

How to Use This Book

Have you ever wakened in the morning not feeling well? You have a terrible headache or the flu bug that has been going around has finally hit you. It's too late to find someone to take over your class so you HAVE to teach. Or perhaps you are pulled out of class for an unexpected meeting, assembly or conference. To temporarily fill in for you, where can you find simple lessons that are easy to use and take little or no preparation? You need activities that your students will enjoy working on while learning at the same time!

Welcome to *Emergency Lesson Plans*, a collection of educationally-based, cross-curricular activities that are ready to use for any emergency teaching situation. This unique selection of articles and non-fiction stories appropriate for specific grade levels can serve as a starting point for cross-curricular studies. They can also easily be added to existing classroom studies because of the wealth of subjects covered and their support of multiple National Education Standards.

It's always a good idea to have a backup plan, just in case the situation rises. Let these emergency lesson plans help you with those "I just can't teach right now" moments.

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From the Ground to the Dinner Table

Have you ever wondered where popcorn comes from? Where does the grain in your morning cereal grow? Are strawberries and bananas made at the grocery store? No – they all come from farms!

Many of the foods we eat every day are grown on farms. These farms can be very large and cover many miles. Some farmers raise animals like cows, pigs, and sheep. Most farmers grow different kinds of plants. These plants are called crops.

Farmers can grow many kinds of crops. These crops are used to make many of the foods found in grocery stores. Wheat is used to make bread and cereal. Corn can be made into taco shells. Beans are often put into chili. Some farmers grow apples, strawberries, and other fruits that can be eaten as a healthy snack.

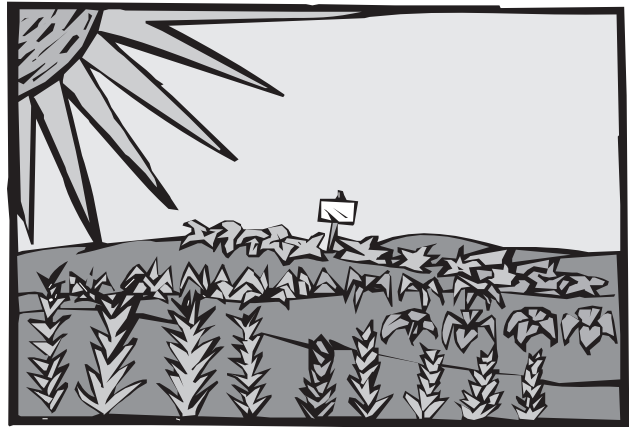
After the farmer grows the crops, they need to be taken from the ground. This is called harvesting. The crops can be harvested by hand or by machine. Some crops will be taken to the grocery store to be sold. Others are taken to a factory to be made into foods like pasta and bread.

The next time you sit down for dinner, think about where your food came from. Which parts of your meal did a farmer grow? Which parts were made in a factory?



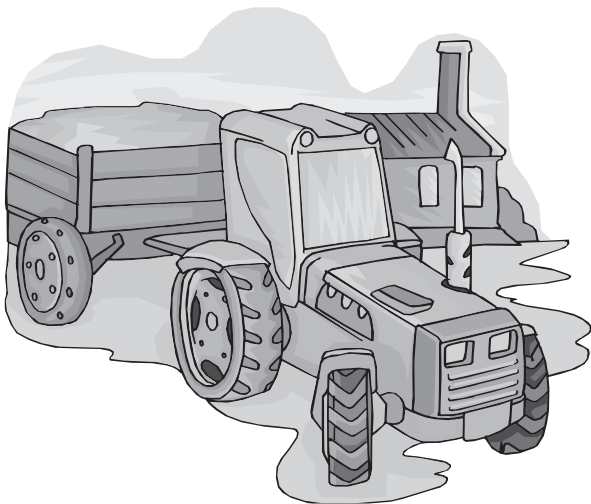
Extension Activities:

Many kinds of farm equipment are used in modern farming. Show the class pictures of these different machines. Talk about the function of each machine.



Talk about your school's lunch menu. Which of these foods are grown on farms? What parts of your pizza or spaghetti were grown as crops?

Farming is a full-time, year-round occupation. Talk about the farming seasons with the students. During what time of the year are crops planted? When are they harvested?



Name _____

Date _____

Farmer's Choice

You have decided to become a farmer and need to start planting your crops. Pick which crops you want to plant and draw them on your farmland.

