



Extraction of Life Extension Activities

For use after your class has participated in this FARM Science Lab lesson!

1. Read:

Ag Today Reader Issue 6: Plants and Animals...Providing Food, Fiber and Energy. (RL grades 3-5)

A digital version of the reader is [available online here](#).

Gregory Mendel: The Friar Who Grew Peas by Cheryl Bardoe

Gregor Mendel explains to children the theory of heredity in simple-to-understand language and examples. Regarded as the world's first geneticist, Gregor Mendel discovered one of the fundamental aspects of genetic science: animals, plants, and people all inherit and pass down traits through the same process. Living the slow-paced, contemplative life of a friar, Gregor Mendel was able to conceive and put into practice his great experiment—observing yellow peas, green peas, smooth peas, and wrinkled peas to craft his theory—years before scientists had any notion of genes. Includes an author's note and bibliography. -Amazon.com

In the Garden with Dr. Carver by Susan Grigsby

Sally is a young girl living in rural Alabama in the early 1900s, a time when people were struggling to grow food in soil that had been depleted by years of cotton production. One day, Dr. George Washington Carver shows up to help the grownups with their farms and the children with their school garden. He teaches them how to restore the soil and respect the balance of nature. He even prepares a delicious lunch made of plants, including "chicken" made from peanuts. And Sally never forgets the lessons this wise man leaves in her heart and mind. Susan Grigsby's warm story shines new light on an African American scientist who was ahead of his time. -Albert Whitman and Co.

The Kid Who Changed the World by Andy Andrews

The Kid Who Changed the World tells the story of Norman Borlaug, who would one day grow up and use his knowledge of agriculture to save the lives of two billion people. Two billion! Norman changed the world! Or was it Vice President Henry Wallace who changed the world? Or maybe it was George Washington Carver? But what about Susan Carver?

This engaging story reveals the incredible truth that everything we do matters! Based on his book *The Butterfly Effect*, Andy's timeless tale shows children that even the smallest of our actions can make a difference in someone's life. In turn, that person makes a difference in someone else's life, and the blessing is passed from person to person. Through each character's story, readers will see that they, too, can be the kid who changes the world. -Amazon.com

Guide students using these [comprehension questions](#) directly from the author.

The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

Summer knows that *kouun* means "good luck" in Japanese, and this year her family has none of it. Just when she thinks nothing else can possibly go wrong, an emergency whisks her parents away to Japan-- right before harvest season. Summer and her little brother are left in the care of their grandparents -- Obaachan and Jiichan -- who come out of retirement in order to harvest wheat and help pay the bills.

-Amazon.com

Use the reading guide from [Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom](#) to follow the chapter book as well as learn more about wheat.

2. **Watch:** [Meet Michigan wheat farmer](#), Mike Milligan and ride along as he's planting soft white winter wheat on his farm near Ubly, in the Thumb region. In this 5:30 minute video, Mike explains how the technology in his tractor cab helps him to more precisely plant and care for his wheat crop. Then, [follow up with this video](#) as Mike harvests the same wheat. (watch through 2:30 to see the harvest process, or keep watching to learn more about Mike's farm) *Thanks to the Michigan GROWN Michigan GREAT campaign for this video!*
3. **Learn: Agricultural Biotechnology: From DNA to GMOs**
Want to teach students more about genetics or DNA? Use this [set of lessons](#) to build models of DNA, introduce traits and heredity or demonstrate natural selection. Or, check out [these lessons](#) including the history, nutrition or more science about wheat!

Still have questions about plant breeding and genetics? Check out these websites:

[GMO Answers](#)

[U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance](#)

[Center for Food Integrity](#)

Still want more lessons about other agricultural concepts?

[Check out our website](#) and search the curriculum matrix in the educator section! Create your own binder and save lessons for future use or download. Search by content area, grade level or agricultural item.