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Sequencing Rationale

 The curriculum map for pumpkins takes students through math, language arts, science, and social studies. While these four content areas can be integrated at once, I would begin with Language Arts. Reading fiction and nonfiction pumpkin books will spark students’ interest in the topic. Pumpkin books introduce the topic for those children who may have never had or seen a pumpkin at home. These books can gradually be read to aide in comprehension and self-monitoring strategies. I would use these books to begin studying the life cycle of a pumpkin.

 After studying pumpkins, a field trip to a pumpkin patch can be planned. Many businesses will take children on a hay ride through the pumpkin patch and let them pick a pumpkin. Most patches also have learning centers for the children to visit where they can learn more about pumpkins. Children will now be able to see pumpkins first hand and feel them. Many children have never seen pumpkins in the field.

 After picking pumpkins at the pumpkin patch, students can begin completing the math activities. Students can measure and compare the pumpkins. With the help of adult volunteers, the pumpkins can be cut and students can observe the inside of a pumpkin. Students can dig into the pumpkin and take out the seeds. After the seeds have been cleaned, students can count and compare them. These seeds can then be made into a tasty treat.

 Now that students have had hands-on experiences with pumpkins, it is time for them to write in their journals. Students will reflect on the experiences they had at the pumpkin patch and in the pumpkin learning centers. Journaling will allow them to use their prewriting skills, inventive spelling, and practice their letter formation. Saving the journaling activities for the end of the unit gives them a purpose for writing.