

SOCIAL STUDIES & AGRICULTURE

Lessons and resources for grades 3-5



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?), 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 3-5 LESSONS

Producing Goods & Services

- [Source Search](#) (products from farms and natural resources)
- [Corn: Seed to Cereal](#) (sequencing steps in growing and processing corn)
- [Right this Very Minute](#) (diagramming the path of production of various products)
- [Animals in Iowa](#) (livestock production in Iowa)
- [By-Product Riddle](#) (uses of Midwest crops)
- [Iowa Specialty Crops – Apples](#) (Iowa history and geography)
- [Many Hats of an Iowa Farmer](#) (job of a farmer, agriculture careers & technology in farming)

Economics: Resources, Cost & Trade

- [Pigs & Pork: Resources from Farm to Fork](#) (natural, physical, and human resources)
- [How much is dirt worth?](#) (natural resources in food production)
- [Supply & Demand](#)
- [Avian Influenza – Supply & Demand](#)

- [Bartering Through the Seasons](#) (wants & needs, supply & demand, trade)
- [That was Then, This is Now](#) (food prices, change over time)
- [By Land, Air & Sea](#) (transportation)

Cultures & Migration

- [Cultures, Food & Communities Around the World](#)
- [Eggs in the World of Food Choices](#) (egg uses around the world)

Technology & Change

- [Farm Machines Then & Now](#) (comparing technology used to grow and harvest corn)
- [History of Iowa Agriculture](#) (a timeline of Iowa Agricultural History)
- [Family Farms Then & Now](#) (changes in farms & farming)
- [From Soybeans to Car Parts](#) (Henry Ford's innovative uses of soybeans)
- [Vintage Barn Designs](#) (uses & cultural influences on barn design)

WHERE DOES AGRICULTURE FIT INTO THE IOWA CORE STANDARDS?

3rd Grade:

- SS.3.13. Identify how people use natural resources, human resources, and physical capital to produce goods and services.
- SS.3.15. Analyze why and how individuals, businesses, and nations around the world specialize and trade.
- SS.3.21. Use map evidence to explain how human settlements and movements relate to the locations and use of various regional landforms and natural resources.
- SS.3.28. Explain the cultural contributions that different groups have made on Iowa.

4th Grade:

- SS.4.10. Describe how societies have changed in the past and continue to change.
- SS.4.12. Using historical and/or local examples, explain how competition has influenced the production of goods and services.
- SS.4.14. Explain the reasons why the costs of goods and services rise and fall.
- SS.4.17. Create a geographic representation to illustrate how the natural resources in an area affect the decisions people make.
- SS.4.18. Describe how environmental and cultural characteristics influence population distribution in specific places or regions.
- SS.4.25. Analyze the impact of technological changes in Iowa, across time and place.
- SS.4.26. Explain how Iowa's agriculture has changed over time.

5th Grade:

- SS.5.13. Describe how goods and services are produced and distributed domestically and globally.
- SS.5.15. Explain how trade impacts relationships between countries.

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.

FEATURED RESOURCE

Iowa Ag Today elementary series



Written at a fourth-grade reading level, these non-fiction magazines are aligned to Iowa Core Standards. Each pack of 25 comes with a teacher guide. Order or view online at iowaagliteracy.org.