

**Overview:** You are participating in the Colorado Literacy Project – an opportunity to teach and show Colorado students (K-4th grade) about agriculture in Colorado, and around the world. This year we are focusing on history and innovation in agriculture.

**Book:** *John Deere, That's Who!* by Tracy Nelson Maurer, illustrated by Tim Zeltner  
This non-fiction book shares about the life of John Deere, a blacksmith from the 1830s who designed the steel plow to help farmers work their fields more efficiently. His invention changed the face of farming forever, and his company is still a leader in the farming equipment industry today. Your class gets to keep the book!

**Time:** 30-45 minutes

#### Education Standards:

The book reading, and lesson meet National Agriculture Literacy Standards as well as Colorado State Academic Standards for Reading, Writing and Communication.

#### National Agriculture Literacy Outcomes:

Culture, Society, Economy & Geography: Explain how agricultural events and inventions affect how Americans live today (T5.3-5.c)

Science, Technology, Engineering & Math: Compare simple tools to complex modern machines used in agricultural systems to improve efficiency and reduce labor. (T4.3-5.a)

#### Colorado State Academic Standards:

##### Reading, Writing and Communicating

*3rd grade: Standard 2 Reading for All Purposes*

2.2 Comprehension strategies are necessary when reading informational or persuasive text  
2.2.a.i Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. (CCSS: RI.3.1)

*4th grade: Standard 2 Reading for All Purposes*

2.2 Comprehension and fluency matter when reading informational and persuasive texts in a fluent way  
2.2.a.iii . Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text. (CCSS: RI.4.3)

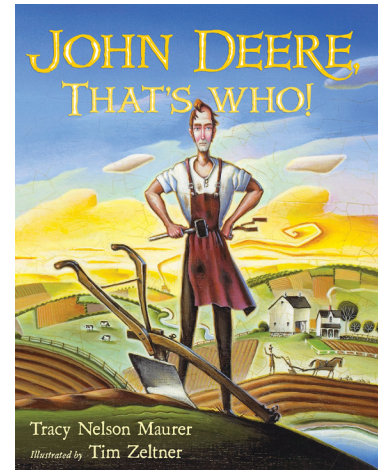
##### Social Studies

*3th grade History*

1.2.c Give examples of people and events, and developments that brought important changes to a community or region (DOK 1-2)

*4th grade History*

1.2.d Describe the impact of various technological developments. (DOK 1-2)



#### Additional activities and resources

Optional additional activities and resources associated with the book "John Deere, That's Who!" are available on the National Agriculture Literacy Curriculum Matrix. Feel free to explore these items by searching for the titles on the Curriculum Matrix found at [www.GrowingYourFuture.com](http://www.GrowingYourFuture.com).

#### Book: John Deere's Powerful Idea: The Perfect Plow

John Deere's farm equipment brand is famous around the world, but people may not know the story behind the man himself. Deere's humble blacksmith beginnings and a simple plow eventually led to massive success, but it wasn't easy. The story behind the name will give readers new appreciation for the popular green tractors and equipment around today.

**Website: The History of the Tractor** How much thought have you given to the great American tractor? If you have food on your table, you have the tractor to thank for it. This website outlines the history and timeline of the tractor and how it has revolutionized farming.

**Website: Tractor Timeline- A History of Tractors** Use this interactive tractor timeline to learn about the history of tractors. Dive into the history of tractor development and see how the evolution of these farm implements has changed how we farm and made it possible to increase our crop yields. Go to: [www.fastline.com/tractortimeline](http://www.fastline.com/tractortimeline)