

WELCOME TO MY AMERICAN FARM!

LESSON SNAPSHOT

RELATED "MY AMERICAN FARM" GAME

This lesson incorporates all games available at www.myamericanfarm.org

GRADE LEVELS

- Third - Fifth

CONTENT AREAS

- Social Science

STANDARDS

NCSS Theme 3 – People, Places and Environments: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of people, places, and environments.

NCSS Theme 7 – Production, Distribution and Consumption: Social studies programs should include experiences that provide for the study of how people organize for the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Source: *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies, National Council for the Social Studies. Retrieved from: <http://www.socialstudies.org/>*

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this activity, the students will be able to:

- Define and describe the importance of agriculture
Agriculture, one of America's core economic industries
- Explore the places, products, and people involved in agriculture using My American Farm games and resources

MATERIALS

- Agriculture is Everywhere PowerPoint presentation
- Computer with internet access, overhead projector,

and screen

- Writing surface such as a whiteboard or flipchart placed at the front of the room
- Markers (Flipchart or Whiteboard)
- Passport to Sustainability – (1 copy per student)
- Want to Play? My American Farm Overview Handout – (1 copy per student)
- Activity Sheet – (1 copy per student – select one of the following; may be printed on the back of the Want to Play Overview Handout)
 - » Car Trip Bingo
 - » Commodity Crossword
 - » Production Fill-In
- OPTIONAL: Ag Across America Stamp Sticker – (1 sticker per student)
- OPTIONAL: Handheld whiteboards and markers for students – (Number varies)

PREPARATION

- Visit the My American Farm online game (www.myamericanfarm.org) to preview the games.
- Review the lesson.

INTRODUCTION

SET CONTEXT FOR THE ACTIVITY

Step I: Define Agriculture and Introduce My American Farm (15 min)

- Ask students how many of them like pizza.
- Have students draw their favorite type of pizza.
 - » Ask students to share what they drew.





- » As students share, highlight the ingredients they included and write them on a white board or a flipchart.
- Show the slide titled “Where Does Pizza Come From” in the PowerPoint for this lesson.
 - » Explain that the parts of our pizza come from many people, places, and products (including plants and animals).
- Explain that there is a word to describe all of the people, places, and products involved in producing foods like pizza. Place the following word puzzle on a board (may do this prior to the session)
 - » Where do the ingredients in our pizzas come from? _____
- Press the spacebar or mouse button to begin animation on the slide titled “Where Does Pizza Come From?”
 - » Doing so will highlight 11 letters on the screen.
- Ask students to work individually or in pairs to unscramble the letters to discover the answer to the puzzle presented on the board. The answer is AGRICULTURE.
 - » If working with a younger audience, you may need to provide them with some hints and help as they complete this challenge.
- Ask students what they think the term agriculture means.
- Teach students the following three key points about agriculture. As you teach each point, have students perform the associated motion described below to help anchor the point in their memory.
 1. Agriculture is For Me & For You! (Turn to a neighbor and point toward yourself when you say “me” and toward your neighbor when you say “you”)
 - Explain that Agriculture supplies food, but also shelter, fiber for clothing and other products, and fuel.
 - Show and briefly describe the slide titled “What’s on America’s Dinner Table?”
 2. Agriculture has a BIG job to perform! (Stand up and spread your arms out as wide as possible when you say the word “Big”)
 - » Explain that one farmer feeds approximately 155 people
 - Show the slide titled “How many people does one farmer feed?” to reinforce this point
 - » Explain that there are approximately 6.6 billion people on earth today and scientists estimate that there will be 9.3 billion by 2050
 3. Agriculture is Everywhere! (Strike a funny pose and point your index fingers in different directions when you say “Everywhere”.)
 - » Explain that the agriculture industry is all around us – in every state and every country around the globe
 - Show the slide titled “Agriculture the Bountiful!” to reinforce this point.
 - Have a student come to the front to point out their home state on the map. Quiz students about the other states on the map and the products as time permits.
- Review the key points about agriculture by having students perform the three motions as they repeat the key points with you.
- Introduce My American Farm (www.myamericanfarm.org) as a place where students can learn more about agriculture with fun games and cool activities!
 - » Show the homepage of My American Farm
 - » Explain that students can get there on their own – there’s no login required and it doesn’t cost anything to play the games or use the resources





BODY

MAIN CONTENT

Step 2: Explore the Places and Products Involved in Agriculture using My American Farm (15 min)

- Play the Ag Across America game with the students to emphasize the point that agriculture involves many places all across America (including your home state)!
 - » Click on Ag Across America on the Web site homepage (http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/ag_across_america/)
 - » If this is students' first exposure to the site, briefly note that each game has other cool things to do such as:
 - Videos
 - Polls
 - Comics
 - Activities
 - Trivia Questions
 - » Click on "Play Now" on the Ag Across America Logo to launch the game.
 - » Click on "Skip Instructions and Play" after the game loads
 - » Ask students each question and ask them to raise their hands if they know the answer:
 - Click on the states to enter an answer – you may do this yourself or have one of the students come to the front and do it for you. (Students have two chances to get the answers right.)
 - If students get the answer correct, read the fact presented to them. Make sure to note the different commodities produced.
 - Then click on "Continue to see other states for this question."
 - Note the other states that are highlighted to students. These are also correct answers for

the question.


- Click on "Next Question" to continue.
 - Make sure students answer at least 3 of the 5 questions correctly so that they win a reward.
 - After students answer three questions correct, a box saying "congratulations" will appear. Click on the map to load a PDF of the reward for this game.
 - NOTE: Have different students come to the front to run the computer as you ask the questions in this game. It results in more interaction and the other students pay attention when their friends are "in charge."
- Hand out the Passport to Sustainability to students and explain that they can use this passport to keep track of their progress as they play all of the games on My American Farm.
 - » Point out the Map stamp on the reward PDF for Ag Across America. Explain that each game will have a reward with a stamp that students may cut out and paste to their passport to show off that they won the game.
 - If you desire, you may print the Ag Across America stamp as a sticker and pass it out to students at this time so that they can add at least one stamp to their passport.
 - Encourage students to play the game at home!
 - Close the PDF window and close the game by selecting the text that says "Close Window" in the upper right of the game screen. (Be careful to not close the entire web browser.)

- Quickly wrap up by highlighting the top commodities in your own state using the "America the Bountiful" slide. Ask students if they have ever seen a farm growing one of these commodities to help them make a local connection to the products.





Step 3: Explore the people Involved in Agriculture using My American Farm (15 min)

- Return to the My American Farm Website and explain to students that agriculture is also about the people involved. Briefly explain that one type of person involved in agriculture is a farmer. Ask students if they've ever met a farmer before.
- Explain to students that they can also learn more about the people involved in agriculture through the cool videos on My American Farm.
 - » Click on Amazing Grains to launch the game homepage (http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/amazing_grains/)
 - » Click on the "Video" icon that's shown in the "Other Cool Things to Do" area to launch a 5 minute video that showcases a farm family and further explains agriculture
 - You may make the video "full screen" by selecting the icon in the right corner that looks like: 
 - » Ask students to recall different things they saw on the farm described in the video.
- Explain that farmers are only one type of person involved in agriculture – there are many people in our communities involved in agriculture.
 - » Play My Little Ag Me to emphasize this point.
 - Click on My Little Ag Me icon to launch the game homepage (http://www.myamericanfarm.org/games/my_little_ag_me/)
 - Click on Play Now to launch the game
 - Click on Skip Instructions and Play to continue to the game
 - Ask students to select one of the two avatars by voting for either the boy or the girl

- Drag the outfit over to the avatar and release to load the round
- Ask students the questions presented in each round. Have them vote by a show of hands to indicate which answer they think is correct or place them in small groups and have each small group select and write an answer on a small whiteboard provided to each small group. (Hint: If you use the whiteboard options, you will want to establish that the first answer is "A", the second answer is "B" and the third is "C" so that students may simply respond by writing A, B or C instead of writing the entire answer.)
- Play additional rounds as time permits using the process described above
- NOTE: Have different students come to the front to run the computer as you ask the questions in this game. It results in more interaction and the other students pay attention when their friends are "in charge."
- Wrap up by asking students to identify examples of people and businesses in the local community who are involved in the agriculture industry to localize the concept.

Step 4: Review the Key Concepts and Conclude the Presentation (5 min)

- Review the key points about Agriculture by having the students perform the associated actions with you one last time
 - » Agriculture is for me and for you!
 - » Agriculture has a BIG job to perform!
 - » Agriculture is everywhere!
 - » Agriculture involves many people, places and products – in fact agriculture is right here in our local community!
- Distribute the handout titled "How to Get Started" and either the Commodity Crossword, Road Trip Bingo, or Production Fill in Activity Sheets
 - » Briefly explain to students that they can play My



- Explain that the outfits represent different careers in agriculture
- Pick one student in the audience to select the first career to explore



American Farm when they get home or in the school computer lab following the presentation (if arranged and approved by the school ahead of time)

TEACHING NOTES

- » Highlight the activity sheet and point out that it provides a fun way to continue exploring agriculture after the presentation is over.
 - If time permits, you may also have students complete the activity sheet as a review before the leave. If you desire, you may make this into a competition for a prize or prizes.
- Thank the students for their attention and participation during the presentation. Encourage them to play My American Farm on their own.
 - » If you desire, you may pass out a take-home item to students such as the My American Farm Coloring Book or My American Farm Bookmarks.



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