

Summer Reading Program

Join us for the 2025 Summer Reading Program as we explore the theme **Color Our World: Colorea Nuestro Mundo**. Dive into art and agriculture with engaging books, resources, and activities that will inspire readers of all ages.



MIAITC
Store

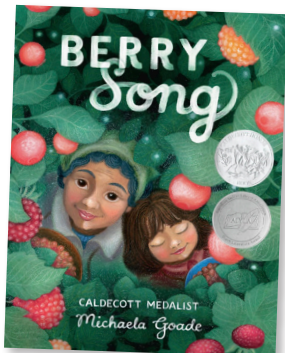
Want to find more? Visit the
Michigan Agriculture in the Classroom
store and curriculum matrix.



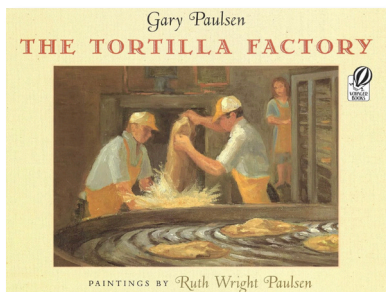
Curriculum
Matrix

Book Bundle

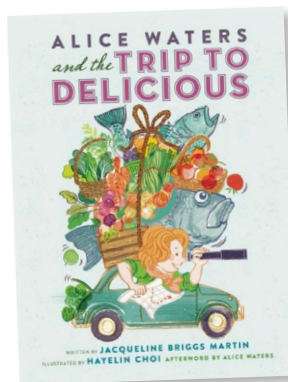
Looking for a creative way to immerse your community in the *Color Our World: Colorea Nuestro Mundo* theme? Consider featuring a vibrant collection of agriculturally accurate books that showcase the beauty of art and its deep connections to agriculture. These books highlight how creativity, farming, and culture shape our everyday lives.



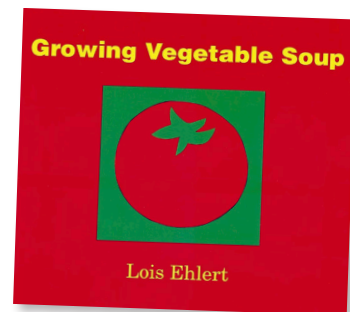
BERRY SONG
Explore the rich relationship between people, nature, and seasonal bounty through this beautifully illustrated tale.



THE TORTILLA FACTORY
Witness the transformation of simple ingredients into a beloved cultural staple, celebrating agriculture and craftsmanship.



ALICE WATERS AND THE TRIP TO DELICIOUS
Discover how one visionary chef changed the way we think about food, art, and farming.



GROWING VEGETABLE SOUP
A bright and beautiful classic about the simple pleasures of gardening from.

This curated collection connects readers of all ages to themes of creativity, cultural heritage, and the everyday wonders of agriculture. Use these books to spark conversations, inspire art projects, or host interactive reading sessions that blend storytelling and hands-on activities.

Agriculture at Home

Discover the joys of agriculture right from your backyard, windowsill, or even through resources at your local library!

LESSON:

Purpose: Students will read *Berry Song* by Michaela Goade, explore a variety of berries, learn about how and where they grow, and uncover their nutritional benefits.

Time Estimated: 1 hour

Grade Levels: 3-5



Scan to view the lesson.



Scan to view an additional lesson for K-2.



Recommended Book:
Berry Song

BUY IT HERE



Food: From Farm to You!

Learn about the connection of adventures that food takes as it goes from the farm to your home!

LESSON:

Purpose: Students will read *The Tortilla Factory* by Ruth Wright Paulsen and explore the fascinating story of corn. Through close reading, they will investigate its growth, composition, and historical significance. Activities include discussing renewable vs. non-renewable resources and experimenting with bioplastics made from corn.

Time Estimated: 1.5 hour

Grade Levels: 3-5



Scan to view the lesson.



Scan to view
an additional
lesson for K-2.



Recommended Book:
The Tortilla Factory

BUY IT HERE



Explore Plant Growth

Learn about the essential needs of a seed to germinate and the conditions required for a plant to grow, while exploring the life stages of a flowering plant!

LESSON:

Purpose: Students will read *Alice Waters and the Trip to Delicious* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin and discover the needs of a seed to germinate and the needs of a plant to grow while exploring the life stages of a flowering plant.

Time Estimated: 2 hours

Grade Levels: K-2



Scan to view the lesson.



Scan to view
an additional
lesson for 3-5.



Recommended Book:
Alice Waters and the Trip to Delicious

BUY IT HERE



A Healthy Plate

Agriculture plays a role in everyone's life, whether it's the job you may have in the future or the lunch you eat today. From farm to table, many aspects of our daily lives are connected to agriculture.

LESSON:

Purpose: Students will read *Growing Vegetable Soup* by Lois Ehlert and will categorize the foods they eat while exploring healthy eating habits.

Time Estimated: 1 hour

Grade Levels: K-2



Scan to view the lesson.



Scan to view an additional lesson for 3-5.

Recommended Book: *Growing Vegetable Soup*

BUY IT HERE -----



Activity

Set up an activity day at your local library! Check out this idea to use or come up with activities that will work best in your county!

Activity: Butter Making

Time Estimated: 40-45 minutes

Materials:

- Liquid heavy whipping cream
- Clean baby food jars (1 per group) or plastic condiment containers with lids
- Plastic spoons (optional)

Instructions:

- Prior to this activity, set up a table for each team with the listed materials.
- Note: A 1/2 cup of heavy cream will make about 1-2 tablespoons of butter. Consider preparing enough cream beforehand to give every student a taste or allow each student to make their own butter after the demonstration.
- To start off the activity, get the students thinking with these discussion questions:
 - » What is butter made from? (cream)
 - » Where does cream come from? (milk from dairy cows)
 - » How does cream turn into butter? (churning)

- Group the Class: Divide the class into teams of 2-4 students.
- Explain the Process: Explain to the students that the liquid whipping cream will change from a liquid to solid butter.
- Fill the Jars: Pour whipping cream into each baby food jar until it is half full.
- Secure the Lids: Ensure that the lids are tightly screwed on.
- Shake the Jars: Instruct students to shake the jars. Teams or groups of students can take turns shaking the jars. The butter is done when there is a mound of butter in the center and a small amount of clear liquid (buttermilk) is present.
- Discussion: After shaking, open the jars and observe the butter. Discuss the process of how the cream turned into butter through shaking.
- Taste Test: Let students spread the butter on crackers or bread and enjoy!

Following the activity, consider reading *It's Milking Time* or *Let's Make Butter*.



Scan to check out the full lesson with more dairy-related activities.

Have questions about connecting with your local library?

Contact Tonia Ritter, MFB Manager of Education & Leadership Programs at tritter@michfb.com or Katie Cooper, MFB Promotion & Education/Youth Program Specialist at kcooper@michfb.com.