

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thanksgiving and The Pumpkin Pie

By Mikki Sadil

Thanksgiving! Doesn't just the name of the day make your mouth water when you think of all the good food Mom is going to be cooking? There's turkey and dressing, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, some good veggies, and best of all...Pumpkin Pie for dessert! YUM!



You've probably always had pumpkin pie on Thanksgiving, and maybe Christmas, too, but where did pumpkin come from? No, not in the local market! Pumpkins have an interesting history, and you can trace them back about 9,000 years to different places in Central America.

The name 'pumpkin' was finally changed to pumpkin in the 17th century.

Native Americans used pumpkins in many ways. For example, they used them to make a drink for different purposes.

A red-bordered box containing a cartoon superhero character on the left, the word 'PREVIEW' in large red letters in the center, and the text 'Please log in or register to download the printable version of this worksheet.' on the right.

**PREVIEW**  
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Native Americans believed the seeds would draw the snake venom (poison) out of the wound. Many years later, the American colonists thought pumpkin seeds would remove freckles if they rubbed them over their faces.

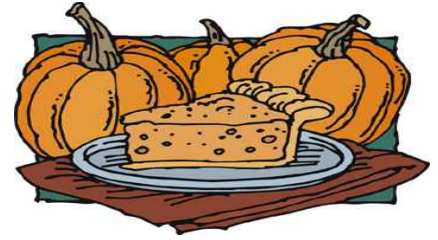
Another way Native Americans used the pumpkins was to slice them into long strips, dry them, and then weave them into mats for them to sleep on. Sometimes they even wove them into the long grasses that some tribes used to build their wigwams. When there were pumpkins left over after all the work was done, the Indians cut them into long strips, roasted them over an open fire, and ate them. This was a real treat.

The first 'pumpkin pie' occurred when the early colonists sliced the top off, cleaned out all the seeds, and filled the inside with milk, spices, and honey, and then baked it in hot ashes. The pumpkin pie changed over many generations, with a lot of different ingredients added to it, until today when it is that delicious Pumpkin Pie your mom bakes as the special dessert for Thanksgiving dinner.

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1. Who made the first pumpkin pie?
- a. Native Americans
  - b. American colonists
  - c. Greeks
  - d. modern Americans

2. Why did Colonists sometimes rub pumpkin seeds on their faces?

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3. What part of the pumpkin did Native Americans boil to make medicine?

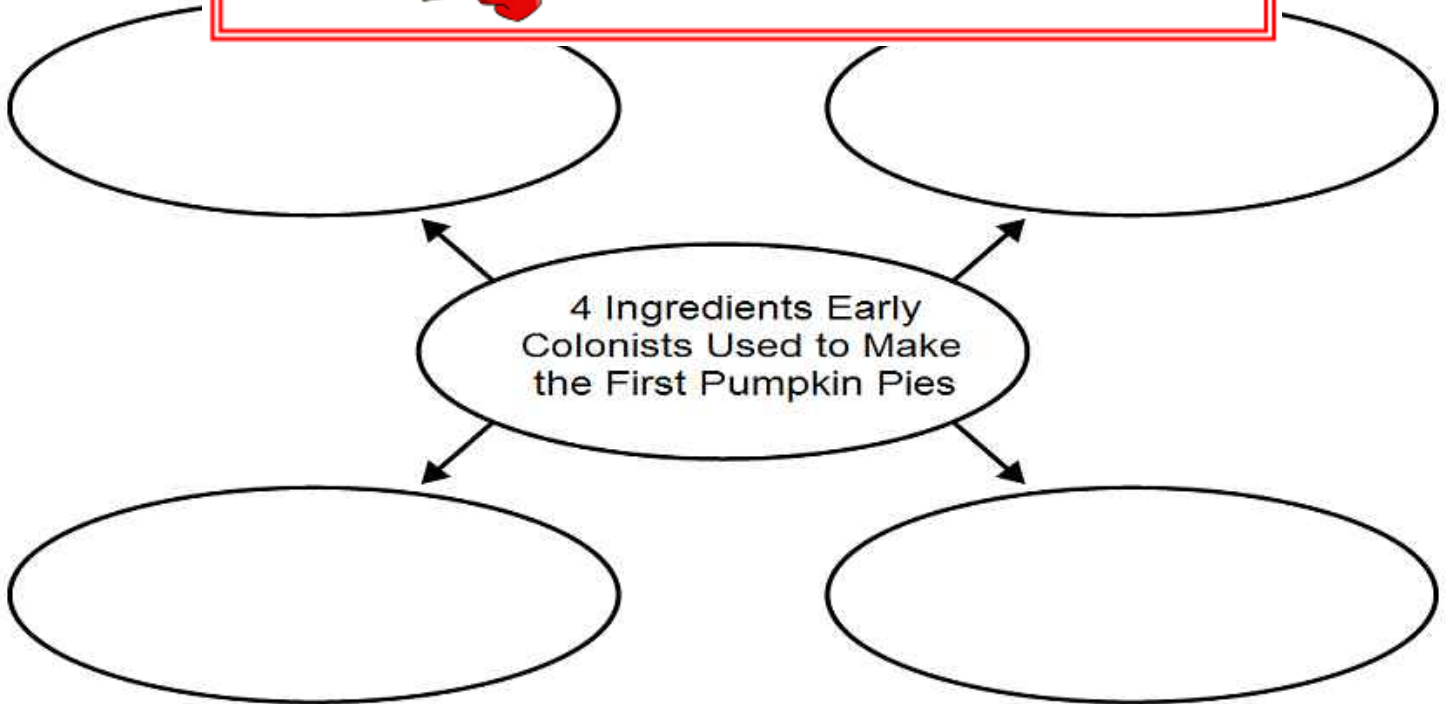
- a. the
- c. the



**~ PREVIEW ~**

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4. Comple



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Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.



\_\_\_\_\_ 1. dressing

a. near home

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. dessert

b. injury

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. c



**~ PREVIEW ~**

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a turkey

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. local

d. dome-shaped hut that some Native Americans lived in

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. wound

e. sweet treat eaten after a meal

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. wigwams

f. small brownish spots on the skin

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. freckles

g. periods of 100 years

# ANSWER KEY

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1. Who made the first pumpkin pie? **b**
- a. Native Americans
  - b. **American colonists**
  - c. Greeks
  - d. modern Americans

2. Why did Colonists sometimes rub pumpkin seeds on their faces?

**They thought pumpkin seeds would remove freckles.**

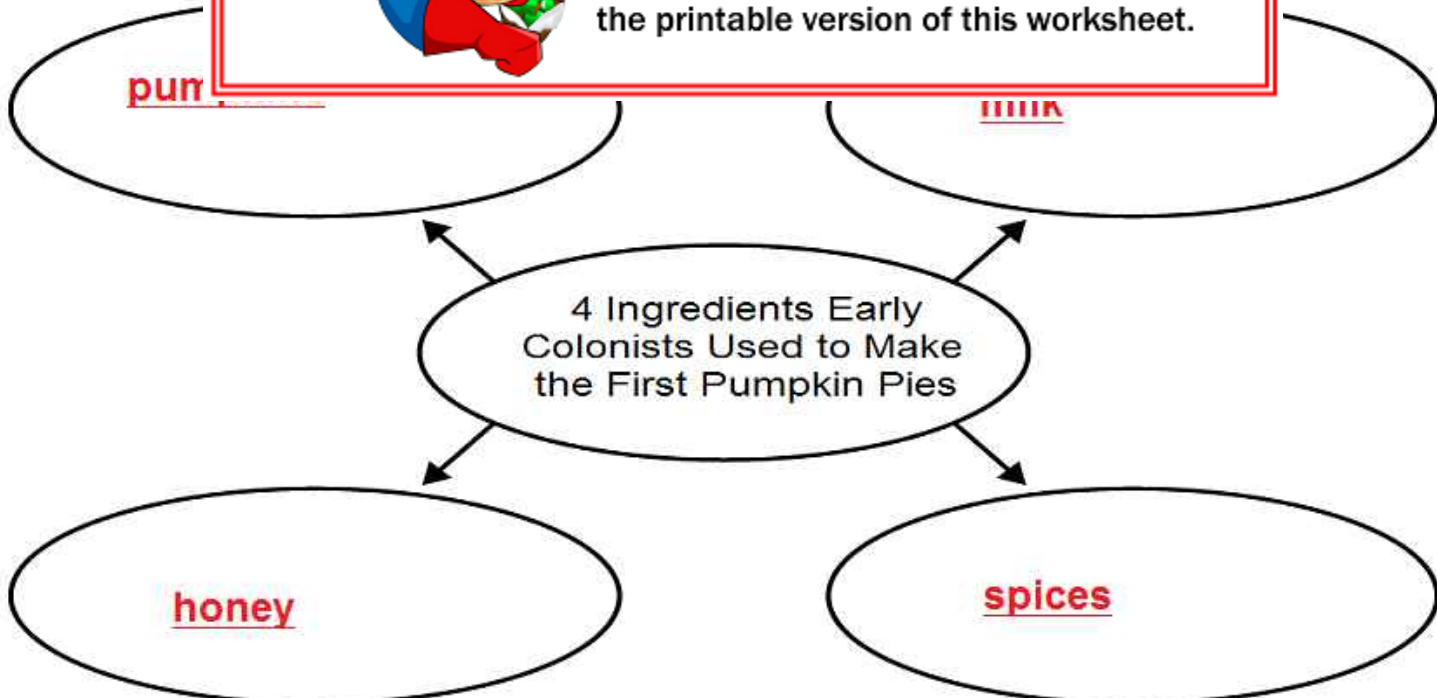
3. What part of the pumpkin did Native Americans boil to make medicine? **c**
- a. the orange skin
  - b. the goop inside
  - c. **the seeds**

4. Complete the mind map.



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