

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.cfaitc.org/Resource_Materials/Lesson_Plans/pdf/cu400.pdf
This online lesson plan for grades K-3 entitled "The Mysterious Plant Caper: Gathering Clues to Solve the Mystery of What Plants Need to Grow" is sponsored by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom. This lesson plan's multidisciplinary approach provides students with a firm understanding of plant growth.
- www.littlefarmersplace.com/wheat harvest.shtml and www.littlefarmersplace.com/plantingbeans.shtml
This site provides useful images of bean planting and wheat harvesting. The text that accompanies these images includes information about these farming practices and the equipment that farmers use.
- aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/kindergarten/kinder.htm
This site, entitled "KinderGARDEN," provides great information for teachers about getting their students involved in planting and gardening. Suggestions for starting a school garden and curricular materials that support gardening are also provided.

Suggested Print Resources

- Cowley, Joy. *The Rusty, Trusty Tractor*. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA; 1999.
- Guiberson, Brenda Z. *Winter Wheat*. Holt, New York, NY; 1995.
- Johnson, Paul Brett. *Farmers' Market*. Orchard Books, New York, NY; 1997.
- Peterson, Cris. *Harvest Year*. Boyds Mills Press, Honesdale, PA; 1996.
- Taylor, Barbara. *Green Thumbs Up! The Science of Growing Plants*. Random House, Inc., New York, NY; 1992.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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TITLES

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| • FROM FARM TO TABLE | • WHAT IS AGRICULTURE? |
| • GROWING OUR FOOD | • WHERE FOOD IS GROWN |
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Teacher's Guides Included
and Available Online at:



800-843-3620



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Growing Our Food

Grades K-2

Sunshine, water and soil are three important things for farmers. Why? Because farmers need these important ingredients to grow our food! Farmers grow all kinds of food on their farms, such as fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts. They do special things to grow crops for food, like plowing the soil, planting seeds, watering plants and harvesting them when they are fully grown. All of these steps mean a lot of work for farmers, but result in lots of great food for us to eat!

Pre-viewing Discussion

To enhance your students' learning, it is important to build upon their prior knowledge. Engage your class in a brainstorming activity to determine the prior knowledge that students have about agriculture. As you record their ideas on chart paper, encourage students to share their thoughts with the class. Use the following questions to help students access their preexisting ideas about agriculture:

- What is a farm?
- What kinds of foods do farmers grow?
- What do farmers need to grow our food?
- How do farmers grow the food we eat?

Vocabulary

To prepare students for viewing the show, review these vocabulary words. They are listed in the order in which they appear in the video.

farmer's market — A place where farmers can sell the food they grow on their farms.

agriculture — The way people grow plants and raise animals to give us food to eat, clothes to wear and places to live.

farm — A place where plants and animals are raised for food, clothing and shelter.

grains — The seeds or fruits of some plants. Wheat is a kind of grain.

nuts — A fruit or seed with a hard shell. An almond is a kind of nut.

crops — Plants that are raised for food.

soil — The outside covering of the Earth. All kinds of things can be found in soil, like sand, clay, rocks, leaves and bugs.

roots — The part of the plant that grows underground. Plants take in food and water through their roots.

irrigation — How farmers water their crops.

seed — The part of a plant from which a baby plant grows. Seeds grow inside most fruits and vegetables.

plow — To mix up the soil to make sure air and water can get to seeds and growing plants.

tractor — A machine that many farmers use to plow their soil.

harvest — To gather crops after they are fully grown.

orchard — A group of trees that grow a certain kind of fruit or nut.

combine — A machine that many farmers use to harvest their crops like wheat.

Follow-up Discussion

After viewing the program with your class, review the information students provided about agriculture before watching the show. Help students to determine the accuracy of these ideas based on information that they gained from watching the program. If incorrect information was recorded during the brainstorming session, it should be revised accordingly based on the new information. Students can also generate a list of new ideas and concepts that they learned from the show. You can use the following questions to help stimulate this class discussion:

(Continued)

- Why is farming important to people?
- What are some of the things farmers do to grow the food that we eat?
- What is one thing you learned about growing our food that you didn't know before?

Follow-up Activities

- With your class, plant seeds and care for the growing plants. Plants can be grown in an outdoor school garden or in the classroom. Encourage students to maintain a plant growth journal, which includes words and drawings to illustrate the plant's progress.
- Conduct a science experiment with your class to emphasize the importance of water for growing plants. Grow two plants, but only water one. Students can compare the growth of the plants over time.
- Share the story *Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert (Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1987) with your students. Using the vegetables that were grown in the story, make vegetable prints! Cut each vegetable in half, and dip in small trays of tempera paint. Students can use the paint-covered vegetables as stamps.
- Collect soil samples from different areas, and place in the classroom for student observation. Encourage students to compare the soils' texture, color and ability to absorb water. Provide magnifying glasses to enhance student observations. Brainstorm a list with your students of all the words that describe soil.
- The dramatic play area of your classroom can be transformed into a garden! Include safe gardening tools, plastic plants, seed packets and other gardening items.
- Make a class visit to a local farm, or invite a farmer into your classroom for a visit. Encourage the farmer to discuss the stages of growing our food, from planting to harvesting. Take lots of pictures throughout the event to make a special book for the class library. Students can write or dictate their thoughts as captions for the pictures.
- In your block area, be sure to include miniature farmers, farm animals and equipment to encourage students to build farms and to plow, plant and harvest crops.
- Laminate pictures or drawings of the steps of farming processes, such as plowing, planting, watering and harvesting. Students can sequence these images in the proper order.
- Find some earthworms, either outside or at a fishing supply store, and bring them into the classroom for student observation. Make sure to provide them with moist soil to live in.
- Gather many different types of seeds and place them in a bowl. Encourage children to sort the seeds.
- Bring in several types of foods that are grown on the farm for a class tasting. Students can vote for their favorite food from the farm, and graph the results.
- Cut open different types of fruits and vegetables to compare the types of seeds inside. Label the food with the most seeds, the least seeds, the smallest seeds, the biggest seeds, etc.