

Grade 3-4: What is Agriculture?

National Science Standard

History and Nature of Science: Science as a human endeavor

Objectives

The student will:

1. define agriculture, farming and farm.
2. identify products, food and non-food, of farming.

Background

It is easy to forget that our food originates from the Earth and not the grocery store.

Agriculture is the huge system of science and business of cultivating the soil, producing crops and raising livestock useful to people. Farmers play a very important role in this system that is responsible for putting food on your table. Farmers are responsible for growing and collecting our food from the Earth. They also care for the animals that give us meat (beef cattle, pigs, poultry), milk (dairy cattle), and wool (sheep).

Agriculture gives us not only plant crops that are used for food, but also non-food items. Cotton for clothing and linens comes from cotton plants. Wool for clothing comes from sheep. Corn and soy crops are used to make crayons, chalk, shampoo, lotion, cosmetics, paint, motor oil, and gasoline.

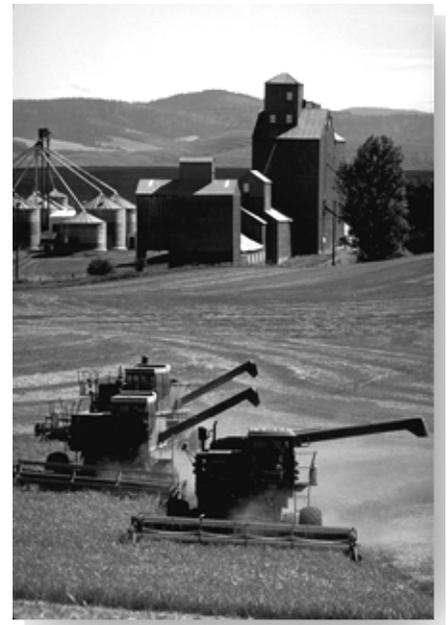
Crops, plants grown for food, are grown in large tracts of land called fields. They are measured by acres. One acre is the size of a football field. The average farm in America is 460 acres.

Plants grow in the soil. Farmers use a machine called a tractor. The tractor can be attached to many different tools to assist in the planting process. A plow pulled by a tractor loosens the hard soil. A cultivator is pulled across the soil to smooth out the field. A seed drill is used to plant the seed. When the crop is ready to harvest (cut and collect) a farmer uses a combine, which is the biggest machine on the farm. It is called a combine because it combines two jobs. It cuts the wheat and separates the grain from the rest of the plant. It is used for grain crops such as wheat and corn.

Once the crop is harvested it is stored, sold, and distributed to food manufacturers who use it to make food or non-food items we need.

Instruction Procedure

1. Set the Stage-Prepare a basket of common items that come from agricultural products. Examples: cotton underwear, sheets, shampoo, body lotion, pasta, oil, etc.) Discuss the importance to student's everyday life.
2. Discuss the background information.
3. Hand out Activity 1: What is Agriculture?
4. Discuss the vocabulary words. Hand out Activity 1.1



Word Power

- Acre: A measurement of land
- Agriculture: the science and business of cultivating the soil, producing crops and raising livestock useful to people.
- Crop: plants grown for food.
- Cultivate: to prepare the ground for the preparation of raising crops.
- Dairy: concerned with the production of milk
- Farm:(noun) a tract of land used for agriculture purposes
- Farm:(verb) the act of growing crops or raising animals.
- Farmer: a person who cultivates land or crops or raises animals.
- Harvest: the process of gathering a crop
- Livestock: domestic animals kept for use on a farm or raised for sale and profit.
- Product: something produced

Assessment:

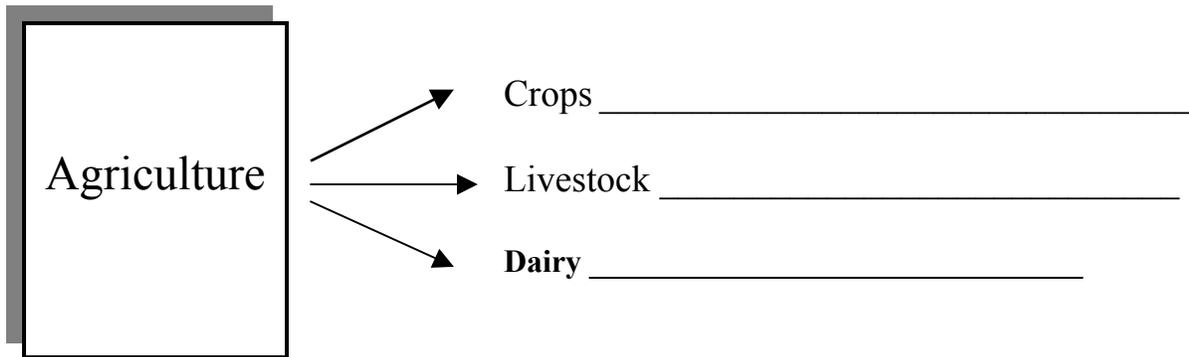
1. Review “What is agriculture”? activities 1 and 2
2. Distribute the items from your set the stage basket among the students. By looking at the ingredient label, have them identify the agricultural product from which it is derived. Have them group the items into edible and non-edible products.

Name _____ (Activity 1)

What is Agriculture?

Agriculture is the science and business of raising crops or livestock.

A. List common examples of agriculture products in the following categories.



B. Draw lines to match the agriculture source in Column A to the products in Column B.

Column A

1. timber (trees)
2. dairy cow
3. cotton
4. wheat
5. flower

Column B

- a. cheese
- b. blue jeans
- c. paper
- d. perfume
- e. spaghetti

Name _____ (Activity 2)

What is Agriculture? Vocabulary

Agriculture
Crops
Dairy
Farm
Farmer
Livestock



1. To _____ is the actual process of growing or raising crops or animals.
2. A person who grows crops is a _____.
3. Corn, soybeans, wheat, cotton are different types of _____ _____.
4. A pig is an example of _____ _____.
5. The science and business of growing food is _____.
6. Milk comes from a _____ cow.

Use the letters in the boxes to fill in the spaces.
