

Activity: Agriculture & Me

Activity Level: Beginner

PURPOSE

Students learn about the wide scope of agriculture and explore the variety of agricultural products in their daily lives.

EXAMPLE TOPICS IT SUPPLEMENTS

Goods and Services; Resources; Informed Decisions.

ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

1. Organize and Prepare Supplies
2. Read Background Information
3. Interest Approach
4. Conduct Activity
Display major crops and livestock of Nebraska and ask questions to gauge students' knowledge of agriculture. Discuss with students the major crops and livestock and the products that come from each. Have students draw a picture of what their life would look like without agriculture. Review the job farmers and ranchers have.
5. Ask follow-up questions and make the connection to agriculture
 - What were some of the items on our lists?
 - What agricultural products did those come from?
 - Who takes care of the agriculture products?
 - What does this tell us about farmers and ranchers?
 - What can we tell our family and friends about what we did today?

STATE STANDARDS IT SUPPORTS

SS 2.2.1a—Identify resources (inputs) that make up various goods and services.
SS 2.2.2a—List various goods and services that can be produced with the same list of resource (e.g. soil, seed, and labor used to produce animal feed, plastics, cereal, or fuel.)

MATERIALS

- Nebraska Livestock Cards
- Nebraska Crop Cards
- Corn A to Z Poster
- Soybean A to Z Poster
- Beef A to Z Poster
- Pig A to Z Poster

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION TO AGRICULTURE?

Agriculture Literacy Outcomes

Culture, Society, Economy & Geography

- Identify plants and animals grown or raised locally that are used for food, clothing, shelter, and landscapes.
- Trace the sources of agricultural products (plant or animal) used daily.

Food, Health, and Lifestyle

- Recognize that agriculture provides our most basic necessities: food, fiber, energy and shelter.

VOLUNTEER ENRICHING ACTIVITY

PROCEDURES:

1. Organize and Prepare Supplies

See “Materials” on cover page.

2. Background Information

Agriculture plays an important part in our lives, from what we wear to what we use in our classes and what we do after school. We may not always think of agricultural products as the physical source of the items or things we use every day. However, most of these daily essentials can be tracked back to an agricultural source.

Production agriculture, or farming, is what most people think of when they hear the word agriculture. This is the actual production or growing of raw commodities. People typically categorized as farmers and ranchers are people who raise and harvest crops and livestock for consumption or purchase. It doesn't stop there. Production agriculture also includes a wide variety of specialties such as raising fish, timber, fur-bearing animals, herbs, and much more.

Many of the products we use every day come from agriculture. The sheets we sleep on and the pajamas we wear are made from cotton, just like cotton swabs for your ears. The feathers in pillows may come from chickens or ducks. The cereal and milk we eat for breakfast, the pencils, crayons, and paper we use at school, and the baseballs, bats and gloves we use after school all originate from raw agricultural products. We know that our food comes from agriculture, but you can see how we are surrounded by and reliant upon many agricultural products the whole day through.

Vocabulary

Agriculture—the science of practicing farming and ranching, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.

3. Interest Approach

Display six major farm animals or crops with the Nebraska Crop & Livestock Cards.

Ask the students:

- What do all of these have in common?
- What are some differences?
- Are there any similarities among the animals and the plants?
- Do any of these plants and animals produce food that you eat?
- What products do these plants and animals provide for humans to use?
- Where would you find these plants and animals?

4. Conduct Activity

a. Share the A to Z Posters with the students.

b. Discuss with students that the products come from agriculture.

Farmers and Ranchers in Nebraska raise beef cows, dairy cows, pigs, corn and soybeans. Each one provides us with something to take care of our most basic needs. Beef cattle and pigs can provide meat, dairy cattle provide milk, and corn and soybeans provide us with food. These posters show that they can provide us with so much more! (Point out specific products they may use every day)

- c. Have students draw a picture showing something from agriculture that is important to their daily life.
 - d. After drawing is complete, have students match their item to its source of agriculture.
5. Ask Follow-Up Questions and Make the Connection to Agriculture
- What were some of the items on our lists?
Answers will vary
 - What agricultural products did those come from?
Answers will vary
 - Who takes care of the agriculture products?
Farmers and Ranchers
 - What does this tell us about farmers and ranchers?
Farmers and ranchers care for the crops and animals every day. Everything we use from the food we eat to the clothes we wear started on a farm or ranch.
 - What can we tell our family and friends about what we did today?
The food we eat is from agriculture and things we use during the day also come from agriculture.