

Agriculture Distribution Relay

Lesson Snapshot

Related “My American Farm” Game



Harvest This
Available at www.myamericanfarm.org

Grade Levels

- Third - Fifth

Content Areas

- Social Science

Standards

NSS-EC.K-4.1 Scarcity

NSS-EC.K-4.3, NSS-EC.5-8.3 Allocation of Goods and Services

National Social Studies and History Standards, National Council for the Social Studies

Objectives

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

- Recall the distribution process for general agricultural commodities.

Materials

- Relay Cards – (1 set per team) See attached template
- Blank paper and pencil (1 per student)
- Potatoes (3/group, approximately 15 total)
- Small Potato-chip Bags (1/group, approximately 5 total)
- (optional) Computers and internet access – Student access to My American Farm Game at www.myamericanfarm.org

Preparation

- Visit the My American Farm online game (www.myamericanfarm.org) to preview the “Harvest This” game.
- Review the lesson. There are a couple of places where you will see an asterisk (*). These are areas where you can choose to modify the lesson. To determine if you need to make these modifications, ask:
 - » How much time would you like to allocate for the activity?
 - » How would you like students to demonstrate what they’ve learned?

Introduction

Set Context for the Activity

Step I: Introduce the concept of “Distribution and Transportation”

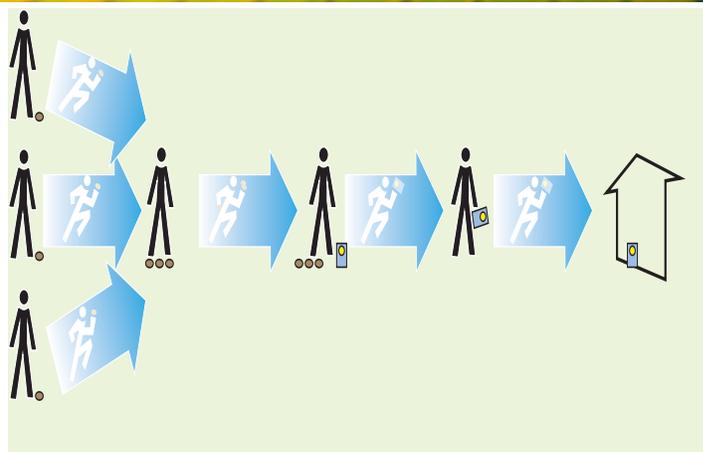
- Have students brainstorm out loud a list of “wants”. These can be anything the student wants, from food to clothing, cars, etc. Capture list on the board under the title “wants”.
- Ask students, “Do we have all of these things in our classroom, town, or even state? No! We must get these from other places!”
- Select one processed (not raw) item generated from students, such as a clothing item. Ask students, “Do t-shirts grow in fields? No! They start as cotton and go through many steps to become the t-shirt found in your local store!”
- Connect student suggestions to the key words: distribution and transportation.
 - » Distribution refers to where things go, and transportation refers to how they get there!
 - » Agriculture refers to all of the industries and process involved





in the production and delivery of food, fiber and fuel that humans need to survive and thrive.

- Today we will look at agricultural distribution, and dive into the process of how products get from the farm to your table or closet!
- Have students quickly brainstorm outloud a list of methods of transportation used throughout history. Some examples may include: horse-drawn wagons, trains, ships, planes, trucks, etc.



Body

Main Content

Step 2: Set-up Distribution/Transportation Relay Activity

*Student safety is crucial. Before conducting this activity, assess student needs and secure a clear area for students to move. You may elect to do this activity outside on a grassy field or in a gymnasium.

- Introduce concept of activity: Students will be broken into teams of 6. Each student will represent a stage in the distribution process (farmer, storage operator, processor, and store owner)
 - The goal is to get all of your potatoes (3) from the farm, through the process, and to the “home” in the form of 1 bag of potato chips.
 - Demonstrate relay process using 6 volunteer students. Set students up in a straight line across the classroom in the following order, with space in between each stage.
 - » (start) - 3 farmers – 1 storage operator – 1 processor – 1 store owner - (home)
 - » Designate “home” as the wall or area opposite the starting side.
1. Each farmer picks up a potato and runs it to the storage operator. Farmers must run one at a time.
 2. When the storage operator has 3 potatoes, they run their potatoes to the processor.
 3. When the processor receives the potatoes, they set them down and pick up a bag of potato chips. The processor runs the chips to the store owner.
 4. When the store owner receives the chips they run them to the “home”.
- Divide students into teams of 6. *To accommodate odd numbers, adjust the number of “farmers”. If you have fewer than 3 farmers, the farmers on the team can run more than once.
 - Hand out a relay identity card set to each team. Each set will include: 3 farmers, 1 storage operator, 1 processor, 1 store owner. Have students select their individual identity card.
 - Give each farmer 1 potato (3 per team). Give each processor 1 bag of potato chips.
 - Position students in parallel lines and begin relay!

When you say go, the following should happen:

*Take this to a higher level by introducing methods for transportation. Have students generate a list of ways that these products could be transported (train, truck, boat, etc.). Have each student individually select the method of transportation they will use in the relay. Re-set the relay. When you say go, students are to make a noise and hand movements as if they are using their method of transportation (driving a truck, operating a train, captaining a boat, etc.).





Step 3: “Harvest This” Game

- At this point you may elect to have students play “Harvest This”, available at www.myamericanfarm.org. Students can work individually or in pairs.
- Inform students that they will be jumping into a fun game, in which they will learn more about harvesting and distribution.

* You may choose to have students play this game before you arrive, after you have left, or at home with adult permission.

Wrap Up

Review, Assess, Challenge

Step 4: Review Relevant Concepts

- Ask processing questions of students related to their experience. Here are some suggestions. Answers will vary.
 - » “What did you learn about distribution?” Students may share that they noticed there are many steps, that many people are involved, or that they now know how a product gets from the farm to their plate.
 - » “After doing this activity, what can you predict about the amount of jobs connected to agriculture?” Students should notice that there are many diverse jobs connected to agriculture.

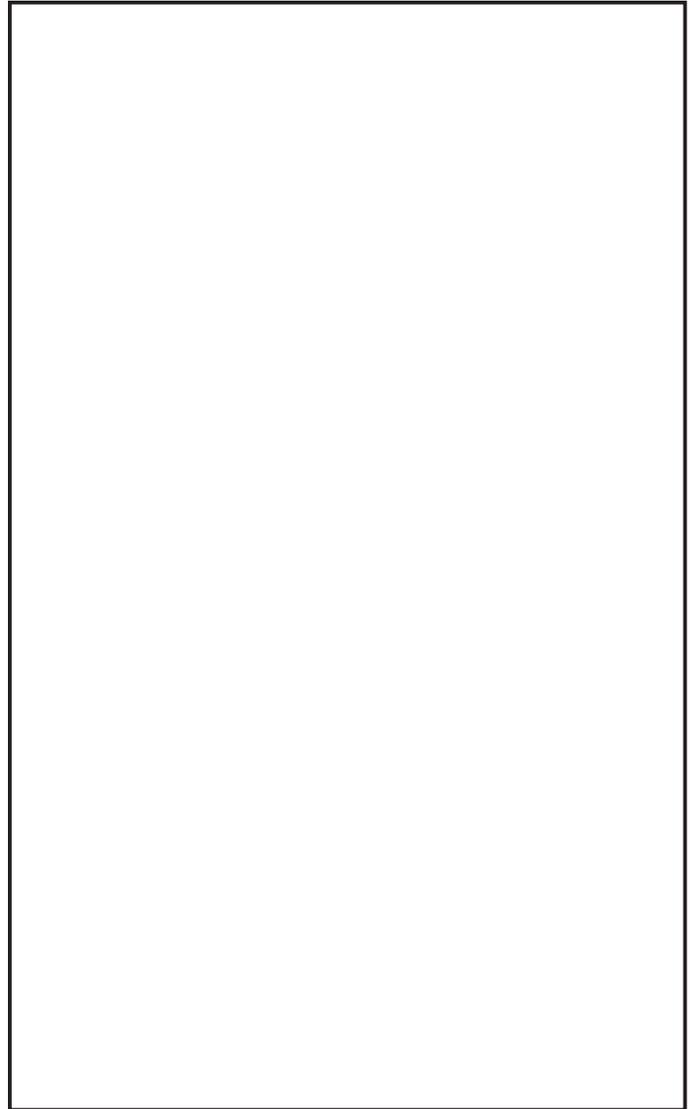
Step 5: Assess Learning

- On a blank sheet of paper, have students quickly recall the stages in distribution demonstrated in the relay activity. After students have written down stages, ask one or two to share.

Step 6: Challenge

- Challenge students to put on their “curiosity cap” as they head home, by looking for people involved in the distribution of agriculture products. There are many careers in agriculture, and agriculture is everywhere!

Teaching Notes



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DISTRIBUTION RELAY CARDS

FARMER 1

- Pick up 1 potato and run it to the Storage Operator. Only 1 farmer from your team may go at a time. The Storage Operator needs 3 potatoes before they can move!

FARMER 2

- Pick up 1 potato and run it to the Storage Operator. Only 1 farmer from your team may go at a time. The Storage Operator needs 3 potatoes before they can move!

FARMER 3

- Pick up 1 potato and run it to the Storage Operator. Only 1 farmer from your team may go at a time. The Storage Operator needs 3 potatoes before they can move!

STORAGE OPERATOR

- Collect potatoes from your farmers. As soon as you have 3 potatoes, take them to the processor.

PROCESSOR

- When you get 3 potatoes, set them down and pick up a bag of potato chips. Run the potato chips to the store.

STORE OWNER

- As soon as you get the bag of chips, take them home quickly!