

Fun at the Park

Goal: To help students understand how important agriculture is to our daily lives...since every day we need what farms and farmers produce in order to eat and stay healthy and to make various items that help us stay active.

- 1) Students sit in the desks. There is a red checked picnic cloth set out on the side table. There is a picnic basket /sports net on the cloth, and in it are many food / sport items.

There are 2 signs, Plant and Animal in front of the basket.

The teacher talks a bit about summertime and going on a picnic at the park. We all love to go to the park and we all love to have something to eat when we get there. We also enjoy playing various games. Today we are going to look at the items in our basket and our bag of equipment and see if we can find out where they came from other than from the store.

The teacher shows each of the items in the picnic basket. The first question is “Do you think this item comes from a Plant or Animal?” Have we any idea what kind of plant or animal it came from?

The item is placed in front of the label, and together the students and the teacher discuss where they think each comes from.

Suggestions:

Picnic Basket / Straw Hat – Wheat Straw – Plant

Buns – Wheat Flour – Plant

Butter – Cream – Cows – Animal

Cheese – Milk – Cows or Goats or Sheep – Animal

Hard Boiled Egg – Chicken – Birds (Animal)

Fruit – Tree or Shrub or Vine – Plant

Cotton Table Napkins – Cotton – Plant

Marshmallows – Gelatin – Hoofs, Horns, Hides, Bones of Cows – Animals

Chocolate Bar – Sugar and Cocoa – Plants

Crayons – Glycerin from the Fats in Cattle – Animal

Baseball Glove – Soft Leather made from Pigskin – Animal

Suntan Lotion – Canola Oil – Plant

Soccer Ball – Hide – Cow – Animal

Skipping Rope – Cotton – Plant

The teacher says...

“All of the products in the picnic basket are the result of an activity that man has been doing for thousands of years.

Does anyone know what that activity is?

Or

“Agriculture is... (and the students brainstorm what they think agriculture is). The teacher writes down or discusses their definitions, and on the overhead or on a piece of cardboard is the definition.

“Agriculture is a word used to describe what people do when they use the land or water to grow plants, or to raise animals, birds or fish for food and other products.”

“We have seen lots of these products in our picnic basket. Let’s find out more about agriculture and where we can find things that have come from agriculture by looking at these really cool pictures on the desks.”

- 2) The students read the “Where’s Agriculture?” brochures on the desks. The students are given a few minutes to familiarize themselves with the map that is in the brochure. They are then challenged to find articles in the scenes to see that agricultural products are found throughout the community.

Teacher: Can you find the following items (listed on the next page)? Can you tell me if it came from a plant or an animal?

The teacher continues in this vein for a few more questions. The teacher has the answers beside him/her.

- 3) As a class, brainstorm a list of students’ favorite fruit, vegetable or meat. On the paper provided, students draw where their favorite fruit, vegetable or meat comes from and label and color the parts – create a flow chart.

Ex: Favorite Fruit – Cherry Tomatoes

- Tomato plant
- Underground roots
- Vine

What the kids are learning is how important agriculture is to our daily lives – we may not think that farms and farmers are important because we don’t see them every day...but...since every day we need what they produce in order to eat and stay healthy and to make various items that help us stay active...they must be really important to all of us.

Please go over this connection with the students, by asking them, “How is agriculture important to our daily lives?”

- 4) The students share the animals/plants that they have drawn with the rest of the class, either by going on a walk around or by presenting a show and tell.

Can You Find The Following Items??

(The connection to agriculture is in italics below each item)

Camera

Film made from gelatin in the cattle bones

Leather Boots

Leather comes from animal hides (hogs, cattle, ostrich or bison)

Tennis Racket

Strings made from sheep intestines

Airplane

Plane de-icer from canola

Diaper

Made with cornstarch

Insulation

Made from corn and wheat straw

Shaving Cream

Made from cattle fat

Pillow

Stuffed with turkey feathers or goose down

Kitchen countertop and cupboards

Made from particle board which contains wheat straw

Candles

Made from beeswax

Fishing pole

Hooks made from rooster feathers

Briefcase

Made from cow or pig hides

Bicycle

Bicycle tires manufactured using fatty acids from cattle

Letters (mail)

Paper made from wheat straw

Potato starch used for sizing paper

Ink made from flax and canola oil

BMW door panels

Made from flax fibre

Hand prints in cement

Sugar helps cement dry slowly

Fireworks

Made from corn

Gas Pump

Ethanol gasoline made from grain