



STEAM Projects for Daisies and Brownies

It's fall! During fall we harvest pumpkins! This is a perfect time to learn about pumpkins and voting! When we vote in elections, we're using our vote to let the government know who we want to be in office and what we hope they will do. Although, voting can be used to decide between two or more choices for almost anything when there's a group of people and you want to know how the **majority** of the group feels. **Majority** means more than half of everyone agrees on one of the choices. For example, if there are 5 members in your family and you've decided to choose between pizza or tacos for dinner by voting, if 3 choose pizza and 2 choose tacos, pizza has won the **majority** of votes!

Voting Math

Practice voting and counting votes with members of your family! Have elections at home to decide some of the following: pizza or tacos, chocolate or vanilla, winter or summer, hot dog or hamburger, ice cream or popsicle, movies or tv. Have family members write or draw their answer on a slip of paper, and then count the votes. Are you surprised to see what the **majority** chose? Were there any ties –equal votes for both choices –in your election?

Come up with your own election ideas to try with your family too –you could vote to decide dinner, a book to read, an activity to do, and more!

Voting is a great way to use your voice, but everyone also has the right to keep how they voted a secret. In some states it's even illegal to take a picture of a **ballot** on Election Day. A **ballot** is what voters fill out, [LH1][AW2]so their votes can be counted quickly and without anyone knowing how you voted. Create a ballot and/or ballot box for your elections at home. (Ideas to create a ballot box with an adult on our Pinterest page here:

<https://www.pinterest.com/gprograms/daisy-resources/how-to-make-a-ballot-box/>

Read a book about voting! Book ideas in our Pinterest page here: <https://pin.it/5yKufUk>

Watch this video to learn more about voting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrG7zBUDiqQ&ab_channel=KidsAcademy

Challenge: to make the voting a little more interesting, add a third choice and see what happens!

Squash Science

Pumpkins are part of the squash family –along with zucchini, cucumbers, gourds, and even cantaloupe and watermelon! Save your Halloween pumpkin, or if it's already gone to the squirrels, purchase a pumpkin to use for these activities. If you can't find a pumpkin, pick up a different kind of squash. Discover the science behind the squash by mixing some fun science with our civic engagement theme. Learn about pumpkins while you engage in voting, counting votes and looking at results. Try one or more of the following activities:

1. Sink or float? – Do what a scientist does! Make a prediction! Predict if your pumpkin will sink in water or float in water! Then test your prediction! With an adult, fill a bucket, sink, or tub with water. Practice voting with everyone in your home, and ask if they think the pumpkin(s) will sink or float? You should vote too! Once you count up the votes, place your pumpkin in the water and see what happens! Were you surprised by the results? Do you know why the pumpkin sank or floated? Experiment with other objects in your home! Will they sink or will they float? Log your results.

2. Salty or sweet? –Seeds from all types of squash are edible and can be eaten on their own too! Have an adult cut your pumpkin (or other squash) open and remove the seeds with your hands or a spoon. Do some math, and count the seeds! When the seeds have all been removed, wash the seeds and dry them or leave them out to dry. Now vote on whether your family should roast the seeds with salt or cinnamon and sugar. Season the seeds before roasting using the results from the vote and have an adult place them in the oven (more detailed instructions here:



<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/13768/roasted-pumpkin-seeds/>). Did you end up having salty seeds or sweet seeds?

3. What's inside? –Ask an adult to cut open one of the seeds and look closely at what's inside. Using a pencil, try drawing what it looks like. Scientists use drawings of things that grow in the ground to help them learn. After you've sketched it, ask an adult to help you look up the parts of the seed. Get their help and label all the parts on your drawing.

4. See how it grows! –Put one pumpkin seed on the outside of a neatly, twice-folded damp paper towel, then place the paper towel with the seed inside a Ziploc bag. Have an adult help you tape the bag in a sunny window. Watch it sprout roots inside the bag. How long did it take? Fun fact: this process is known as **germination!**

5. Prepare for next Halloween –Ask an adult if there's a place inside or out where you could plant several pumpkin seeds to watch how they grow in soil. Sometimes pumpkins grow where an old Halloween pumpkin was tossed out. They're very tough plants and can grow with little care and attention. Check on it every two weeks and document its growth with photos or by writing updates with an adult in a special squash journal.

6. Sing about how pumpkins grow! –Check out this song about the pumpkin life cycle. Make up a dance to go along with it, and perform it for the members of your household (maybe even dressed like a pumpkin?)!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifLMJLN-A9w&ab_channel=Casey

