

Farming through the Seasons

Grade Level: 1-3

Approximate Length of Activity: 30 minutes

Objectives

Teacher

1. Teach children about a farmer's life.
2. Assist students as they work on reading comprehension and questions.

Students

1. Listen to a story and discuss details about a farmer.
2. Answer reading comprehension questions.

Michigan Content Standards (Language Arts) R.AT 01.01; R.NT.01.03; R.NT.01.05; R.IT.01.02; R.CM.01.02; R.AT.02.01; R.NT.02.05; R.IT.02.02; R.CM.02.02; R.AT.03.01; R.IT.03.02; R.CM.03.02

Introduction

Farmers are the people who help corn kernels grow. The story is about farmers and what they do year-round to produce the corn and other crops everyone uses.

Materials Needed

- Copies of "Farming through the Seasons" story
- Copies of "Farming through the Seasons" worksheet

Activity Outline

1. Talk to the children about who a farmer is and what he or she does.
2. Introduce the story to the children.
3. You can let them read it on their own or you can read it as a group.
4. The questions are to help them with reading comprehension, they complete this on their own or as a class. *Note: This is a great lesson to tie in with seasons.*

Discussion Questions

1. Have students discuss what it is like during the different seasons and what they think is the best time to grow crops/plants.
2. Have students discuss the importance of farmers. What would we do without farmers?

Related Activities

1. This lesson was provided by the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan. For more information and activities contact: 12800 Escanaba Dr., DeWitt, MI 48820, 1-888-323-6601, www.micorn.org
2. The lesson "The Journey of Corn with Kid Kernel" located in the science section of this curriculum guide.
3. The lesson "Have You the Time of Day?" located in the math section of this curriculum guide.
4. The lesson "Many Roles of a Farmer" located in the social studies section of this curriculum guide.

Book Resources

1. "I Can Read About Seasons" by Robyn Supraner
2. "Seasons" by Paul P. Sipiera

Acknowledgment: This lesson was provided courtesy of the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan.

Farming through the Seasons

“Story”

As winter sets in, many farmers are busy taking care of their equipment and animals. Once springtime comes the farmers begin to prepare to plant their crops. They are busy working on the tractors, buying seed and working up the land to get it ready to plant.

In the spring, when the ground thaws out from the winter freeze, the farmers get ready to go to work. This is the time they plant the seeds in the fields. They hope for the right amount of rain and put fertilizer on the fields to help the plants grow. As spring ends the little sprouts come out of the ground and begin to grow.

In the summer, heat helps the plants get bigger each day. Rain is needed to make sure the crops will grow. This is the time when farmers get rid of the weeds that are growing with the crops, either by hoeing or by cultivating. When the end of summer hits, crops are beginning to ripen and getting ready for harvest.

Fall is harvest time for crops like corn and beans. This is when the combines come out to harvest the crops. Farmers work long hours from daylight to dusk getting the crops out of the fields before a snow comes and damages the crops. When the harvest is done the farmers still continue to work but are glad to have their harvest for the year done. But the next year will be just as busy for the farmer.



Farming through the Seasons

Directions: Read the story given to you and answer the following questions. Feel free to look back at the story if you need any help.

- 1) What is this story mainly about?
 - a) How plants grow
 - b) How to harvest crops
 - c) What farmers do through the different seasons

- 2) What types of crops are harvested in the fall?
 - a) peas
 - b) corn and beans
 - c) sprouts

- 3) This story tells us that:
 - a) farmers don't work very hard
 - b) during the winter farmers don't work
 - c) fall is a busy time for farmers

- 4) What do you think the title tells us about the story?
 - a) there is a pattern farmers follow when the seasons change
 - b) the farmers plant no matter the season
 - c) it doesn't tell us anything about the story

- 5) In what season do farmers think it is good to plant corn?
 - a) fall
 - b) summer
 - c) spring

Farming through the Seasons

Directions: Read the story given to you and answer the following questions. Feel free to look back at the story if you need any help.

- 1) What is this story mainly about?
 - a) How plants grow
 - b) How to harvest crops
 - c) What farmers do through the different seasons**

- 2) What types of crops are harvested in the fall?
 - a) peas
 - b) corn and beans**
 - c) sprouts

- 3) This story tells us that:
 - a) farmers don't work very hard
 - b) during the winter farmers don't work
 - c) fall is a busy time for farmers**

- 4) What do you think the title tells us about the story?
 - a) there is a pattern farmers follow when the seasons change**
 - b) the farmers plant no matter the season
 - c) it doesn't tell us anything about the story

- 5) In what season do farmers think it is good to plant corn?
 - a) fall
 - b) summer
 - c) spring**

