

Many Roles of a Farmer

Grade Level: 1-3

Approximate Length of Activity: One-two class periods

Objective

Teacher

1. Explain how farmers must “wear many different” hats each day.
2. Help students understand the responsibility of a farmer.

Students

1. Learn about the roles of a farmer.
2. Gain an understanding of responsibility.

Michigan Content Standards: (Social Studies) 1-C5.0.1; 1-E1.0.5; 2-G5.0.1; 3-G4.0.1

Introduction:

Farming is an occupation –a way of earning money-that requires the farmer to do many different jobs during a year, and even during a day. In some lines of work, people do the same tasks every day. For some occupations, the tasks can be very different from one day to the next or from one season to the next. Agriculture, or farming, is like that. Farmers must do many different tasks. We call that “wearing a lot of hats.”

Did You Know? One farmer can feed 144 people!

Vocabulary

- **Veterinarian**
- **Engineer**
- **Mechanic**
- **Business Manager**
- **Resource Conservationist**
- **Nutritionist**
- **Forester**
- **Soil Erosion**
- **Water Pollution**
- **Meteorologist**
- **Agronomist**
- **Diversity**

Materials Needed

- Copies of worksheets A and B
- Crayons, colored pencils
- Brass fasteners
- Scissors

Activity Outline

1. Copy worksheets A and B for each student. Students may choose a male or female farmer and discard the other. Do not copy front to back.
2. Have the students cut out the circle on worksheet A, the biggest circle on worksheet B and one of the two farmer circles.
3. Fasten them in the center with a brass fastener. Make sure the largest circle is on the bottom and smallest in on top.
4. Make sure students are able to spin all three circles separately.
5. Ask the students to find a hat on the middle circle and put it on the farmer's head, then try to find the words that best describe what the farmer does when wearing the hat.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for a farmer to have a basic understanding of all these careers?
2. What other job skills must a farmer use?
3. Do you know people in your community who specialize in any of these eight career areas?
4. Which of the jobs a farmer does is your favorite? Least favorite?
5. Which jobs are the hardest?
6. What other jobs can you think of that require people to wear so many different hats?

Answer Key for Hats

Veterinarian- Must recognize early signs of disease in animals; assist at birth of animals; administer medicine to sick animals; care for wounds and injuries.

Engineer- Must know how to plan and construct fences and buildings; build irrigation ditches and control the flow of water; design animal waste systems.

Mechanic- Must operate and maintain both simple and complicated machinery; make repairs and keep machines in good working order.

Business Manager- Must balance accounts; develop marketing strategy; sell farm produce to the market; make payments and meet payrolls; keep track of equipment, products and land.

Nutritionist- Must prepare feed rations for best growth and production of livestock.

Resource Conservationist- Must recognize kinds of trees; manage woodlots; detect fires and know the methods for controlling them; prevent soil erosion; protect water quality.

Agronomist- Must understand soil composition and determine the best fertilizer and seed for largest production; the effect of chemicals on animal and plant life.

Meteorologist- Must understand weather and climate; be aware of possible weather changes and how to prepare for these changes.

Related Activities

1. Invite agriculturally related speakers to tell students about their jobs and the many “hats” they wear.
2. Tour an agricultural facility, such as a farm or a processing plant.
3. The lesson plan “What’s My Job?” located in the social studies section of this curriculum guide.

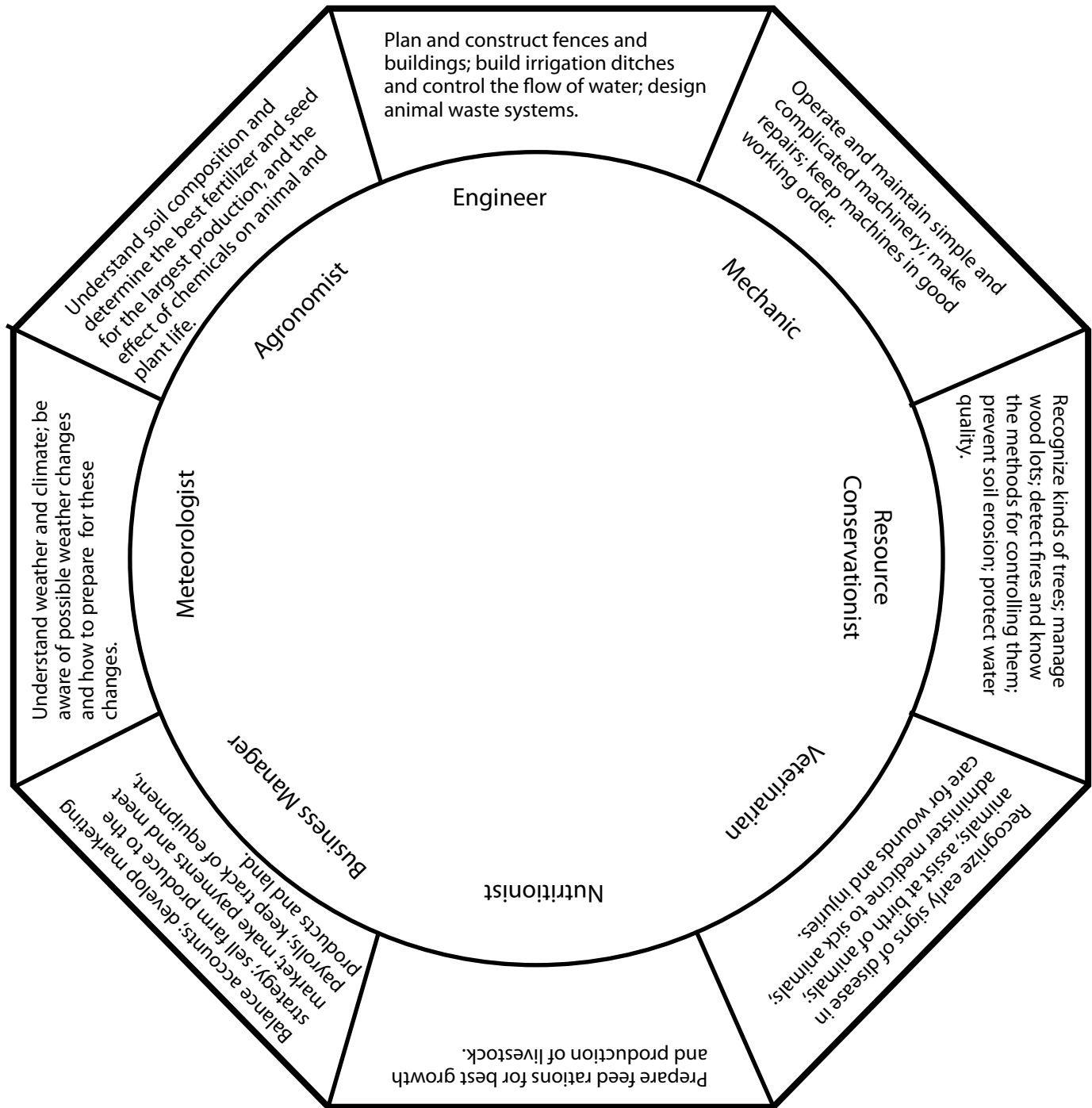
Book Resources

1. “Farming the Land: Modern Farmers and Their Machines” by Jerry Bushey
2. “The Old Farmer’s Almanac for Kids” by Robert Bailey Thomas
3. “The Wonderful World of Agricultural Careers” by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Acknowledgement: Adapted from “Many Roles of a Farmer” Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom.

Many Roles of a Farmer

Worksheet A



Many Roles of a Farmer

Worksheet B

