



2024 Colorado Literacy Project Program Guide

Seed, Sprout, Spice! All About Pueblo Chiles

Overview: Thank you for participating in the Colorado Literacy Project - an opportunity to bring agriculture to students, while reinforcing multiple

academic standards. Again this year, we are proud to use a new children's book, written and published specifically for this Literacy Project. This is a FREE program from Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom (CoAITC). A special thank you to all our sponsors for making this program possible.

Book and Sponsors: *Seed, Sprout Spice! All About Pueblo Chiles*, was written by Rachel Allnutt, illustrated by Sierra Linke, and published by Knecht Media LLC. This project was made possible by support from Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom, the USDA through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program administered by the Colorado Department of Agriculture, the Pueblo Chile Growers Association, the Pueblo Food Project, Pueblo Seed & Food Company, and various individual donors. The book was printed by Schuster's Printing in Pueblo, Colo.

Activities and Standard Connections: Several student activities have been created to complement the book and enhance student learning. The activities will connect to P-5 Colorado Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Communicating, Visual Arts, Science, Comprehensive Health, Math, and Social Studies. Individual standards are identified on each activity sheet.

- **Try It!** - Pueblo Chile Tasting Experience
- **Plant It!** - Pueblo Chile Seed Planting Activity
- **Draw It!** - Pueblo Chile Poster Contest (Entries due 4/15)
- **Take A Trip!** - Pueblo Chile Virtual Field Trip with History Colorado (<https://youtu.be/HnuwboObTRI>)
- **Power Up!** - Pueblo Chile Nutrition Activity
- **Add It Up!** - Pueblo Chile Math Activity
- **Test It!** - Pueblo Chile Vocabulary Crossword
- **String It Up!** - Pueblo Chile Ristra Activity
- **Fun Facts** About Pueblo Chiles & historic chile recipes
- **Other Suggestions:** 1) Create a diorama of a Pueblo Chile farm or of a Farmer's Market; 2) Write a song or song parody about Pueblo Chiles; 3) Do an interpretive dance starting as a chile seed through growing, harvesting, and roasting; 4) Retell the story of chiles or write a new creative story, using the vocabulary.

Book donation: Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom is sending one FREE copy of the book for EACH participating class to keep. The books could be placed in the class or school library, or kept by the teacher as a resource for future use. CoAITC will also send one copy of the book to the volunteer to read from in front of the class. Volunteers may keep the book as a gift from CoAITC in appreciation for participating in this program.

What's in the school box? The contact person for each school/class will receive a box from CoAITC. The box includes one book for each class; frozen, diced Pueblo Chiles and paper tasting cups; Pueblo Chile seeds and planting supplies; a copy of this program guide; and copies of student activities. Feel free to make extra copies as needed.

Thank you cards: Included in the box with the books to participating schools is also a self-addressed, stamped, thank you card. Teachers are kindly asked to complete this thank you card with your students and send it to CoAITC. CoAITC will then distribute the thank you cards to the program sponsors. If CoAITC found you a guest reader, an addressed, stamped, thank you card has been included for that individual as well.

Photos: If you have the ability and permission to take photos during the visit, please do so and send them to Cyndi@CoAgClassroom.org. Photos become property of Colorado Agriculture in the Classroom, and will be sent to sponsors and used for CoAITC publication and promotional purposes.

Access to Electronic Files: All the information, files, and student activity PDFs are available in electronic format on the Literacy Project page on the CoAITC website (CoAgClassroom.org).



Use this link bit.ly/3S6iYX0 or scan this QR code for easy access to the Literacy Project page.

Read-Aloud Recording and Additional Resources: A read-aloud recording of *Seed, Sprout, Spice!* and additional video resources are also available on the Literacy Project page of the CoAITC website (CoAgClassroom.org). Feel free to view these resources prior to the classroom presentation or share with the students.

Questions/Help: Please contact Cyndi Hofmeister, CoAITC education program coordinator, at Cyndi@CoAgClassroom.org or 970-370-9005 for any questions or assistance with this program.

Scheduling Classroom Presentation Experience: It is the responsibility of the volunteer guest reader and the teacher to schedule the classroom presentation experience at a day/time that works best. We recommend the teacher and volunteer coordinate prior to the visit about the activities that will be completed during the visit and any building visitor requirements.

Completing the Classroom Reading Experience: It is recommended that the volunteer/teacher read the book prior to the visit to become familiar with the story. It is anticipated that the classroom presentation experience will take about 50-60 minutes.

Classroom Reading Experience (continued):

- 1. Google Slide presentation.** A Google Slide presentation of all the book pages has been provided to display the pages on a bigger screen (<https://bit.ly/48sM6xh>) or Literacy Project page on our website (CoAgClassroom.org). Readers may also simply hold up the book to allow students to see the illustrations.
- 2. Introductions.** Guest reader introduces themselves by telling students a little about themselves, their connection to agriculture, and, if they want, sharing any pictures/artifacts of their farm and family.
- 3. Student Pre-Survey Questions.** This project is mostly funded by a grant from the USDA/CDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. Because of this grant funding, CoAITC is required to collect simple data to include in a final report on the effectiveness of meeting the project objectives. *CoAITC is kindly asking teachers and volunteers to collect anonymous student responses using a simple oral pre- and post-test of the students. Please ask students the following questions and have students respond with either a "thumbs up" for yes or "thumbs down" for no. Count and record student responses to each question. Teachers and/or volunteers are asked to submit student responses using the Teacher/Volunteer Post-Project Survey.*
 - a. Pre-Test Student Question #1: **Are chile peppers grown in Colorado?**
 - b. Pre-Test Student Question #2: **Have you ever heard of Pueblo Chiles before today?**
 - c. Pre-Test Student Question #3: **Have you ever eaten Pueblo Chiles?**
 - d. Pre-Test Student Question #4: **Are Pueblo Chiles an important crop for Colorado agriculture?**
- 4. Vocabulary.** The vocabulary word list is provided on the Google Slides and in the back of the book. Go through the words and their definitions with students.
- 5. Introduce the book.** *Seed, Sprout, Sprout! All About Pueblo Chiles!* is exactly like the name implies - all about Pueblo Chiles. From how the Pueblo Chile plant was created, to how farmers grow chile peppers, to their heat index and more. Learn what makes Pueblo Chiles an important and special Colorado crop. The author, Rachel Allnut is a kindergarten teacher in Walden, Colorado. The illustrator, Sierra Linke, is a speech language pathologist assistant in the Moffat County School District. The publisher, McCall Knecht, grows Pueblo Chiles with her family on their farm near Pueblo. Rachel and McCall are sisters and Sierra is their cousin. *As the students listen to the story, ask them to be pondering these two questions: What do you notice? What do you wonder?*
- 6. Read the book.** Read the book slowly and in a loud clear voice. *Engage* the students by taking time to show the illustrations as you go. Point out the vocabulary words as you read. For younger students, you may have to read more slowly.
- 7. Check for understanding.** After reading the book, ask students these questions:
 - What did you notice in the story?
 - What did you wonder about the story?
 - What makes Pueblo Chiles special and unique?
 - How were Pueblo Chiles developed?
 - How do farmers grow Pueblo chiles?
 - What do you remember from the story about water?
- 8. Try It! - Pueblo Chile Tasting Experience.** Complete the tasting experience and have students complete the provided worksheet.
- 9. Student Post-Test Questions.** As with the pre-test, please ask students the following questions and record their responses or collect student responses from the Taste It! - Pueblo Chile Tasting Experience worksheet. Report student responses on the Teacher/Volunteer Post-Project Survey.
 - a. Post-Test Student Question #1: **Are chile peppers grown in Colorado?**
 - b. Post-Test Student Question #2: **Did you learn something about Pueblo Chiles today?**
 - c. Post-Test Student Question #3: **Would you eat more Pueblo Chiles in the future?**
 - d. Post-Test Student Question #4: **Are Pueblo Chiles an important crop for Colorado agriculture?**
- 10. Additional Activities.** We encourage teachers to complete the additional provided activities with their students as schedule allows. Teachers may also have students complete activity worksheets at home.

Pueblo Chile Virtual Field Trip with History Colorado:

Our friends at History Colorado present *Chile Pepper: A History*, a virtual field trip video created for this Literacy Project. Join Dr. Rachael Storm, associate curator of business and industry at History Colorado, as she shares the history of chile peppers and the Pueblo Chile in a fun and interesting way for learners of all ages to enjoy! Find this video on our YouTube channel (@coagclassroom), on the Literacy Project page on our website, or scan the code.



Teacher and Volunteer Post-Project Survey:

All teachers and volunteers are kindly asked to complete a Google Forms survey following the visit (paper copy provided, use this link <https://bit.ly/48vjm7h>, or scan this QR code). The general results will be reported for grant purposes, to sponsors, and will be used to guide future projects. You could win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card, if submitted by June 15, 2024.

