Decomposition of a Pumpkin

Materials needed: Pencil, chart below and whole pumpkin

This observation will take some time and patience, but each day will bring different and interesting observations.

Find a place outside to set your pumpkin. If you would like to speed up the decomposition process, carve your pumpkin and make a jack-o-lantern. Record your observations using the chart below. You can choose how often to record (ex. Every other day, two times a week, three times a week, etc.)

Bonus: Take photos of the decomposition process then put them together in a slide show to see how your experiment progressed. Activity is suitable for ages 6 and up.

Date	How does it look? (color, spots, etc)	How does it smell? (none, fresh, rotten)	How does it feel? (firm, soft, slimy, etc.)	What else do you notice? (mold, insects, etc.)