

## WHO KNEW? CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

### LESSON SNAPSHOT

#### GRADE LEVELS

- Fourth - Sixth

#### SUBJECTS

- Social studies - Civics - Careers

#### STANDARD

- Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: II - Thematic Strand IV - Individual Development and Identity and Strand VII - Production, Distribution and Consumption

National Council for Social Studies. *Expectations of Excellence: Curriculum Standards for Social Studies*, 2009.

#### OBJECTIVES

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

- Explain different kinds of careers related to agriculture

#### MATERIALS

- Directions for options A and B (see lesson plan)
- PowerPoint with tools and careers (paper or electronic)
- Slide notes for each tool/career (paper or electronic)
  - » Lists the tool and career
  - » Sample hints for each tool if needed
  - » Provides additional details about each career

### PREPARATION

- Determine if you will complete this activity using option A or B outlined in the lesson and set-up classroom accordingly.

### INTRODUCTION

#### SET CONTEXT FOR THE ACTIVITY

**Step 1: Discuss the concept of tools and careers.**

- Point out that different careers require different tools
- Elicit a few familiar examples from students (fireman, policeman, doctor, etc.)

**Step 2: Connect to agriculture.**

- Reference previous agricultural lessons, My American Farm (if students have played the game), local agricultural professionals or other school activities that have some relationship to agriculture.
- Explain that today's class is going to dig deeper into the kinds of tools individuals in agriculture use.

## WHO KNEW? CAREERS IN AGRICULTURE

*All careers have tools associated with them; those items we use to quickly and effectively complete the tasks required within a given career field. In this exercise, students will attempt to first identify the tool and then list associated careers that may use the tool. In the final step, students will see a picture of someone within an agricultural career field who uses the tool shown. Ten tools and associated agricultural careers are provided within the lesson plan kit.*

*List of Careers included in accompanying PowerPoint:*

1. Dairy Producer
2. Field Representative
3. Apiarist (Beekeeper)
4. Farmer
5. Lab Technician
6. Bio-trait Engineer
7. Lumber Hauler
8. Animal Behaviorist
9. Limnologist
10. Rancher





*OPTION A: TEACHER LED VERSION*

**Step 1: Explain how to play the game.**

- You will show students a series of images that depict agriculturist's tools.
- Students are to identify the tool and try to think of a person related to agriculture who might use the tool.
- Be clear about how you want students to share their ideas on what each tool is and possible related careers. This could be on paper, in pairs or simply by shouting answers for someone to write on the board.

**Step 2: Run a practice round.**

- Walk students through the process on the first example by:
  - » showing the close-up picture of the tool
  - » asking for predictions on what the tool is
  - » showing the slide with the full view of the tool
  - » eliciting ideas for careers that might utilize this tool
  - » showing the picture of the career
  - » sharing details additional details about the career as needed

**Step 3: Go! Repeat the process in Step 2 throughout the remaining tools/ careers.**



*OPTION B: STUDENT LED VERSION*

*This option allows individual students or small groups of students to lead themselves through the same activity as described in Option A. This method requires the directions and slides/photos to be printed placed in order for a student to flip through. Some possible ideas for this include:*

- a small binder using sheet protectors
- laminating each photo and then spiral binding them so students can flip through them in order

**Step 1: Prepare a set of directions to provide to students.**

- A sample set of directions may look like:

*The activity in this packet is about careers in agriculture and the tools used by people in those careers to help them complete their tasks. There are 10 different tools and careers for you to guess. Each one has a two or three pictures to help you guess. For each set of pictures, follow these four steps:*

**Step 1:** Only look at "picture 1," it is a close-up picture of a tool. Write down some of your guesses at what it might be just by looking at this picture.

**Step 2:** Flip to "picture 2." Now what do you think the tool is? It is okay if you are still not quite sure. Write down the name of the tool or what you think the tool might be used for. Also, make a small list of careers that might use this tool.

**Step 3:** Flip to "picture 3." What career do you think this person has? Write down your guess. If you are not sure, describe your best guess at what are some things they do in their career.

**Step 4:** Flip to the next page, the "notes page." Find out what the tool is called and little bit more about the career shown in the previous picture.

**Step 2: Hand out flip books to individuals or small groups of students to complete activity. Or, let students know where to pick up a flip book when they have completed their other tasks for the day.**



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## WRAP UP

### Step 1: Acknowledge students' thinking and debrief activity.

- Discuss some of the tools and careers as small groups or as a class.
- Discuss how they are related to agriculture.
- Ask students which tools they guessed right and which ones were the hardest.
  - » Take it one step further by having students list another tool and career set related to agriculture.

- » Entertainment (Film, strings for musical instruments)
- » Transportation (Biofuels including ethanol and biodiesel, lubricants, antifreeze, tires, upholstery, packing materials)
- » Education (Crayons, text books, chalk, desks, pencils, paper)
- » Printing (Paper, ink, film)
- » Sports (Uniforms, baseball bats, leather equipment and balls, shoes)

### Step 2: Wrap up the lesson by emphasizing the following facts related to careers in agriculture. These facts (and more) are available in the 2009 *Food and Farm Facts* publication from the American Farm Bureau Federation.

- Farm Fact #1: "How many farmers?" Use this question to show how there is a diverse mix of those working in the agriculture industry.
  - 3,337,450 farm operators
    - » 306,209 women
    - » 55,570 farmers of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin
    - » 30,599 African American
- Farm Fact #2: "How are you connected to agriculture" Use this question and the answers below to show the various ways in which different industries are related to agriculture through a future.
  - » Personal Care Products (Shampoo, soap, cosmetics, lotions, fingernail polish, toothpaste)
  - » Construction (Lumber, paints, brushes, tar paper, drywall, tool handles, particle board)
  - » Health Care (Pharmaceuticals, surgical sutures, ointments, latex gloves, x-ray film)
  - » Manufacturing (Adhesives, lubricants, solvents, detergents, polymers)

## TEACHING NOTES



## FOUNDATION CONTACT INFORMATION

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