

Autumn: time for pumpkins and gourds!



What is the difference between a squash and a gourd?



How do squashes and gourds grow?



Did you know that pumpkins are fruits? Why are they classified as such? Are they squashes or gourds?

Solutions

1. Squashes are edible, while gourds are usually considered decorative or ornamental only.
2. Squashes and gourds grow on vines. Ever been to a pumpkin farm and seen them growing? Look for pictures on the internet.
3. Pumpkins are squashes, squashes and gourds are both fruits. They are classified as fruits because they contain seeds. In the third picture, note that there are both pumpkins (squashes) and gourds. Look closely. Seeds are embryonic plants-they are the reproductive units of certain plants.
Did you know that tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini are fruits, too? They contain seeds, that's how you know. Vegetables are from the vegetative part of a plant, i.e., roots, stems, leaves. Thus, carrots, celery and spinach are veggies.