

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.

Time: 30-45 minutes

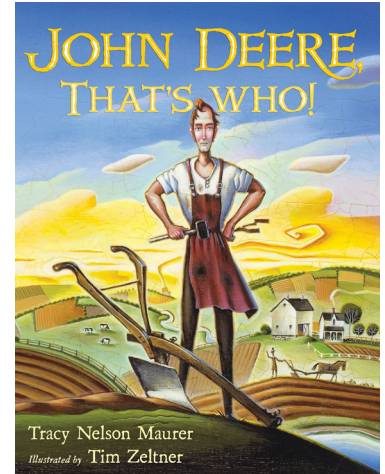
Materials Needed:

- Bring photos/artifacts of your farm and family, if you have any (especially if they are relevant to the story!)
- *John Deere, That's Who!* book (CFA will send you enough copies of the book for each class to keep.)
- Access to a white board and markers

Lesson Outline:

This lesson was adapted from the National Agricultural Literacy Curriculum lesson titled "John Deere, That's Who!"

1. Introduce yourself by sharing pictures/artifacts of your farm and family. Tell the students a little bit about yourself and what type of farm you have. Let them know how you interact with farming equipment.
2. Introduce the book *John Deere, That's Who!*, by showing the front cover and reading the title. Ask: "Have you ever heard of John Deere before? What do you see on the front cover?"
3. Pre-reading activity
 - a. Write Producer on the white board. Ask the students, "Do you know what it means to produce something?" and "What is a producer? Who would be an example of a producer?" Explain that producers can produce either a good or a service. As they are giving you answers, briefly write their answers under the word "Producers" on the white board.
 - b. Now do the same for "consumers." Write Consumers on the white board and record their answers to the same questions. Explain that consuming means buying a good or service from producers. Producers provide goods or services and consumers buy or use those goods and services.
 - c. Ask the students about various people in the community. (i.e. carpenter, police man, baker). "Do these people produce goods or services for us? Who are the consumers of these producers?"



4. Read the book. Explain words they might not be familiar with as you read. (Most of these words are listed in the glossary at the back of the book.)

- Plow
- Blacksmith
- Forge
- Till
- Debt
- Smithy
- Calico
- Steel

5. Check for understanding.

- a. On the white board, write *John Deere, That's Who!* Ask the students: "Who is the producer in the story? Who is the consumer? Can someone be a producer and a consumer?" Discuss these questions and record their answers on the white board.
- b. Ask the students, "Are you a producer or a consumer? What do you consume? Do you produce anything?"

6. Summary.

"I learned...What did you learn?"

If time allows, have younger students (K-1st) draw a picture about what they learned. Older students could write a sentence about what they learned and what they still want to know about farming.

7. Closing

Thank the students and teacher for allowing you to come visit their classroom. Leave the book, Teacher's Guide, CFA flyer, and the Food, Fiber and More Summer AgriCULTURE Institute information for the teacher.

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.

Lesson Plan: John Deere, That's Who! Students will explore how producers and consumers work together to meet human needs by using the book *John Deere, That's Who!*

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.



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The Colorado Foundation for Agriculture is a 501(c)3 non-profit education corporation. Our vision is to advance agricultural literacy in the next generation of consumers, citizens, and professionals. Our mission is connecting Colorado educators and students to their food, fiber, fuel, and natural resources.