

Pumpkin Farm 2011 Audio Tour: 4th Grade+

No.	Object	Narrative
	Introduction to the Farm	<p>Welcome to the Pumpkin Farm, which has been a continuous pumpkin farm for 38 years, but over the years going back to over 160 years ago, this farm has been many different types of farms. The property first became farmed as a 160 acre quarter section around the time of the Gold Rush, which all happened close to this area. Old Auburn Road where the farm is located used to be the main road from San Francisco to Auburn, which used to be the Capital of California. The Pony Express ran about 5 miles from here and although we haven't found any gold here yet, the first farm product was likely harvesting oak firewood for the new houses around Old Sacramento, and then once cleared became a large grain farm. Later the farms around here were sub-divided into 10 acre farms and this farm over time was a dairy, an olive & fruit tree orchard, a turkey farm, a bee-keeping farm, until finally becoming one of California's oldest pumpkin farms in the 1970s. The economics of any type of farm is simple: work hard to grow food as efficiently as you can, then sell the food for a higher price than your costs which include seed, water, fertilizer and the farmer's labor. The difference is called farm profit.</p> <p>Before it was a farm, the Maidu Native American Indians lived in this area for thousands of years, living mostly off the local oak tree acorns, wild plants & fish. These Native Americans lived a "hunter/gatherer" lifestyle which meant they didn't grow crops like the farmers I just talked about but were able to live off the land for what they needed. So as we start our tour I am going to start talking about what & how we farm pumpkins here, as well as how they did it in the Pioneer Days.</p>
1	Man with Scythe	<p>This is how Farmers moved grass in the Pioneer Days before using horses or tractors to help. It took a long time to clear a small area, and was very hard work. The cut grass was dried, raked and stacked and is called 'Hay', which is a very important feed for farms. The Farmer feeds his animals hay in the dry season & winter when there is no green grass for the animals to eat. This is a very important part of living on a farm during Pioneer Days - much time was spent growing food just for the working animals. As you will see, improvements in farm equipment and tractors significantly changed farms over a relatively short period of time, especially after WW II.</p>
2	Sickle Bar Mover - Drawn by 2 Horses	<p>The Farmer used this to mow grass more efficiently when his horses pulled this mover. When I saw more efficiently, it means that the grass was cut faster than by scythe, and it could cut the grass lower to the ground so less was wasted.</p>
3	Dump Rake - Drawn by 2 Horses	<p>The Farmer used this to rake & stack the cut grass more efficiently when his horses pulled this rake.</p>
4	7 ft Sickle Bar Mover - Drawn by Tractor	<p>The Farmer used this to cut the cut grass even more efficiently when his tractor pulled this rake.</p>
5	Side Livery Rake	<p>The Farmer used this to rake the grass even faster to make a wind-row for the baler.</p>
6	Hay Baler - Drawn by Tractor	<p>The Farmer used this to cut the pack the dried grass into bales which was faster & easier than putting the hay into big, loose stacks. All of this tractor- drawn farm equipment was very important for farmers - they got to spend less time growing hay for animals, and more food for people. The hay baler was one of the most important developments on the modern farm. It allowed the hay to be compacted, picked up and store more efficiently than piling it up in big hay stacks. As a result, less hay spoiled over the winters but the farmer needed to build bigger barns than previously built. And these bigger barns led to bigger dairies, where hundreds of cows could now be milked.</p>
7	Giant Pumpkin	<p>This is a giant pumpkin grown right here on the Farm. It weighs X pounds and took 160 days to grow this big. It takes the right amount of sunshine, water and good soil to grow a pumpkin this big.</p>
8	Farm Junk Art	<p>These funny characters were all made from old junk found in an old barn right here on the Farm. The Farmer used a welder and some imagination to build them.</p>
9	Growing Pumpkins	<p>This is where some of the Farm's pumpkins are grown. After the soil is prepared, which we will talk about next, the pumpkins are planted in around July 4th. The pumpkin plants are weeded 3 times and watered 4 times which keeps the Farmer VERY busy in the summer. The pumpkins start green but turn orange once they get all that sunshine after the leaves dry up.</p>
10	Plow - drawn by 1 Horse	<p>The Pioneer Farmer used this to cut deeply into the soil to turn it over each spring for a new crop.</p>
11	Cultivator - drawn by 1 Horse	<p>The Pioneer Farmer used this to level out the furrows made by the plow.</p>
12	Harrow - drawn by 1 Horse	<p>The Pioneer Farmer used this smooth out the soil after the plow and disc, to get the soil ready for planting things like pumpkins or corn.</p>
13	2 Bottom Plow - drawn by 4 Horses	<p>This is an even bigger plow to cut the soil even deeper and faster when drawn by more horses.</p>

- 14 4 Bottom Plow - Drawn by 8-10 horses! This was one of the biggest plows used by Farmers that took up to 12 horses to pull! You may have heard someone ask "How much horse power does that engine have?". Well, that is where this comes from. A Farmer measures his tractors by how much of the work they can do of one horse. For example, this Tractor you are riding on has almost 40 horse power which means it can pull the same amount as 40 horses! Importantly, the Farmer was able to farm bigger and bigger fields to grow more food for people, and needed less hay for working horses & oxen.
- 15 Disc - Drawn by Tractor The Farmer used this to level out the deep furrows faster using a tractor after the plow.
- 16 Harrow - Drawn by 4 Horses The Farmer used this to make the soil very smooth for planting faster using a tractor after discing the fields.
- 17 Fresno Earth Mover - Drawn by Tractor The Farmer used this to move dirt around to level his soil and build roads around his fields. This equipment was also used to level out the surface for railroad tracks. As you know from studying California history, the development of the railroad was one of the most important parts of the settlement of the West since before Pioneers would have to sail around South American, or take a wagon across the US to get to California. So this piece of equipment was a very important part of that history.
- 18 Ditcher - Drawn by Tractor The Farmer used this to quickly dig ditches that would bring water to the crops. Water is an essential part of farming - no water, no food since California is typically dry from late spring all the way to late fall. So the farmer spent a lot of time using this tool to divert water to his field crops.
- 19 Barn Owl House This is where our barn owls live. They are great workers at the Farm because they eat up to 2 rats or mice per night, which is when they come out to hunt. We are very happy to have these owls here - in the old days, the quickest way to get rid of rodents was to use poison which isn't good for the environment. Now we are more careful and try to use a more natural way to manage pests here at the farm, which is better for everyone (except for the rats, of course!)
- 20 Growing Corn This is where we grow our corn. Corn is one of the most important crops in the world because it feeds both people and animals. Your parents & teachers might be interested to know that corn is a unique plant in that it relies on people to exist since it cannot seed itself. We plant the corn in August and it can grow over an inch per day until it gets as high as you see it now. Most of the corn here on the farm is called "silo corn" and is used for feeding animals. Overall, corn is one of the most important crops grown in the world due to how important it is to our food supply. They are also making exciting new things out of corn such as recycleable cups, utensils and plates, instead of plastic, which is great for our environment. When I (Farmer Leonard) was a boy, my (his) father could grow 5 bushels of wheat grain on an acre (a bushel is a 60 lb bag), which we would sell for about \$5 per bushel. Today, a farmer can sell that same bushel was a little more than \$5, but they can get up to 50 bushels off that same acre.
- 21 Hammer Mill - Powered by Tractor The Farmer used this to grind up the corn into smaller pieces so it is easier for the farm animals to eat and digest. Even though it doesn't look like it, this is a very important piece of equipment for the farmer since corn (which you now know is an important part of animal feed) is hard to digest so this makes it easier to feed corn.
- 22 Cox Comb Flowers These flowers are believed to come from Africa. They are very beautiful but also have many uses - the leaves can be boiled and eaten like spinach, but can also be used for medicinal purposes. It is used as a treatment for tapeworm, blood diseases, mouth sores, eye problems, chest complaints and even tummy problems. The greens are very popular in Nigeria, in Africa, and called 'soko yokoto' which literally means 'keep husbands fat & happy'!
- 23 Buck Saw - Powered by Tractor The Farmer used this to cut up wood quickly for a fireplace or a wood stove used in the Pioneer Days.
- 24 90 year old Turkey Barns Over there is our haunted barn but it used to be a turkey barn over 90 years ago. It is next to the tower slide that everyone gets to go down once. You will also get to go thru our corn maze and visit the hay pyramids. Over to the other side is where all the children and parents on the tour get to pick up your very own pumpkin!
- 25 Maidu Indian & Bark House This is a scene of a Maidu Native American in front of his bark house. As I mentioned earlier, his tribe lived in the area as hunter/gatherers over 150 years ago. The house usually had a hole at the top to let the smoke from their cooking and warming fires built inside the house. You can see the big flat stone in front of his house that was used to grind acorns into a porridge that was an important part of their diets. These Native Americans lead a very different life than us. As hunter/gatherers they constantly moved during the seasons to where the food is, unlike farmers who live where they grow food.
- 26 Farm Animals Over there is where the Farm's turkeys, chickens, pigs, goats and sheep live. You can learn more about them when your teacher reads the signs in front of them.
- Wrap up I hope you had fun and learned some new things on this hayride. Please stay seated until we come to a stop and then you will getting off to go to the next activity which is visiting the farm zoo. After that you will be doing all those fun things I talked about before - the corn maze, tower slide, haunted barn (if it is ok with your teacher), and finally, pick your pumpkin! Thank you for being such good listeners and have a great visit to the Pumpkin Farm!