



Te Kura

TE AHO O TE KURA POUNAMU

THE CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

The giant pumpkin

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Acknowledgements

Photos – iStockphoto.com

Cover image: Pumpkin, 4117140

Planting seed in pot, 15949837

Pumpkin sprouting in pot, 14287678

Green sprout with water droplets, 74638717

Young pumpkin plant, 71734987

Pumpkin growing in field, 74730659

Very big pumpkin, 72639461

Giant pumpkin in garden, 74378915

Pumpkin seeds, 42588746

Green pumpkin sprout in pot, 24049103

Bee, 2445970

Green watering can, 14021204

Pumpkin flower and bees, 73022349

Small pumpkin forming on plant, 6838430

Pumpkin, 73321203



The giant pumpkin

It was a sunny spring day. Our class were going to plant pumpkin seeds in pots.

I planted the seed in the pot.

I gave it a little water and put it in the sunny corner of the window sill.



“Children I have something special to tell you,” said the teacher.

“One of those seeds is going to grow a giant pumpkin!”

“A giant pumpkin,” I shouted excitedly.

I really hoped that I had the giant pumpkin seed.



Each day I gave my seed a little water. It soon sprouted and the vine grew bigger and bigger.

One day the teacher said, “Ra, you will have to take your plant home as it is getting too big for your pot.”

I smiled and wondered if I had the giant pumpkin seed growing in my pot.



I carried my pot home carefully.

“Ra, you will have to put some compost in the hole before you plant your pumpkin vine,” said Mum.

I put the compost in my hole and carefully looked after my vine.





“Mum,” I shouted from the garden one day. “ I have a pumpkin,” Mum came to look.

“It will be lovely in the hangi Ra,” said Mum.



I checked my pumpkin every day.
I made sure it got lots of water.

My pumpkin kept growing, and
growing and growing. It was
enormous. I had an enormous
pumpkin.

The teacher asked us to bring our pumpkins to school. I was so excited.

In the morning I went into the garden to get my pumpkin but I couldn't lift it. It was too heavy.

I started to cry. I was scared nobody would believe I had grown an enormous pumpkin.

“We can take a photo of the pumpkin,” said Dad.

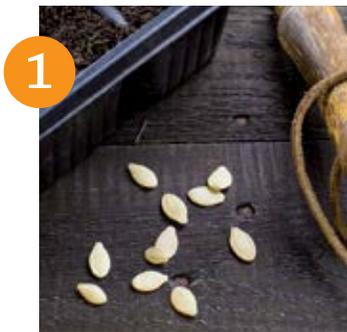


“Wow” said the children, when they saw the photo.

“You had the seed for the giant pumpkin! Your pumpkin is enormous!”



Sequence of growing a pumpkin.



Discuss with your student

1. Where did the children plant their seeds at school?
2. How did the children look after their seeds?
3. Why do think Ra was successful in growing a giant pumpkin?
4. What do you think are the advantages of growing such an enormous pumpkin.
5. Discuss what you think might happen next in the story.

