



*Presented
By
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Southern Illinois
University
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Need some history with your agriculture lessons?

The history of the United States has been carved around agriculture. Agriculture was there when Squanto helped the pilgrims. When cotton was king and cattle were treasures, agriculture was there. Join us as we explore literature, social studies, and engaging activities for use in your classroom to help you bag up some American history with agriculture.

Squanto/Pilgrims

Sarah Morton's Day by Kate Waters

Samuel Eaton's Day by Kate Water

Squanto's Journey: The Story of the First Thanksgiving
by Joseph Bruchac

Tapenum's Day by Kate Waters

The Wampanoags by Alice K. Flanagan

Activities – Make a paper bag booklet about Squanto and the Pilgrims



Squanto showing a Pilgrim how to plant corn in a mound of dirt with herring as a fertilizer.

Make Harvest Blessing mix:

Each ingredient in this snack mix symbolizes something associated with the Harvest Season (Thanksgiving)

- * Bugles Brand Corn Snacks - represents a cornucopia, a horn of plenty.
- * Pretzels - represents arms folded in thanks and prayer.
- * Candy Corn and/or Corn Nuts Brand Snack - during the first Winter, the pilgrims were each allotted only 5 kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.
- * Dried or Candy Fruits - Thanksgiving is the celebration of the harvest.
- * Peanuts and/or Sunflower Seeds - seeds represent the potential of a bounteous harvest for the next season if they are planted and well tended.

Use even amounts of all the ingredients listed above or mix and match as you like.

<http://familycrafts.about.com/od/thanksrecipes/a/thxblessmix.htm>

Teacher Resource Teaching About Thanksgiving with Favorite Picture Books by Immacula A. Rhodes. Scholastic.

Puritans/Colonial America:

The Farm: Life in Colonial Pennsylvania by James E. Knight & Karen Milone

Hasty Pudding, Johnnycakes, and Other Good Stuff: Cooking in Colonial America
by Loretta Frances Ichord

The Ox Cart Man by Donald Hall

A New Nation by Betsy Maestro

Activities:

- Make Johnny cakes, candles, quill pens, stitch samplers, etc.
- See http://library.thinkquest.org/J002611F/daily_life.htm for daily life.



Maple Sugar Farm/lumber 1690 - today

From Maple Trees to Maple Syrup by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Sugaring by Jessie Haas

Celebritrees by Margi Preus

Miss Maple's Seeds by Eliza Wheeler

Maple by Lori Nichols

The Tree by Karen Gray Ruelle

The Tree Lady: The True Story Of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed A City Forever by H. Joseph Hopkins.



Activities – Make pancakes and serve with maple syrup. Make a pictograph of students' favorite toppings.

George Washington

Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas and Layne Johnson

Take the Lead, George Washington by Judith St. George

See : *IL AITC activity booklet for Farmer George*

Activities:

✦ Watch U-tube of *Farmer George*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3Ump_0YOVQ

✦ Plant seeds in various soils and compare growth rates.

Thomas Jefferson

**1790s – Cradle and scythe introduced; invention of cotton gin.
Thomas Jefferson's plow with moldboard of least resistance tested.**

A Big Cheese for the White House: The True Tale of a Tremendous Cheddar
by Candace Fleming

First Peas to the Table: How Thomas Jefferson Inspired a School Garden by Susan Grigsby

Thomas Jefferson by Cheryl Harness

Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation by Peggy Thomas

Activities — <http://www.cheesemaking.com/>

Taste various kinds of cheeses and graph favorites.

Students will first brainstorm a list of different types of cheeses. They will select a cheese and find its country or state of origin. Students will research their country or state. They will be asked to prepare a written report and give an oral presentation using the information they have collected. Following the presentations, the class will have a cheese-tasting celebration as a culminating activity. Graph class' favorite cheeses.

Trail of Tears
Priscilla and the Hollyhocks
by Anne Broyles.
Make Hollyhock dolls

<http://www.bhg.com/gardening/design/projects/make-a-hollyhock-doll/>



1790s – Today: Apples

Apples to Oregon: Being the (Slightly) True Narrative of How a Brave Pioneer Father Brought Apples, Peaches, Pears, Plums, Grapes, and Cherries (and Children) by Deborah Hopkinson

Apple Tree Christmas by Trinka Hakes Noble

Johnny Appleseed by Steven Kellogg



An Apple Pie For Dinner by **Susan VanHecke**

Activities:

Make apple chains:

<http://www.agintheclassroom.org/060605/Teachers/Make%20&%20Takes/AppleBlossomTree.pdf>

List on apple shapes products made from apples.

1800s — Today: Cotton

1805, cotton began to replace tobacco as the chief southern cash crop.

By 1815, cotton became America's most important export.

Cotton Now & Then: Fabric-Making from Boll to Bolt by Karen B. Willing

Up Before Daybreak: Cotton and people in America by Deborah Hopkinson.

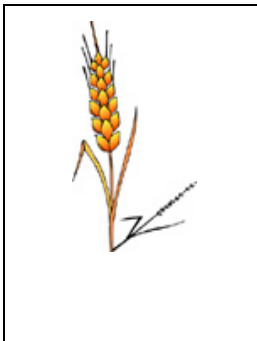
Working Cotton by Sherley Anne Williams

Activities: Make an accordion book with facts about cotton

<http://www.cotton.org/pubs/cottoncounts/resources.cfm>

See also: <http://oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/aitc/lessons/extras/commod.html#cotton>

GIN cotton – <https://extension.usu.edu/aitc/cart/details.cfm?ProdID=40&category=6>

**1835 – Farming the Prairie: Wheat**

McCormick reaper patented; John Lane manufactures plows faced with steel saw blades, 1834.

1837, John Deere and Leonard Andrus begin manufacturing steel plows; Practical threshing machine patented.

Everybody Bakes Bread by Norah Dooley

From Wheat to Bread by Kristin Thoennes Keller

Make Me a Peanut Butter Sandwich and a Glass of Milk by Ken Robbins

The Wheat We Eat by Allan Fowler

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

Activities Serve students a slice of bread. Ask them to list on the board or chart paper all the occupations necessary to bring the bread to them. Group the occupations. List as many foods as possible that are made from wheat. This activity can be adapted for any food/crop.

1809 – 1865 Abe Lincoln

Abe's Fish: A Boyhood Tale of Abraham Lincoln by Jen Bryant

Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek by Deborah Hopkinson

I am Abraham Lincoln (Ordinary People Change World)

by Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos

Stand Tall, Abe Lincoln by Judith St. George

Clara and Davie by Patricia Polacco

Activities: Go fishing -- identify various fish

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/IowaFishSpecies.aspx>



List facts about fish on paper fish and hang from a 'pole'

List products made from various kinds lumber (i.e. pine, hickory, etc.).

Read Paul Bunyon by Steven Kellogg; compare Paul's lumbering methods to lumbering today.

**1850s — Today:
Popcorn/ Corn**



Corn by Gail Gibbons

Corn Belt Harvest by Raymond Bial

Corn Is Maize by Alike

Popcorn at the Palace by Emily Arnold McCully

The Popcorn Book by Tomie dePaola



~ Activities ~

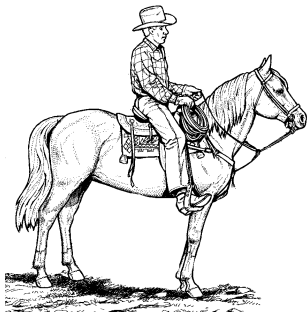
Make popcorn balls & cornbread. Graph corn production by state.

See sites below for more ideas:

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson324.shtml

http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/TM/WS_lp324-01.pdf – corn production by state

<http://www.dpsk12.org/programs/almaproject/pdf/Tortilla.pdf> – From Corn to Tortillas



1870s — Cattle Drives & Cowboys

1874: Barbed Wire patented – open range grazing ends.



Black Cowboy, Wild Horses by Julius Lester & illustrated by Jerry Pinkney

Cowboys of the Wild West by Russell Freedman

Cindy Ellen: A Wild Western Cinderella by Susan Lowell

Home on the Range: John A. Lomax and His Cowboy Songs by Deborah Hopkinson

The Cowboy and the Blackeyed Pea by Tony Johnston

Little Red Hot by [Eric A. Kimmel](#)

Cowboy Activities:

Cook some cowboy grub – see Skillet Bread, Sourdough, and Vinegar Pie by Loretta Frances Ichord. Ichord gives information about the grub that cowboys ate on the trail and includes recipes for the classroom. You could also make sourdough biscuits or flapjacks. Research the effects of high altitudes on baking and bodies.

Cattle were branded as a means of identification. The brand told who owned the cow. Design a brand and explain the symbols included.

Teacher resources: Cowboys Thematic Unit by Teacher Created Materials

Westward HO! An Activity Guide to the Wild West by Laurie Carlson

1900 — 1919 - - - George Washington Carver

George Washington Carver of Tuskegee Institute finds new uses for peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans, helping to diversify southern agriculture

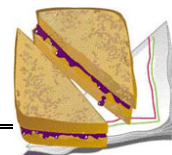
In the Garden with Dr. Carver by Susan Grigsby

Carver: a life in poems by Marilyn Nelson

A Weed Is a Flower: The Life of George Washington Carver by Alike

The Life and Times of the Peanut by Charles Micucci

Gardens and Gardening:



Gregor Mendel: The Friar who Grew Peas by Cheryl Bardoe
 How Groundhog's Garden Grew by Lynne Cherry
 Weeds Find a Way by Cindy Jenson-Elliott
 The Watermelon Seed by Greg Pizzoli
 A Packet of Seeds by Deborah Hopkinson
 Activities- Grow a sweet potato plant, make peanut butter, taste soy products

Make Peanut Butter Fudge:

- 2 small packages of instant chocolate pudding
 - ½ pound of powdered sugar
 - ½ - ¾ cup peanut butter
 - 1/3 cup milk – may need to add more if not moist enough
- Pour all ingredients in a large Ziploc bag. Pass around for students to squish together.
 Open bag and serve each student a spoonful.

Grow a garden in a glove*

<http://www.agintheclassroom.org/TeacherResources/InterestApproaches/Garden%20in%20a%20Glove.pdf>

Bees and Honey:

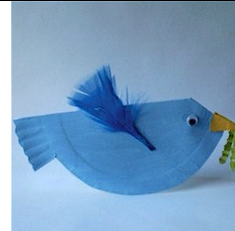
The Beeman by Laurie Krebs
 The Bee Tree by Patricia Polacco
 These Bees Count by Allison Formento
 Flight of the Honey Bee by Raymond Huber
 The Honey Makers by Gail Gibbons
 Activities – Make bubble wrap bee hive pictures
<http://www.craftymorning.com/bubble-wrap-beehive-fingerprint-bee-craft/>

Handprint Bees

<http://whatsthebuzzinfirst.blogspot.com/2011/08/bees-bees-and-more-bees.html>



Paper plate birds - Fold a paper plate in half and cut off the outer rim, leaving tail feathers. Cut a notch to form the head and use that piece for the beak. Paint with watercolors and add an eye and a feather.
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/271553052504075111/>



1870s — 1920 Refrigeration & Pasteurization of milk

Clarence Birdseye by Tiffany Peterson
 The Ice Horse by Candace Christiansen
 The Milkman's Boy by Donald Hall

Activities: Make ice cream in a zip lock bag.

Materials for each group:

- 1 cup whole milk 1/2 cup sugar 1/2 teaspoon vanilla 1 cup Half & Half
- 1 quart-sized plastic zip-lock bag 3/4 cup rock salt & Ice 1 gallon-sized plastic zip-lock bag

Procedure

1. Review the definitions of liquid and solid, and give oral examples of each.
2. Divide the class into four groups and provide each group with the above ingredients.
3. Place the first four ingredients in a quart-sized plastic bag. Close the bag tightly; use tape if necessary. Place the bag, with the ingredients, inside a gallon-sized plastic bag.
4. Pack crushed ice around the smaller bag, inside the gallon bag. Pour at least ¾ cup of rock salt evenly over the ice. Close the bag and remove as much air as possible. For a science experiment add extra rock salt to a few bags and then compare the amount of time needed to freeze ice cream.
5. Wrap a towel around the bag. Have the students take turns mixing or kneading the ingredients for 10 minutes. Open the outer bag. Remove the inner bag containing the ingredients.
6. If mixture is still soupy after 10 minutes, the temperature may not be cold enough.

Drain the excess water, add more salt and ice, and roll the mixture until it becomes firm.
 The recipe makes about three cups of ice cream. Provide fruit and nuts as toppings, if desired.

<http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/resources/pdf/activity/icecream.pdf>



World War I

Knit Your Bit: A WWI Story by
Deborah Hopkinson



The Great Depression

Angels in the Dust by Margot Theis Raven

Dust for Dinner by Ann Turner

Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan

The Gardener by Sarah Stewart

Leah's Pony by Elizabeth Friedrich

<http://webtech.kennesaw.edu/reading/leahspony.htm>

Potato – a Story of the Great Depression by Kate Lied

Saving Strawberry Farm by Deborah Hopkinson

The Great American Dust Bowl by Don Brown

Years of Dust by Albert Marrin

Great Depression recipes – <http://www.recipelion.com/Editors-Picks/21-Classic-Great-Depression-Era-Recipes>

Food Time Line: <http://www.foodtimeline.org/food2.html>

Activities...

Compare prices from the 1930s to today's.

History -- It happened in the 1930s. Invite students to view brief video clips from PBS's The Great Depression: Stories of a Generation's Struggle for Democracy. Have students work individually or in small groups to create timelines of the major social and economic events related to the Great Depression. http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson147.shtml

WWII

The Victory Garden by Helen Wilbur

Black Radishes by Susan Meyer *Black Radishes* is the tale of a boy who learns what it means to be both Jewish and French at a dangerous time.

Activities:

Grow various kinds of radishes. Taste and graph preferences.

Plant a Victory Garden –

One Hen – using agriculture to teach economics

One Hen: How One Small Loan Made A Big Difference by Katie Smith-Millway

14 Cows for America by Carmen Agra Deedy

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier

Give a Goat by Jan West Schrock

The Goat Lady by [Jane Bregoli](#)

The Chicken Squad: The First Misadventure. By Doreen Cronin

The Perfect Nest by Catherine Friend

E-I-E-I-O! How Old MacDonald Got His Farm with a Little Help From a Hen by Judy Sierra

Duck for Turkey Day by Jacqueline Jules

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Activities:

Wants and Needs – Make a paper house listing wants and needs. Put your wants outside your house and your needs inside. <http://saylorslog.blogspot.com/search/label/Economics>

Make edible windmills. – Ingredients:

2 fudge stripe round cookies 2 vanilla crème filled wafer cookies – rectangular in shape

Marshmallow crème or white icing 2 gumdrops

1 wooden paint stirrer, pre-drilled with a hole in the center of the handle end.

Toothpick

Spread marshmallow crème or icing on the back of the fudge stripe cookies, but not in the hole. Split the wafer cookie in half, lengthwise and then horizontally to make 4 pieces. Place the wafer cookies on the marshmallow side of one fudge striped cookie to make an “X” and top with the sticky side of the other cookie. Attach the cookie windmill to the paint stirrer by putting one end of the toothpick through the hole and securing each end with a gumdrop. The cookie will rotate on the handle. *Idea from Phyllis Landwehr*

Transportation linked to agriculture

http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthemove/learning/thinkfinity/AOTM_Unit1_Activity2.pdf

This site has a unit on how trains effected change on the growth of cities and farms

Activities:

Build a model of the Transcontinental railroad

<http://ijuan12.hubpages.com/hub/california-gold-rush-pony-express-and-transcontinental-railroad-lesson-plan> & Show Charlie Brown U-Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4qYUnm4ZYy>

Overview of the History of Farming

[A Farm Album Long Ago and Today](#) by Peter and Connie Roop

[Farm History](#) by Ray Miller

[A Farm Through Time](#) by Angela Wilkes

[Farms Long Ago](#) by Jennifer B. Gillis

[From Dawn to Dusk](#) by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock

http://www.agclassroom.org/gan/timeline/farm_tech.htm

A history of American Agriculture - Growing a Nation

<http://popecolorbook.blogspot.com/>

“Teachers Using Agriculture to Teach History and Math”

<http://growinggeorgia.com/features/2013/04/teachers-using-agriculture-teach-history-and-math/>

Activities:

Make a time line showing the various milestones in the history of farming

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/419327415277495651/>

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CULTIVATING THE GARDEN - Aunt Marie remembers riding on the old pony while her dad cultivated the corn and potatoes.

