

# PUMPKIN HUNT

**Purpose:** Students will count objects and compare them to others using the math terminology of more than, less than or equal to. Students will also discuss how many more or less they have compared to another set of objects.

**Suggested Grade Level:** K-1

**Math SOL:** Number and Number Sense K.1, K.2

**Equipment/Materials Needed:**

1. Cut out paper pumpkins (about 100) – using Die-cuts is most efficient

**Advance Preparation:**

1. Spread pumpkins over a large area.

**Directions:**

1. Tell students they will be going on a “pumpkin hunt.”
2. Explain that you have spread lots of pumpkins all over the ground.
3. Explain that the goal is to help collect all of the pumpkins from the pumpkin patch as a class.
4. Tell students that after they pick up a pumpkin they get to do 5 jumping jacks in celebration. They must do this before they pick up another pumpkin.
5. Have students line up when all the pumpkins are gone and hold on to their collected pumpkins..
6. Return to the classroom and place students in pairs.
7. Have students sit down with their partner and line up their individual pumpkins vertically in front of them and have their partner do the same.
8. Ask each pair to compare their pumpkins; who has more and who has less? Do they have the same number?
9. You can extend the activity by asking how many more or less their partners have.

**Teaching Suggestions:**

1. Set ground rules about pushing, taking pumpkins from someone, etc. Encourage students who collect many pumpkins to share with others.
2. Remind students that they need to jump for joy with 5 jumping jacks after each pumpkin collected. This provides them with more physical activity.
3. Place a few extra pumpkins in your pocket so that you can drop them near a student that may not have found one or only has one.
4. When you return to the classroom and pair students up, ask who has less first and express excitement so that having more pumpkins is not associated with winning.

**Modifications/Variations:**

1. Use whatever cutouts you want, ex: make a turkey hunt.
2. Place numbers on the back of the pumpkins and add up the numbers instead of the pumpkins themselves.

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