the night to the sound of the fire alarm and the smell of smoke. They write a story describing how they and their family escaped safely. This writing prompt is intended to be used at the end of a fire safety unit after such procedures have been clearly explained. Visit my TpT store (www.lauracandlerontpt.com) to download a free fire safety cooperative learning activity to go with this writing lesson.



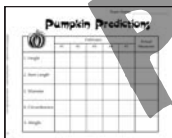
Pumpkin Request Letter

Many families are willing to donate pumpkins for special lessons in October. This form letter makes it easy to request such donations. Just fill in the date you need the pumpkins and sign the letter, then print copies to send home with students.



Halloween Point Plot

Working with a partner, students plot points on the coordinate grid. There are four rows of points; students take turns being the Coordinate Caller or the Point Plotter, switching roles after each row. At the end of each row, they make a prediction about what the mystery object will be. After the last point is plotted, they connect the points in a logical manner (not in the order listed on the paper) to outline the object (a pumpkin). If time allows, they may color the pumpkin.



Pumpkin Predictions

Each team of four to five students will need one pumpkin. Have students number off around the team, and Person #1 becomes the first recorder. Each person makes a guess about the height of the pumpkin and Person #1 records each estimate. Then Person #1 measures the height of the pumpkin to the top of the stem and records it in the far right column. Repeat the same steps with the remaining dimensions, allowing each person on the team to take a turn being the recorder and measurer for one dimension.

Halloween Math Puzzlers

This word problem worksheet has four problems that can be completed over the period of a week or on a single day. Students must show their work in picture or word form. Because some problems deal with measurement and money, there are two versions of this worksheet, an American Version and an International Version. The answers for each version are shown below.

- American** 1. 3 Ghosts 2. Bryan's bag 3. 8:30 p.m. 4. \$15.15
International 1. 3 Ghosts 2. Bryan's bag 3. 8:30 p.m. 4. 31 items

If you like the format of these problem solving worksheets, check out my [Daily Math Puzzler program](http://www.lauracandler.com).



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More October Activity Directions

Spooky Story Starters

Put on some spooky music and let the writing begin! It's fun to use these four story starters as a cooperative learning activity. Give one to each student and have them write for about 5 minutes. Then stop the music, have them pass their papers to the next student on the team, and start the music again. Students read the new story that has been passed to them and continue that story for five minutes. Continue writing and passing stories a few more times and then ask students to create an ending for the story on their desk. Then let them share the final stories with their team or with the class.



Spooktacular Story Board

This is a great activity for the week before Halloween. You can do the activity in a few long "Reading Marathon" sessions or spread it over the whole week. Each student chooses a fiction book to read for independent reading time. Every 15 to 20 minutes, have them stop and complete one section of the story board. For more information on the Reading Marathon strategy, go to www.lauracandler.com and enter Reading Marathon into the green search box.

Halloween and Fire Safety Word Finds

Students cut out the letters at the bottom of each page and then move them around to form words. The words they find do not have to be related to Halloween. The directions assume students are working with a partner, but they can work alone as well. When working in pairs, it's best if each student has his or her own set of letters and a recording page. Give them about 10 minutes to find as many words as possible on their own, and then allow them to consult with their partners to find more words and check the spellings of all words.



Pumpkin Talk Science Investigation

This activity requires you to use a lit candle, so be sure to get approval before conducting the lesson. You'll conduct this as a demonstration in which students alternately observe you and discuss predictions with a partner. Assign partners before the activity and make sure they are seated where they can see the pumpkin but are not too close. Observe all necessary fire safety precautions and quickly end the activity if the matches or candle begin smoking excessively. Setting off a fire alarm would not be good!

Halloween Homework Passes

Give your students a Halloween Homework pass on Halloween to allow them to relax and enjoy the fun without worrying about assignments. Students who don't celebrate Halloween or who do their homework anyway can save the pass for later. If you don't want to excuse students from doing homework, tell them that the pass will allow them to turn their work in one day late without penalty.



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Name _____ Date _____

Imagine you woke up suddenly in the middle of the night. You heard the fire alarm, smelled smoke, and knew you had to act quickly. Write a story about how you and your family escaped safely.

As you write your story, remember to:

- Include a beginning, middle, and end.
- Be sure to include specific details about how to escape a burning building safely.
- Make sure you are writing a story, not just a list of events.
- Be sure to write good sentences and complete paragraphs.
- Use correct grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

Use a clean sheet of paper or the space below to brainstorm ideas and plan your story. Then write your story neatly on lined paper.

Pumpkin Request

Dear Parents,

At the end of this month our class will be using pumpkins for several special activities. We need at least one pumpkin per team. If you would be willing to donate a pumpkin, please fill out the requested information below and return this form to me as soon as possible. Thanks for your support!



Sincerely,

Date Needed _____

____ Yes, I will send in one pumpkin on or before the date shown above.

Student Name _____

Parent Signature _____

Pumpkin Request

Dear Parents,

At the end of this month our class will be using pumpkins for several special activities. We need at least one pumpkin per team. If you would be willing to donate a pumpkin, please fill out the requested information below and return this form to me as soon as possible. Thanks for your support!



Sincerely,

Date Needed _____

____ Yes, I will send in one pumpkin on or before the date shown above.

Student Name _____

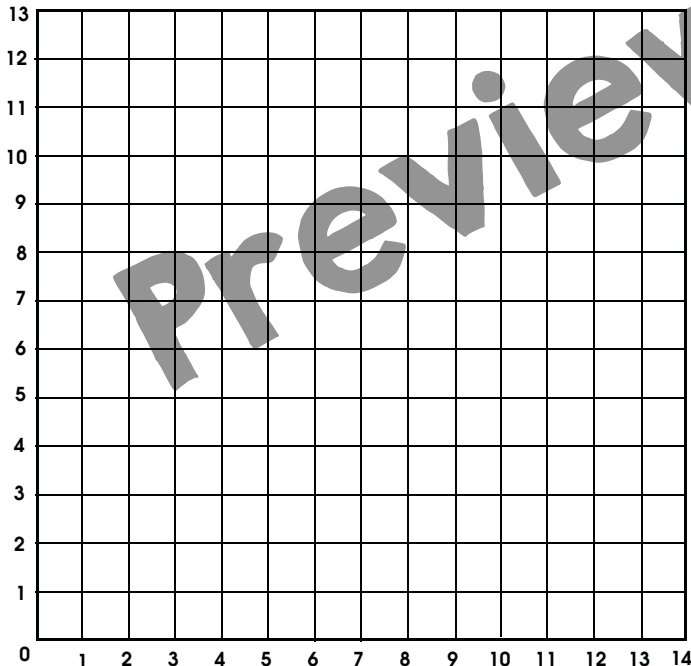
Parent Signature _____

Rallytable

Halloween Point Plot

After plotting the points in each row, predict what the finished picture will look like. After plotting all 21 points, connect the dots.

- (5,11) (11,9) (2,3) (8,10) (13,6)
- (9,1) (6,12) (3,9) (5,10) (12,8)
- (5,1) (13,5) (6,10) (1,5) (1,6) (3,2)
- (12,3) (2,8) (9,10) (11,2) (7,11)



Team Name _____

Pumpkin Predictions



	Actual Measures	Estimates				
		#5	#4	#3	#2	#1
1. Height						
2. Stem Length						
3. Diameter						
4. Circumference						
5. Weight						



Last night when I was trick-or-treating, I stumbled over a broom. I didn't realize it at the time, but it turned out to be a witch's magic broom. I had the most amazing adventure!



Halloween Math Puzzlers

Name _____

American Version

Try to solve each problem *on your own*. Show your work using numbers, pictures, words, or symbols. Later we will discuss our solutions together.

1. A dozen children went trick-or-treating together. One half of them wore witch costumes, one fourth of them wore cat costumes, and the rest dressed up as ghosts. How many ghosts were in the group?

Answer: _____
 - +

2. Sally, Bryan, and Joseph weighed their candy after they got home. Sally's bag weighed 16.25 ounces, Bryan's weighed 16.8 ounces, and Joseph's bag weighed a pound. Whose bag was the heaviest? Show how you know.

Answer: _____
 - +

3. Cindy left her house at 6:00 p.m. and spent 45 minutes trick-or-treating. She spent an hour and a half at the Halloween Carnival and her walk home took 15 minutes. What time did she return home?

Answer: _____
 - +

4. Instead of trick-or-treating, Robert collected money for the homeless. He collected four nickels, a dozen dimes, and 7 quarters. He also collected 3 times as many dollars as nickels. How much money did he collect in all?

Answer: _____
 - +

International Version



Halloween Math Puzzlers

Name _____

Try to solve each problem *on your own*. Show your work using numbers, pictures, words, or symbols. Later we will discuss our solutions together.

1. A dozen children went trick-or-treating together. One half of them wore witch costumes, one fourth of them wore cat costumes, and the rest dressed up as ghosts. How many ghosts were in the group?

Answer: _____
 - +

2. Sally, Bryan, and Joseph weighed their candy after they got home. Sally's bag weighed 1.25 kg, Bryan's weighed 1.8 kg, and Joseph's bag weighed 900 grams. Whose bag was the heaviest? Show how you know.

Answer: _____
 - +

3. Cindy left her house at 6:00 p.m. and spent 45 minutes trick-or-treating. She spent an hour and a half at the Halloween Carnival and her walk home took 15 minutes. What time did she return home?

Answer: _____
 - +

4. Instead of trick-or-treating, Robert collected food for the homeless. He collected 4 cans of beans, a dozen apples, and 7 boxes of pasta. He was given twice as many cans of soup as cans of beans. How many items did he collect?

Answer: _____
 - +



No one was ever seen going into the old house at the end of the street. No one was ever seen coming out. So when my friends and I saw lights flickering in the attic, we just had to go check it out . . .



My brother and I found a pumpkin in the pumpkin patch and brought it home for Halloween. It seemed like an ordinary pumpkin at first. But after we carved a scary face onto it, we discovered that it was far from ordinary . . .

Lined writing area for the story.



One day my friends and I discovered an old black cauldron in the woods. We dragged it home so we could play a trick on our friend on Halloween night. We filled it up with . . .

Lined writing area for the story.



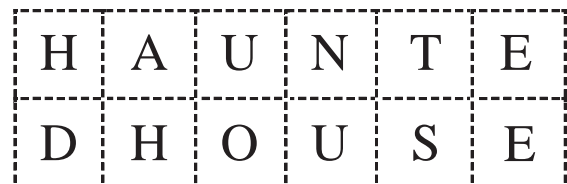
Title/Author	My Name	Main Event 2	Main Event 3	Main Event 4	Main Event 1	Evaluation Is this book a "trick" or a "treat?" Explain.	



Halloween Word Find

How many words can you find in the letters of "Haunted House"? Cut out the letters below and use them to help you make words. Work with a partner and take turns finding words and writing them on the lines. Each word must have at least 3 letters. No proper nouns allowed!

1. _____ 17. _____ 33. _____
2. _____ 18. _____ 34. _____
3. _____ 19. _____ 35. _____
4. _____ 20. _____ 36. _____
5. _____ 21. _____ 37. _____
6. _____ 22. _____ 38. _____
7. _____ 23. _____ 39. _____
8. _____ 24. _____ 40. _____
9. _____ 25. _____ 41. _____
10. _____ 26. _____ 42. _____
11. _____ 27. _____ 43. _____
12. _____ 28. _____ 44. _____
13. _____ 29. _____ 45. _____
14. _____ 30. _____ 46. _____
15. _____ 31. _____ 47. _____
16. _____ 32. _____ 48. _____

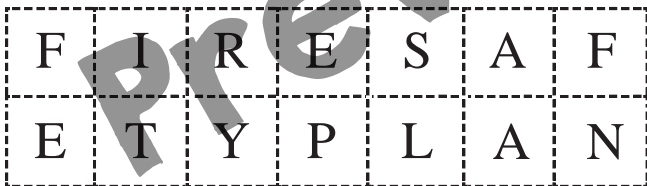




Fire Safety Word Find

How many words can you find in the letters of "Fire Safety Plan"? Cut out the letters below and use them to help you make words. Work with a partner and take turns finding words and writing them on the lines. Each word must have at least 3 letters. No proper nouns allowed!

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 17. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 18. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 19. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 20. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 21. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 22. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 23. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 24. _____ | 40. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 25. _____ | 41. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 26. _____ | 42. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 27. _____ | 43. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 28. _____ | 44. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 29. _____ | 45. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 30. _____ | 46. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 31. _____ | 47. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 32. _____ | 48. _____ |



Pumpkin Talk

Think-Pair-Share

Questions to Explore Air and Heat

- Materials**
- pumpkin
 - knife
 - short candle (2")
 - candle holder or modeling clay
 - bowl for seeds
 - large spoon
 - matches

Advanced Preparation

This activity involves the use of a candle, so be sure to get approval if needed. In addition to teaching the science concept, you can use the activity to model fire safety, being sure to tell students not to try the activity at home without parent supervision. Before the activity, cut out the pumpkin lid and remove the seeds. The lid must fit very tightly. If it doesn't, use clay to fill up the gaps. Secure the candle in the bottom of the pumpkin using a candle holder or piece of clay. Don't carve the jack-o-lantern face ahead of time because you'll do that during the lesson. If you wish, you can draw the face on the pumpkin to save time later.

Procedure

For each question and answer, follow this procedure:

1. Ask the question and have students think of their own answer.
3. On a signal, ask students to pair with a partner to discuss ideas.
4. Call on several students to share ideas, but don't reveal the answer.
5. Do the activity to find out the answer.



Questions

- Q1. If I light the candle and put the lid back on, what do you think will happen?**
A1. The candle goes out.
- Q2. Why did the candle go out?**
A2. Fire needs oxygen to burn. When you put the lid on, the fire can't get oxygen.
- Q3. Will the candle stay lit if I carve eyes in my pumpkin and replace the lid?**
A3. No. The candle burns briefly and then goes out.
- Q4. Why did the candle go out?**
A4. Since the lid is on, the used air cannot flow up out of the pumpkin. Therefore, fresh air cannot flow in to feed the flame.
- Q5. If I remove the lid, will the candle stay lit?**
A5. No. If the candle is short, it will still go out. The warm air rises and pulls in fresh air, but the flame is still in a pocket of stale air.
- Q6. If I carve a nose and mouth and don't put the lid back on, will the candle stay lit?**
A6. Yes.
- Q7. Why does the candle stay lit now?**
A7. Warm air rises. As the stale air rises, it pulls fresh air in through the eyes, nose, and mouth. The candle continues to burn as long as it is getting air.
- Q8. Will the candle continue to burn if I put the lid back on?**
A8. Yes. Even with the lid on, warm air will rise through the eye holes and pull in fresh air through the mouth. Students can observe this air flow if the candle is smoking a little.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



Homework Pass

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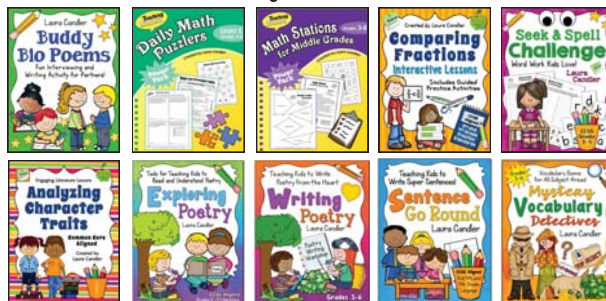
Homework Pass

Other Seasonal Mini Packs

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