Fantastic Fact:
It takes five to seven years for a pear tree to produce fruit.

LAST CHANCE!
AITC CONFERENCE

Calling all foodies and agricultural literacy lovers, we're hitting the Farm to Fork capital, Sacramento, for our California Agriculture in the Classroom Conference.

This year's event coincides with Sacramento's Farm to Fork Festival, and we have new and exciting events surrounding this collaboration.

Highlights will include:
Farmer panel
Author panel
Field trips to see agriculture in action
Western BBQ
Interactive Make 'N Take sessions
Exciting guest speakers

This conference is designed for PreK-12 educators, administrators, and volunteers to come together and exchange ideas on effectively integrating food and fiber into every facet of the curriculum.

Limited scholarships are still available.

*Hotel block closes today, September 5th!*

REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE HERE
The Imagine this...Story Writing Contest is open and it's awesome.

Here's why students in grades 3 through 8 should enter:

The opportunity to be a published author!

Their name in lights on the State Assembly floor and a tour of the capitol.

Winning students receive an e-reader!

All-transportation paid trip to the state capitol for the Imagine this... ceremony in March 2024. Parents and teachers included.

Want inspiration? Check out this article-about last year's winning authors.

Encourage your students to write stories based on California agriculture. Find out more here and submit stories with the click of a button, below.

Deadline: November 1

Online submissions are now accepted.

JOURNEY WITH US....

Introduce your class to the immersive virtual farming simulation, Journey 2050! Hold onto your hats because we've got some big news – say hello to the newest farming family, the Van Löben Sels from Northern California!

In Journey 2050, your students will cultivate virtual farms in Kenya, India, and
then opt for Canada or the US as their final farming destination. With the Van Löben Sels joining the Journey 2050 universe, students gain exposure to brand-new crops, investment opportunities, and farm management practices.

Play the game, access educational resources at www.journey2050.com, and let the learning begin!

Let’s start with the basics: What is your favorite California commodity?
Almonds, as they are my go-to, high-energy snack!

How long have you been teaching students about agriculture?
Agriculture is in the first-grade state standards, so I have been teaching about agriculture for twenty years. I have been using Ag in the Classroom resources for three years, I love them.

What is your favorite AITC program, resource, or event, and why?
I have enjoyed the Taste and Teach program. I love the fact that I can purchase food and bring it into the classroom. The students look forward to those activities. They of course love it when their favorite fruit comes in!

Describe an agriculture-based project you have been involved with lately.
Recently, Morgan Oliveira, our local dairy princess, came into the class to do a...
A presentation on agriculture in our community. The students were engaged and learned so much. She brought some hands-on activities that correlated with her discussion topic.

**Do you have any advice for other teachers on how to implement agriculture into their classrooms?**

Just dive into it. Something such as Taste and Teach is easy to follow and very informative. I even learned so much about food and how it grows worldwide.

**Any Ag-ha moments in your classroom? Where agriculture came alive for your students?**

There have been some ag-ha moments when it comes to tasting foods through the Taste and Teach program. The texture of some of the foods can really throw some students off!

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**Featured Resource**

Get ready for a buzz-worthy lesson all about honeybees and their magical world of wax!

In this NEW lesson from the Honeybee Discovery Center, students learn about the fascinating role of honeybees in constructing their hives using wax. Guess what? Just like how plants need energy for growth, bees need it too! To reinforce the concepts, students in grades TK-3 engage in a hands-on activity of rolling beeswax candles following an interactive video presentation.

Find it all [HERE!](#)

P.S. If your class is as excited as a bee in a field of flowers about this lesson, be sure to visit the Honeybee Discovery Center in Orland, CA! With interactive exhibits, buzzing bees, and sweet honey to taste, this is a field trip you won’t want to miss.

**FIND THE RESOURCE HERE!**
LITERACY FOR LIFE GRANTS

Eager to start a new project-or expand on an existing one? Apply for the Literacy for Life Grant.

Grants of up to $500 are provided to California educators to support the integration of agriculture into regular classroom instruction.

Deadline: October 2, 2023

CA Ag in the Classroom Conference
September 22-24, 2023
Sacramento, CA

From Farm to Fork Festival fun to incredible field trips and guest speakers, we are planning a conference to remember. Join us in the Golden State’s capitol region in September!
Register HERE.

2023 Conservation Speak-Off Competition
Submission Deadline: October 12, 2023

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts hosts an annual Conservation Education Speak-Off – a competition for high school students to address conservation topics. Students first compete at the regional level by submitting their speech via video, with the top speakers advancing to the state competition. There are cash prizes at both the regional and state levels. Students with an interest in public speaking and a passion for agriculture, resource conservation or the environment are encouraged to participate. Find out more: HERE.

Imagine this... Story Writing Contest
Submission Deadline: November 1, 2023

Could your student be our next published author? The Imagine this... Story Writing Contest is for students in grades 3-8 who
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forestry Challenge</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shasta Forestry Challenge</td>
<td>September 27 to 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Cruz Forestry Challenge</td>
<td>October 11 to 14</td>
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<td>El Dorado Forestry Challenge</td>
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<td>San Bernardino Forestry Challenge</td>
<td>Session 1 - November 8 to 11</td>
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<td>San Bernardino Forestry Challenge</td>
<td>Session 2 - November 15 to 18</td>
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The Forestry Challenge is an academic event for high school students in technical forestry and current forestry topics.

Participants spend four days in the forest learning about the ecology and management of the forested landscapes that provide communities with water, recreational opportunities, wood products, and wildlife habitat. Youth benefit by better understanding the relationship of the forested environment to their community. Find out more [HERE](https://www.forestrychallenge.org).

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Help us continue providing FREE programs and materials that create an awareness and understanding of agriculture among California's educators and students.

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