

SOCIAL STUDIES & AGRICULTURE

Lessons and resources for grades 6-8



Iowa Agriculture
Literacy Foundation



Agriculture is a topic that students can easily connect to because they encounter it often. Nearly everything we eat, wear, use -- even the fuel that powers the cars and buses we ride in -- comes from plants and animals grown on farms. Agriculture provides perfect real-world connections and makes learning relevant to students.

Agriculture connections in social studies are abundant! Agriculture relates to **geography** (What do farmers grow where and why? How does this impact a society's cuisine, clothing, and shelter?), **economics** (How does supply and demand change the prices we pay at the grocery store? Can consumer preference, technology, and even weather impact the global economy?), and **history** (Why did people choose to settle in Iowa? What knowledge of raising crops and livestock did they bring? How has technology on farms changed over time?).

FEATURED 6-8 LESSONS

Food Systems

- [Source Search](#) (products from farms & natural resources)
- [Food Systems Feed the World](#) (food systems, cultural differences, and scarcity)
- [More Than One Grain of Rice](#) (economics and geography of rice production)
- [Serious Cereal Science](#) (economics & geography of cereal grains)
- [AgVenture: Sourcing Ag Careers](#) (careers in the supply chain)
- [Farm-to-Fork in Augmented Reality](#) (educating consumers about the production chain)
- [Journey 2050](#) (Sustainability ability as it relates to plant health, water, and more. Seven lesson unit.)

Economics & Government

- [Supply & Demand](#)
- [What's for Lunch? Bartering & Health](#) (Food choices around the world)
- [Supply & Demand: What if?](#)
- [Iowa Hog Lift: International Diplomacy](#) (history, supply & demand, and trade)
- [Let's Vote On It!](#) (government, economics & food production)

Cultures, Immigration, & Migration

- [Beginnings of Agriculture](#) (history & geography)
- [How Agriculture Ended the Stone Age](#) (history & geography)
- [From Foraging to Farming](#) (agriculture & the development of societies)
- [Hunger and Malnutrition](#) (cultures, geography, & scarcity)

(contd.)

Geography

- [How Much Is Dirt Worth?](#) (land use)
- [Geography and Climate for Agricultural Landscapes](#) (U.S. food production)
- [Google Earth on the Range](#) (land use change over time)
- [The Geography of Thanksgiving Dinner](#) (U.S. geography)

Technology & Change

- [Impact of Railroads in Iowa](#) (history & geography)
- [Father of the Green Revolution](#) (Norman Borlaug's impact)
- [King Cotton](#) (cotton, history & culture)
- [The Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods](#) (history & geography)
- [The QUEST for the Whole Enchilada](#) (The Columbian Exchange, food production today)
- [Wheat: Ancient and Ageless](#) (wheat cultivation in ancient Egypt; today's harvest technology)
- [High-Tech Farming](#) (agriculture technology of yesterday, today & tomorrow)

WHERE DOES AGRICULTURE FIT INTO THE IOWA CORE STANDARDS?

6th Grade:

- SS.6.15. Distinguish how varying economic systems impact a nation and its citizens.
- SS.6.16. Utilize and construct geographic representations to explain and analyze regional, environmental, and cultural characteristics.
- SS.6.17. Analyze and explain the cultural, physical, and environmental characteristics of places and regions and how this affects the life of the people who live there.
- SS.6.18. Explain how changes in transportation, communication, and technology influence the movement of people, goods, and ideas in various countries.
- SS.6.19. Explain how global changes in population distribution patterns affect changes in land use in particular countries or regions.
- SS.6.20. Analyze connections among historical events and developments in various geographic and cultural contexts.
- SS.6.22. Explain multiple causes and effects of events and developments in the past.
- SS.6.23. Compare Iowa's geography, natural resources and climate to other regions of the world.
- SS.6.24. Explain how personal financial decisions are influenced by an individual's interpretation of needs and wants.

(contd.)

FEATURED RESOURCE

Iowa Ag Today, middle school series



The middle school Iowa Ag Today series currently has three issues: Culture and Society (social studies focus), Science in Agriculture, and Food and Agriculture (Family and Consumer Science focus). Magazines are written at a 7th grade reading level and come in packs of 25 with a teacher guide included. Email info@iowaagliteracy.org to request packs.

7th Grade:

- SS.7.13. Identify social, political and economic factors that can influence our thoughts and behavior.
- SS.7.15. Distinguish and apply the powers and responsibilities of global citizens, interest groups and the media in a variety of governmental and nongovernmental contexts.
- SS.7.16. Examine the origins, purposes, and impact of laws, treaties, and international agreements.
- SS.7.18. Explain and evaluate how economic decisions affect the wellbeing of individuals, businesses, and society.
- SS.7.19. Explain how external benefits, costs, supply and demand, and competition influence market prices, wages, and outcomes.
- SS.7.20. Investigate the impact of trade policies and barriers on a nation and its citizens.
- SS.7.21. Evaluate the push and pull factors involved in human population movement and patterns.
- SS.7.22. Explain how the relationship between the environmental characteristics of places and production of goods influences the spatial patterns of world trade.
- SS.7.23. Explain how global changes in population distribution patterns affect changes in land use in particular areas.
- SS.7.24. Analyze connections among historical events and developments in contemporary global issues.
- SS.7.25. Explain how and why perspectives on various contemporary issues have changed over time.
- SS.7.26. Explain multiple causes and effects of various contemporary global events and developments.
- SS.7.27. Analyze the role that Iowa plays in contemporary global issues.

8th Grade:

- SS.8.13. Explain the powers and responsibilities of citizens, political parties, and the media in a variety of governmental and nongovernmental contexts.
- SS.8.15. Evaluate how economic decisions affect the wellbeing of individuals, businesses, and society.
- SS.8.16. Analyze the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in institutions throughout early American history in a market economy.
- SS.8.17. Use historical evidence to evaluate the state of regional economies throughout early American history.
- SS.8.18. Explain how the physical and human characteristics of places and regions influence culture.
- SS.8.19. Explain how push and pull factors contributed to immigration and migration in early American history.
- SS.8.20. Explain how global interconnections influenced early American history.

The Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation serves as a central resource for educators and volunteers who want to teach Iowa's students about agriculture. Information about additional resources, including grants, professional development, and outreach opportunities is available at: www.iowaagliteracy.org.