

Special Interest Articles:

- Wizard of Pumpkin
- Brain Studies, Books, and Language Learning
- Purple Carrots



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A quarterly recap of THE TALES OF BUN E. BONIFACE™

"Your child's first step in French...through story, art, and song!"

Bun E. Boniface, Wizard of Pumpkin

Ah! Autumn... season of harvest, falling leaves, beautiful colors, and plenty of yummy things to eat!

One lovely Autumn afternoon, seeing brightly colored pumpkins everywhere, Bun E. had an intriguing idea. "Hmm," he thought, "pumpkins are orange, just like carrots. I wonder...?"



Halloween costume by
Alyssa Wildridge (age 12)

And so, in the Halloween tradition of make believe, he donned his new wizard costume, took his wand, and tried his luck. (Rather like Harry Potter.)



But alas, the pumpkins remained pumpkins. Perhaps it was the location, or maybe he lacked just the right the magic word... but no matter. Bun E. not only got carrots for Halloween, he also learned some fun facts about one of his favorite foods. *See inside!*

Brain Studies, Books, and Language Learning

Babies are born with the innate ability to reproduce sounds in all languages, but by the age of 6 months begin to discard those not needed to decode and reproduce their own. By the age of 12 months, they are no longer able to distinguish the nuances of sounds not relevant to their native tongue.

But a study of 9- to 10- month old infants by the University of Washington's Dr. Patricia Kuhl

showed that those who played with, and were read to by, native speakers of a foreign language were able to maintain that auditory ability.

An unexpected finding was that the foreign language exposure via TV or audiotapes did not result in learning with this age group. *It appears that human interaction is intimately linked with linguistic development.*



Word Search / Cherche Mot

1

un

2

deux

3

trois

4

quatre

5

cinq

UN
DEUX
TROIS
QUATRE
CINQ
SIX
SEPT
HUIT
NEUF
DIX

AUTOMNE
CAROTTE
OCTOBRE



ONE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT
NINE
TEN

AUTUMN
CARROT
OCTOBER

6

six

7

sept

8

huit

9

neuf

10

dix

T	R	O	I	S	K	D	F	I	D	E	U	X
H	A	U	T	O	M	N	E	F	K	D	F	W
R	Z	L	O	S	A	F	C	I	N	Q	T	C
E	B	U	N	B	U	N	A	V	T	A	W	A
E	N	O	E	L	F	Z	D	E	M	U	O	R
P	C	A	R	R	O	T	O	P	J	T	L	O
M	U	S	I	C	U	M	C	N	E	U	F	T
T	Q	U	A	T	R	E	T	I	S	M	T	T
O	C	T	O	B	R	E	O	N	J	N	E	E
S	E	P	T	A	F	E	B	E	B	U	N	E
E	J	A	Z	Z	L	I	E	N	D	I	X	T
V	X	H	S	W	E	G	R	L	A	D	Y	C
E	D	S	I	X	U	H	U	I	T	S	P	S
N	Z	N	X	A	R	T	Z	P	L	A	A	W

Word game by Cynthia S. Wildridge



Purple Carrots?

Yes, 'tis true: The earliest carrots were purple!

Known to mankind for about 5,000 years, historians think the first carrots came from the part of the world we now call Afghanistan.

Egyptian temple drawings from 2000 B.C. feature a purple plant many specialists believe to be a purple carrot. Archeologists have also found papyrus in the tombs of pharaohs (Egyptian kings) with information about carrots and carrot seeds.



During the reign of the Roman Empire, carrots were purple or white. Later, as they were introduced by traveling merchants into other countries, they could also be found in the colors of red, yellow, green, and black... but not orange.

A thousand years later, carrots were being grown in the fields of France and Germany — but they still weren't orange!

Finally, in the 16th century, people in Holland developed orange-colored carrots by crossing pale yellow carrots with red ones. The orange color was created to honor their country's rulers, known as the *House of Orange*, named after an area near Avignon, in southern France, where the royal family had its origins. William of Orange is the father of the Netherlands.









About that same time, the carrot traveled across the English Channel from France into England. The French word *carotte* accompanied the vegetable on its journey and was adapted by the English as *carrot*.

But what about America? Carrots were grown in the Jamestown, Virginia colony in 1609, even before the Mayflower arrived (in 1620). The Pilgrims may have been the first to plant them in Massachusetts. Native Americans loved carrots and quickly adopted them.

Today, hundreds of years after the invention of the orange variety we know so well, purple carrots are being reintroduced to the marketplace. They are slightly sweeter than orange carrots, and some have more vitamins. You can find them in grocery stores, or you may buy the seeds and try growing them yourself.

Bon appétit!

Carrot Trivia

-  Wild rabbits do not eat carrots. Bun E., however, loves them!
-  Carrots were first grown for medical use, not for eating.
-  Don't like milk? Eat carrots instead! You can get the same amount of calcium from eating 9 carrots as from drinking a glass of whole milk.
-  There is a type of carrot for every letter of the alphabet, from A to Z.
-  You can fit about 2,000 carrot seeds onto one teaspoon.
-  *Un peu fatigué ?* (Tired?) Eating 3 carrots will give you enough energy to walk 3 miles!
-  The wild carrot plant is also known as Queen Anne's Lace, so named by the Americans.
-  Black swallowtail butterflies are especially attracted to the carrot plant. (They are also quite lovely!)



Painted Prayers

SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

Bun E. visits the Saint Louis Art Museum during their special *Painted Prayers* exhibit.

In the centuries before the invention of the printing press, every book was made by hand.

To make a book, they first had to make the paper, using specially treated animal skins, called *parchment* or *vellum*.

Very few people knew how to read or write, so stories were often told with pictures.

Inks and paints were made from natural ingredients such as fruit, berries, plants, stones, insects... even gold leaf, and ground up jewels!

Each word of text was written by hand using a quill. Very skilled artists then illustrated what the words were saying, adding decorations and extra flourishes to make the pages look pretty.

The first letter on a page was often a large, highly ornamented initial, sometimes with an illustration inside. Because the paper was so expensive, it was also common to use a different color of ink for the first letter of a new sentence, rather than putting extra space between the letters to separate them.

All the time and artistry involved made these books, also known as *illuminated manuscripts*, extremely rare, and quite expensive.

New York's Morgan Library houses one of the finest collections of Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts and Books of Hours in the world.

An exhibit called *Painted Prayers*, featuring 58 illuminated Books of Hours from the Morgan Library, will be on display at the Saint Louis Art

About Limestock Press

Limestock Press was founded in 2003 to introduce children to the magic of language through the bilingual series, THE TALES OF BUN E. BONIFACE™.

LIMESTOCK PRESS



The exquisite artistry of the Medieval and Renaissance illuminated manuscripts served as inspiration for the bilingual children's series, THE TALES OF BUN E. BONIFACE™.

Museum through January 9, 2005, one of only three cities chosen for this national tour.

Highlights include the renowned Dutch masterpiece, the Hours of Catherine of Cleves (c. 1440), and the illumination of three of the most famous French artists of the 15th century: Jean Fouquet, Jean Poyet, and the Bedford Master.

For more information please contact the Saint Louis Art Museum by phone at (314) 721-0072, or visit their website: www.slam.org.

Don't miss this incredible opportunity!



Annunciation, Bedford Master and his workshop, France, Paris, c.1430-35. Copyright The Pierpont Morgan Library, New York. MS M.359, fol. 21r. Photography by David A. Loggie.



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