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Foodways A 4-H Folkpatterns Project – Jack-O’-Lantern Party/Potato Printing  
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service  
4-H Club Bulletin

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When Food Doesn't  
Make a Meal

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# Jack-O'-Lantern Party

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- PURPOSE:** To explore one way a food item is used as a decoration
- YOU'LL NEED:**
- |            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Pumpkin    | Large spoons                      |
| Newspapers | Colored paper                     |
| Knives     | Magic markers                     |
| Scissors   | Candles or flashlights (optional) |
- TIME:** 1-2 hours
- HOW TO DO IT:** Spread a newspaper on the floor underneath your pumpkin. Cut the top off the pumpkin. Spoon out all of the seeds and pulp. Then cut out, draw on, or attach facial features to each pumpkin.
- NOW WHAT?**
1. Make a display for your school or fair. Include photographs of all your group members and their pumpkins, photographs of how to carve a pumpkin, or photographs of other jack-o'-lanterns in your neighborhood.
  2. Hold a neighborhood pumpkin carving contest.
  3. Make dried pumpkin seeds. Wash all the pulp off the seeds, then soak them in salted water overnight (2 teaspoons salt to each cup water). Drain and pat dry. Spread seeds on a cookie sheet and add 2 tablespoons vegetable oil for every 2 cups of seed. Add 1 to 2 teaspoons salt. Bake at 250°F for 1½ hours or until dry.

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# Potato Printing

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When Food Doesn't  
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## PURPOSE:

To learn a traditional craft which uses food or food by-products as the tool. Some North American Indians used this simple technique to stamp designs on their splint baskets.

## YOU'LL NEED:

Several large baking potatoes (raw)  
Sharp, slender knife  
Several colors of paint or ink (a stamp pad also works well)  
Sheets of blank newsprint

## TIME:

1 to 1-1/2 hours

## HOW TO DO IT:

Slice the potato in half. Use a pencil to draw a simple design on the exposed half. With the knife point, cut the outline of the design onto the potato. Carve away the portion around the design so that the design is raised at least 1/4 inch off the surface. Dip the design side of the potato in the paint or ink and stamp it on the paper. Experiment on the newsprint with various patterns. You can make wrapping paper, stationery, or cards. If you use permanent ink, you can make your own fabric designs by stamping the design onto white cotton.

## NOW WHAT?

Display your products at a fair or other public event. Include a demonstration and teach others how to make potato prints.

