Ekka
EDUCATION

CURRICULUM ALIGNMENT & CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Giant Pumpkin Competition

Supported by Pillow Talk

PREP - GRADE 10

Ekka
EDUCATION

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The iconic Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk offers more than $3,400 in prize money, including $1,000 for the heaviest pumpkin over 350kg!

The competition features two classes, testing the growing skills of farmers, students and gardeners to see who can harvest the heaviest giant pumpkin.

The competition record is currently held by giant pumpkin veteran Geoff Frohloff, with his 2015 entry crushing the competition, weighing in at 261.5kg.

IMPORTANT DATES

Competition Open: Tuesday 31 October 2023
Entries Close: Friday 1 March 2024
Judging Commences & Presentation: Saturday 9 March 2024
Ekka Dates: Saturday 10 August - Sunday 18 August 2024

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Competition Enquiries

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Education Content Enquiries

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PREP: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Observe external features of plants and animals and describe ways they can be grouped based on these features (AC9SFU01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose questions and make predictions based on experiences (AC9SFI01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Engage in investigations safely and make observations using their senses (AC9SFI02)

Creative & Critical Thinking

Numeracy

GRADE 1: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Identify the basic needs of plants and animals, including air, water, food or shelter, and describe how the places they live meet those needs (AC9S1U01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose questions to explore observed simple patterns and relationships and make predictions based on experiences (AC9S1I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Suggest and follow safe procedures to investigate questions and test predictions (AC9S1I02)

GRADE 2: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose questions to explore observed simple patterns and relationships and make predictions based on experiences (AC9S2I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Suggest and follow safe procedures to investigate questions and test predictions (AC9S2I02)

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Digital Technologies Hub: Planting fruit and vegetables

In this sequence of lessons students grow a plant from seed, capturing each step and decision as an algorithmic process and recording data for future learning.
https://www.digitaltechnologieshub.edu.au/teach-and-assess/classroom-resources/lesson-ideas/planting-fruit-and-vegetables/

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Foundation

This unit contains six lessons including an inquiry-based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, word games, practical activities and maths learning activities. These lessons have been created and compiled by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6927/foundation-planting-science.pdf

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 1

This is a teacher resource designed to achieve biological understanding outcomes, based on current photosynthesis research. The unit contains five lessons including an inquiry-based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, word games, practical activities and maths learning activities. The lessons have been created and compiled by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6929/year-1-planting-science.pdf

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 2

This teacher resource makes engagement easy, with experiments and activities based on current food security, sustainability and photosynthesis research. The unit contains seven lessons, including an inquiry-based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, word games, practical activities and maths learning activities. The lessons have been created and compiled by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6924/year-2-planting-science.pdf

GRADE 3 - 4 RESOURCES

GRADE 3: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Creative & Critical Thinking

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Compare characteristics of living and non-living things and examine the differences between the life cycles of plants and animals (AC9S3U01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose questions to explore observed patterns and relationships and make predictions based on observations (AC9S3I01)

Numeracy

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Use provided scaffolds to plan and conduct investigations to answer questions or test predictions, including identifying the elements of fair tests, and considering the safe use of materials and equipment (AC9S3I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Describe the ways of producing food and fibre (AC9TDE4K03)

GRADE 4: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Sustainability

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Explain the roles and interactions of consumers, producers and decomposers within a habitat and how food chains represent feeding relationships (AC9S4U01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose questions to explore observed patterns and relationships and make predictions based on observations (AC9S4I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Use provided scaffolds to plan and conduct investigations to answer questions or test predictions, including identifying the elements of fair tests, and considering the safe use of materials and equipment (AC9S4I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Describe the ways of producing food and fibre (AC9TDE4K03)

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

ABC Education: Kids in the Garden

The Kids in the Garden episode series identifies the life cycle of plants from seed to plant and flower to fruit with each episode providing accompanying questions for classes to reflect on after watching. The following episodes are the most relevant for Grades 3-4 and highlights information about pumpkin growing.

Episode 2 - https://www.abc.net.au/education/kids-in-the-garden-ep-2-how-seeds-become-plants/13633088

Episode 5 - https://www.abc.net.au/education/kids-in-the-garden-ep-5-how-plants-work/13633124

Episode 6 - https://www.abc.net.au/education/kids-in-the-garden-ep-6-why-plants-make-fruit/13605862

Episode 9 - https://www.abc.net.au/education/kids-in-the-garden-ep-9-vegetable-gardens/13633262

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 3

Planting Science
real research for engaged education
CREATED BY THE ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRANSLATIONAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Living things can be grouped by their external features and distinguished from non-living things. But it can be difficult to show quickly in plants. This teacher resource makes engagement easy, and the experiments and activities are based on current food security, sustainability and photosynthesis research. The lessons include an inquiry-based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, practical activities and maths learning activities. The lessons have been created and compiled, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6926/year-3-planting-science.pdf

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 4

Planting Science
real research for engaged education
CREATED BY THE ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR TRANSLATIONAL PHOTOSYNTHESIS

People rely on plants to survive, and plants are affected by people. This unit shows some of the relationships that make up the earth's ecosystem. The experiments and activities included in this teacher resource are based on current food security, sustainability and photosynthesis research. The unit contains six lessons designed to achieve the biology curriculum outcomes. The lessons include an inquiry based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, word games, practical activities and maths learning activities. The lessons have been created and compiled by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6928/year-4-planting-science.pdf

GRADE 5 - 6 RESOURCES

GRADE 5: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Examine how particular structural features and behaviours of living things enable their survival in specific habitats (AC9S5U01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose investigable questions to identify patterns and test relationships and make reasoned predictions (AC9S5I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct repeatable investigations to answer questions, including, as appropriate, deciding the variables to be changed, measured and controlled in fair tests; describing potential risks; planning for the safe use of equipment and materials; and identifying required permissions to conduct investigations on Country/Place (AC9S5I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Explain how and why food and fibre are produced in managed environments (AC9TDE6K03)

Creative & Critical Thinking

Numeracy

Sustainability

GRADE 6: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Investigate the physical conditions of a habitat and analyse how the growth and survival of living things is affected by changing physical conditions (AC9S6U01)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Pose investigable questions to identify patterns and test relationships and make reasoned predictions (AC9S6I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct repeatable investigations to answer questions including, as appropriate, deciding the variables to be changed, measured and controlled in fair tests; describing potential risks; planning for the safe use of equipment and materials; and identifying required permissions to conduct investigations on Country/Place (AC9S6I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Explain how and why food and fibre are produced in managed environments (AC9TDE6K03)

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

NSW Department of Education: Kitchen Gardens

This resource guides students through an extended school-based or local investigation focused on kitchen gardens using the five-step sustainability action process. The resource supports the investigation of a real-world issue or problem. Students develop and implement a chosen sustainability action and then evaluate and reflect on their success and their learning.
https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/rap/resource/access/f7a16909-183c-4e72-bb8e-41b4ef80fd45/1

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 5

Living things have structural features and adaptations to help them survive in the environment, but how does it work in real life? The experiments and activities included in this unit are based on current food security, sustainability and photosynthesis research. The unit contains eight lessons designed to achieve the biology curriculum outcomes. The lessons include an inquiry-based investigation, easy-to-set and see science displays, word games, practical activities and maths learning activities. The lessons have been created based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6923/year-5-planting-science.pdf

ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis - Grade 6

The use of genetic technologies is widely debated but the techniques themselves are often not described. This teacher resource is designed to show how plant DNA affects its survival, and how genetic technologies are being used in current research. The experiments and activities included in this unit are based on current photosynthesis and food security research. The unit contains six lessons designed to achieve biology and food and fibre curriculum outcomes. The lessons include interactive games that represent real-world concepts, an inquiry-based investigation, a method for classroom friendly DNA extraction, plus a student challenge to solve the global issue of food security. The lessons have been created and compiled by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis, based on real research techniques, translated for the classroom environment.
https://www.ekka.com.au/media/6925/year-6-planting-science.pdf

GRADE 7: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Use models, including food webs, to represent matter and energy flow in ecosystems and predict the impact of changing abiotic and biotic factors on populations (AC9S7U02)

Creative & Critical Thinking

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Develop investigable questions, reasoned predictions and hypotheses to explore scientific models, identify patterns and test relationships (AC9S7I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct reproducible investigations to answer questions and test hypotheses, including identifying variables and assumptions and, as appropriate, recognising and managing risks, considering ethical issues and recognising key considerations regarding heritage sites and artefacts on Country/Place (AC9S7I02)

Numeracy

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Analyse how food and fibre are produced in managed environments and how these can become sustainable (AC9TDE8K04)

Sustainability

GRADE 8: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Analyse the relationship between structure and function of cells, tissues and organs in a plant and an animal organ system and explain how these systems enable survival of the individual (AC9S8U02)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Develop investigable questions, reasoned predictions and hypotheses to explore scientific models, identify patterns and test relationships (AC9S8I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct reproducible investigations to answer questions and test hypotheses, including identifying variables and assumptions and, as appropriate, recognising and managing risks, considering ethical issues and recognising key considerations regarding heritage sites and artefacts on Country/Place (AC9S8I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Analyse how food and fibre are produced in managed environments and how these can become sustainable (AC9TDE8K04)

CLASSROOM RESOURCES

John Hopkins University & FoodSpan: Meet the Food System

This unit introduces students to the food system and provides an important overview of the topics covered in Units 2 and 3. Students will map out all of the food system's interconnected parts, consider their own relationship to the food system, and explore how it developed into the industrialized model we know today.
https://foodspan.org/lesson-plans/unit-1-meet-the-food-system

John Hopkins University & FoodSpan: Farmers, Factories, and Food Chains

This unit explores how our food—from plants to animal products to seafood—is grown, harvested, processed, and distributed. Students will examine conventional industrial practices, explore sustainable alternatives, and consider the impact both have on human health and the environment.
https://foodspan.org/lesson-plans/unit-2-farmers-factories-and-food-chains

John Hopkins University & FoodSpan: Consumers and Communities

This unit examines how the food system affects consumers and communities. Once food is produced, factors such as marketing, labeling, socioeconomic status, and government policy influence what food people are able to eat and how it impacts their health.
https://foodspan.org/lesson-plans/unit-3-consumers-and-communities

GRADE 9 - 10 RESOURCES

GRADE 9: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Describe the form and function of reproductive cells and organs in animals and plants, and analyse how the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction enable survival of the species (AC9S9U02)

Creative & Critical Thinking

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Develop investigable questions, reasoned predictions and hypotheses to test relationships and develop explanatory models (AC9S9I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct valid, reproducible investigations to answer questions and test hypotheses, including identifying and controlling for possible sources of error and, as appropriate, developing and following risk assessments, considering ethical issues, and addressing key considerations regarding heritage sites and artefacts on Country/Place (AC9S9I02)

Numeracy

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Analyse and make judgements on the ethical, secure and sustainable production and marketing of food and fibre enterprises (AC9TDE10K04)

Sustainability

GRADE 10: AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM - VERSION 9

Science Understanding: Biological Sciences

Use the theory of evolution by natural selection to explain past and present diversity and analyse the scientific evidence supporting the theory (AC9S10U02)

Science Inquiry: Questioning and Predicting

Develop investigable questions, reasoned predictions and hypotheses to test relationships and develop explanatory models (AC9S10I01)

Science Inquiry: Planning and Conducting

Plan and conduct valid, reproducible investigations to answer questions and test hypotheses, including identifying and controlling for possible sources of error and, as appropriate, developing and following risk assessments, considering ethical issues, and addressing key considerations regarding heritage sites and artefacts on Country/Place (AC9S10I02)

Design & Technologies: Food and Fibre Production

Analyse and make judgements on the ethical, secure and sustainable production and marketing of food and fibre enterprises (AC9TDE10K04)

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