How to Carve a Jack O' Lantern

by www.theteachersguide.com

Carving pumpkins into jack o' lanterns has been a favorite Halloween tradition for many years. It is believed the tradition started with the Celts long ago. They would carve out turnips to make lanterns. Pumpkins proved easier to carve than turnips and a tradition was born. Follow the steps below to create the perfect jack o' lantern.

First, decide what kind of design you want to carve on your pumpkin. This will help you choose a pumpkin that works with your plans. Next, pick a pumpkin that will work best with your design. Now you will need to gather all of your pumpkin carving supplies.

Now it is time to cut a lid for the pumpkin. Cut a rough circle around the stem of the pumpkin. Make sure to cut the top at a slant so the lid has an edge to rest on. After you remove the lid you can start taking the seeds and pulp out of

the pumpkin. Scrape the inside of the pumpkin clean so more light can shine through your design.

Now you can draw the jack o' lantern's face on the pumpkin with a dry erase marker. If you make a mistake, wipe the mark off with a wet cloth. Next, have an adult cut along the lines you drew. Use your finger to push out the pieces of pumpkin once the carving is done. Place a small candle or glow light inside the pumpkin to light it up. Finally, clean up the mess you made and enjoy your new jack o' lantern.

1. Cut out and glue (or write) the steps on the next page in the correct order.

Name_____

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Remove the seeds and pulp from the inside.
Have an adult cut along the lines you drew.
Decide what kind of design you want.
Cut the lid for the pumpkin at a slant.
Pick a pumpkin that works for your design.
Push out pieces of the pumpkin with your finger.
Place a light source in the jack o' lantern.
Draw your design on the pumpkin.