

SOCIAL STUDIES & AGRICULTURE

Lessons and resources for grades 9-12



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 9-12 LESSONS

Economics

- [Filling the Global Grocery Bag](#) (global food economics)
- [Global Food Security](#) (hunger: causes and solutions)
- [Global Trade and Interdependence](#) (economic impacts of the Columbian Exchange)
- [Weighing in on Egg Labels, Supply, and Demand](#) (supply & demand, consumer choices)

Geography

- [Agricultural Land Use](#) (land use & conservation practices)
- [Herbs and Spices of the World](#)
- [Agricultural Production Regions in the United States](#) (crops, livestock & land

use)

- [Geography and Climate for Agricultural Landscapes](#)
- [Evaluating GMO Perspectives](#)
- [Surrounded by Plants](#) (plant uses & USDA hardiness zones)

U.S. History

- [From Boom to Dust](#) (Agriculture & the Great Depression, Dust Bowl, & the New Deal)
- [Growing a Nation Era 1: Seeds of Change](#) (agriculture & history 1600-1929)
- [Growing a Nation Era 2: From Defeat to Victory](#) (agriculture & history 1930 to 1949)
- [Growing a Nation Era 3: Prosperity and](#)

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- [Challenges](#) (agriculture & history 1950 to 1969)
- [Growing a Nation Era 4: Into a New Millennium](#) (agriculture & history 1970 to 2000)
- [Growing a Nation Era 5: Playing by the Rules](#) (agriculture technology from 2001 to present)
- [Growing a Nation Era 5: Growing Technology](#) (agriculture & mobile Apps)
- [King Cotton](#) (cotton, history & culture)
- [The Cattle Drive and Westward Expansion](#) (population growth & cattle drives in the 1880's)

World History

- [The Columbian Exchange of Old and New World Foods](#) (impact of the Columbian exchange)

Technology & Change

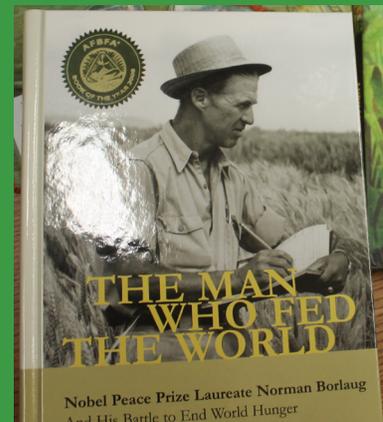
- [Father of the Green Revolution](#) (Norman Borlaug's impact)
- [FARMLAND: Family Farming](#) (U.S. Farm size, technology & population growth)
- [GMO Decisions](#) (Technology & Good Production)
- [Managing the Threat – Soybean Aphids](#) (Careers, Innovation, & Agriculture)

Food Issues

- Journey 2050 (Sustainability ability as it relates to food production, natural resources, economics, and more)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 1: Introduction to Sustainable Agriculture](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 2: Plant Health](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 3: Water](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 4: Economy](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 5: Land Use](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 6: Careers for 2050 and Beyond!](#)
 - [Journey 2050 Lesson 7: Technology and Innovations](#)
- [Research, Debate, and Persuade: Food Issues](#)
- [Looking Under the Label](#) (Evaluating food choices using claim, evidence, and reasoning)
- [The Role of Women in Agriculture](#) (global numbers & impact)

FEATURED RESOURCE

Non-fiction Lending Library titles



IALF has a selection of books, kits, and materials that are free for educators to borrow. In this collection are several non-fiction books that can be used for class projects, book reports, research, or more.

Find the full list of resources, including titles like *The Man Who Fed the World*, *Seeds for Change*, *Outside In: African-American History in Iowa*, at www.iowaagliteracy.org. Email info@iowaagliteracy.org to request materials.

WHERE DOES AGRICULTURE FIT INTO THE IOWA CORE STANDARDS?

Economics & Financial Literacy

- SS-Econ.9-12.13. Apply the concept of scarcity when making economic decisions.
- SS.5.15. Explain how trade impacts relationships between countries.
- SS-Econ.9-12.14. Use cost-benefit analysis to argue for or against an economic decision.
- SS-Econ.9-12.15. Analyze what goes into determining, and who determines, what is produced and distributed in a market system.
- SS-Econ.9-12.16. Describe how changes in the level of competition can affect price and output levels in specific markets.
- SS-Econ.9-12.17. Explain how changes in supply and demand cause changes of goods and services, labor, credit, and foreign currencies.
- SS-Econ.9-12.18. Evaluate the effectiveness of government policies altering market outcomes.
- SS-Econ.9-12.19. Describe the roles of institutions such as clearly defined property rights and the rule of law in a market economy.
- SS-Econ.9-12.21. Explain why advancements in technology and investments in capital goods and human capital increase economic growth and standards of living.
- SS-Econ.9-12.22. Explain the role of specialization in trade.
- SS-FL.9-12.14. Evaluate entrepreneurship, career choices and the effect on the standard of living.

Geography

- SS-Geo.9-12.13. Employ maps to display and explain the spatial patterns of human and environmental characteristics.
- SS-Geo.9-12.14. Integrate multiple geographic representations to explain relationships between the locations of places and regions and their political, cultural, and economic dynamics.
- SS-Geo.9-12.15. Use geographic data to analyze variations in the spatial patterns of human and/or environmental characteristics at multiple scales.
- SS-Geo.9-12.16. Analyze relationships and interactions within and between human and physical systems to explain reciprocal influences.
- SS-Geo.9-12.17. Analyze how environmental and cultural characteristics of various places and regions influence political and economic decisions.
- SS-Geo.9-12.18. Evaluate the impact of human settlement activities on the environmental and cultural characteristics of specific places and regions.

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FEATURED RESOURCE

Journey 2050
online game and
curriculum



Journey 2050 is a seven-lesson unit covering global sustainability in food production. Lessons also include online gameplay to reinforce learning.

- SS-Geo.9-12.19. Analyze the reciprocal relationship between historical events and the spatial diffusion of ideas, technologies, cultural practices and the distribution of human population.
- SS-Geo.9-12.22. Evaluate how economic globalization and the expanding use of scarce resources contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among countries.
- SS-Geo.9-12.23. Analyze the consequences of human-made and natural catastrophes on global trade, politics, and human migration.
- SS-Geo.9-12.24. Identify and evaluate lowans or groups of lowans who have influenced Iowa's environmental or cultural geography.

U.S. History

- SS-US.9-12.16. Examine labor and governmental efforts to reform and/or maintain a capitalistic economic system in the Great Depression.
- SS-US.9-12.17. Explain the patterns of and responses to immigration on the development of American culture and law.
- SS-US.9-12.18. Analyze the effects of urbanization, segregation, and voluntary and forced migration within regions of the U.S. on social, political, and economic structures.
- SS-US.9-12.20. Analyze the growth of and challenges to U.S. involvement in the world in the post-World War II era.
- SS-US.9-12.21. Analyze change, continuity and context across eras and places of study from civil war to modern America.
- SS-US.9-12.22. Evaluate the impact of inventions and technological innovations on the American society and culture.
- SS-US.9-12.27. Evaluate lowans or groups of lowans who have influenced U.S. History.

World History

- SS-WH.9-12.13. Describe the impact of culture and institutions on societies.
- SS-WH.9-12.15. Compare and contrast various economic and labor systems within and across societies.
- SS-WH.9-12.16. Examine the ways in which trade, commerce, and industrialization affected societies.
- SS-WH.9-12.17. Evaluate the consequences of human made and natural catastrophes on global trade, politics, and human migration.
- SS-WH.9-12.18. Assess impact of conflict and diplomacy on international relations.
- SS-WH.9-12.19. Explain the influence of human migrations on patterns of settlement and culture.
- SS-WH.9-12.25. Determine multiple and complex causes and effects of historical events within world history.
- SS-WH.9-12.26. Assess lowans or groups of lowans who have influenced world 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.