

Pigs Go to Market by Amy Axelrod

October Teacher Directions

The Book

This book is a natural for anyone who understands how you can buy Halloween candy way in advance, then have it disappear before Halloween. How does that happen? Naturally, this means a last minute trip to the supermarket to replenish the supply. This is what happened to the Pig family. Once they are at the supermarket, the fun begins when Mrs. Pig wins a five-minute shopping spree. Watch her race up and down the aisles, including the candy aisle of course. But somehow the candy disappears again on the way home. How peculiar!

The Halloween Holiday

Whether or not you celebrate Halloween, the holiday is a big shopping event across the US. The National Retail Foundation reports that in 2012, the average amount Americans spent on Halloween was \$79.82, with an average of \$28.65 on costumes, and \$23.27 on candy! If you agree that October is a time for making some hard choices about what kind of Halloween candy to buy, this is a lesson for you! Calories and nutrition aside, consumer decisions need to be made about what kind of candy is best, how much it costs, and which candy is the "best buy."

Besides candy, there are a lot of other things to know about Halloween: What are the most popular costumes for adults and children? How many people decorate their homes and yards? How many people dress up their pets? Investigating Halloween statistics is a fertile subject for online research, particularly for children. Don't miss the high-interest opportunities for reading statistical charts and graphs and engaging children in conversations about their real-life Halloween experiences. Here are some of our favorite weblinks:

www.cnn.com/2013/06/13/US/halloween-fast-facts/index.html

www.infographicsarchive.com/events/the-ultimate-guide-to-halloween-statistics

www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/26/best-and-worst-halloween-candy

<http://www.pumpkinnook.com/giants/giantpumpkins.htm>

Beyond all that, if you're still uncomfortable with a lesson about Halloween... skip to November!

The Math

As you read the book, don't miss the page where you can follow the dotted line and map Mrs. Pig's race up and down the grocery store aisles. Also, when she is on the produce aisle, notice that the fruits and vegetables are arranged in arrays! Kindergarteners can count the nine cucumbers; older students can add $3 + 3 + 3$, or multiply 3×3 . Practice similar computations with the other fruits and vegetables.

There are three downloadable worksheets associated with this lesson. These worksheets are progressively more difficult. Decide which worksheet is best for your age group, or use all three worksheets for groups of mixed ages. [Common Core State Standards are in parentheses.]

- 1. Recording sheet for K-2: How Much Candy?** This worksheet involves figuring out how many candies came in the bag, or pack, or bucket – then writing the price and thinking about what candy is the best value. Help children realize that they have to think not only about the price on the bag, but also about how many candies are inside. To find totals for several packs, younger students can add, e.g. $20+20+20=60$; older students can multiply, e.g. $3 \times 20=60$
[Common Core: K.CC; 1.OA.1,5; 1.NBT.1; 2.OA.1,4; 2.NBT.6; 2.MD.8]
- 2. Recording sheet for Gr3-5: Eating Up the Candy** How many *pieces* of candy did the Pigs eat? How much did all that candy *weigh*? How much *would* it have cost, if Mrs. Pig had to pay for it? Again, have children reason about how to figure out which candy is the best buy. Help them realize that they have to figure out the cost per piece, or the cost per ounce or pound.
[Common Core: 2.MD.8; 3.OA.3,7; 4.NBT.4,5]

- 3. Recording sheet for Gr 6-8: Comparing Costs** Have students generate ideas about how to find the “best value” for the different kinds of candy. How should they proceed? Ultimately, they will need to find cost per piece or cost by weight. They will be converting measurements for money and weight, and setting up ratios and proportions to find unit cost. A nice way to do this activity is to divide the class into three groups and have each group do one of the three worksheets. Then, bases on their calculations, determine which candy has the best value. [Common Core: 4.MD.1,2; 5.NBT.4; 6.RP.1,2,3b; 7.RP.2c]

Home Connections

Have children tell their parents about Mrs. Pig’s shopping spree. What would their parents put in their shopping carts if they won a five-minute shopping spree? For fun, if their parents have an old cash register receipt, find the five most expensive items on the receipt.

At Halloween time, have kids bring in empty packages of Halloween candy. Tell how many items were in the bag, and how much the bag cost. For older students, have them work out the unit cost. If feasible, bring the packages to class and compare costs for different items, using cost per piece, or cost per pound.

Extras in the Book-of-the-Month Packet

If you decide to order the October packet (for \$19.99), you will get a paperback copy of this month’s featured book, **Pigs Go to Market** by Amy Axelrod. In addition, you will get:

- Copies of the free downloadable worksheets described above.
- Student Survey. A list of questions for students to answer about Halloween, like what costume they will wear, what is the best and worst thing to get in their Trick or Treat bag, if they dress their pet for Halloween, if they have Halloween decorations in their house or yard, how they will spend Halloween, etc.
- Halloween Statistics. Printouts from a PowerPoint using statistics drawn from online weblinks. If students illustrate each page, you will have a high-interest bulletin board about Halloween that you can share with the whole school! (“Contact Us” on the LRM website if you want to receive the PowerPoint in email!)

To Order Your Packet:

Purchase online with a credit card, or fax/email your purchase order to:

*Projects in Education
2102 N. Crescent Blvd
Yardley, PA 19067
FAX: 215-321-7224*