

## November Hiker Activity – Stink-o-Lantern Patch

### Instructions:

1. Form a semi-circle around the stink-o-lantern patch.
2. Spend a few moments discussing student observations.
  - How have the stink-o-lanterns changed since Halloween?
  - Have any animals nibbled on them? Moved them?
  - How do they smell?
  - Are they squishy or hard (use a stick)?
  - Have they changed color?
  - What else do you see?
3. Use the paper provided to sketch observations. Instruct students to include a stink-o-meter on their sketch (see below).
4. Children may want to date their sketch for comparison to later sketches. The stink-o-lantern patch will be revisited later in the school year.
5. Feel free to replenish bird feeders & sharecrows if time allows. There is plenty of food available in the shed.

**NEW AS OF NOVEMBER 2011 – The Habitat section of the library has a great new book thanks to Mr. Martin: Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell. Stop in the library before your hike if you'd like to read this book to the class. It's a fantastic fit!**

FALL OUTDOORS : WILD OHIO FOR KIDS

# Hooray for Decay!

A jack-o'-lantern can get even scarier-looking once Halloween is over and they are left out in the weather. Mild days and cool nights mixed with the seasonal rain will set the stage for decomposition.

Decomposition is the process of breaking down organic material, such as dead plants and animal tissue, into smaller parts. Decomposers (bacteria, fungi, earthworms, and a variety of other organisms) carry out the decomposition process. The organic material created by decomposition is an important part of soil.

After Halloween, set your jack-o'-lantern outside and let the pumpkin begin to rot. Check out your pumpkin daily. Take photos or make sketches at different intervals to record the changes. The pumpkin will be a food source for a host of insects and worms.




## STINK-O'-LANTERN OBSERVATION

What does Jack smell like after a few weeks? On the scale below circle the number that best fits what you smell. "1" Jack smells pretty good and "10" he smells awful.

DAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



## **November Hiker Activity – Stink-o-Lantern Patch**

### **Contents:**

- Instructions
- White paper
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Pencil sharpener

**Please contact the Habitat Committee if box needs to be replenished.**

**Also, feel free to offer suggestions for improving this activity.**