

Our mission is to increase awareness and understanding of agriculture among New Jersey educators and students. You can learn more on our website

newjersey.agclassroom.org



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Earth Day is April 22.

For the past 55 years, this day has been set aside to raise environmental issues and encourage people to protect our collective home. In this newsletter, we'll highlight some simple activities that show students why it's so important to conserve our natural resources.

Lessons of the Month

The Earth As An Apple

The Earth may seem like an impossibly huge place to your students, but the small amount of land available to grow food will surprise them.

This simple activity will demonstrate to them how little land on Earth can be used for farming and start a discussion about why this land needs to be preserved. All you need is an apple and a knife.

For the K-5 lesson click [here](#).
For the 6-8 lesson, click [here](#).
For the 9-12 lesson, click [here](#).



Lessons of the Month Compost!

Looking for a schoolwide Earth Day project that doesn't take a lot of time or money? Try composting!

The organic garbage from your school's cafeteria is free, and you

Lessons of the Month

All the Water in the World

Activity suitable for all grades

This is another quick and easy activity that will give your students a striking picture of how little water on Earth is available for humans, animals, and plants.

Although almost three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water, much of that water is ocean or ice.

Get your students talking about why it's important to conserve the Earth's water and how they can help.

Click [here](#) for the complete lesson.

don't need expensive compost containers to be successful.

Our elementary lesson will show everyone how composting is done. Our middle school lesson also examines food that is made with the help of microorganisms, and the high school lesson examines food waste.

[Decomposition: How Nature Recycles](#) Grades K-5

This lesson also includes instructions on how to make to make a low-cost compost bin.

[Good Guys or Bad Guys?](#)
Grades 6-8

[Fighting Food Waste](#)
Grades 9-12

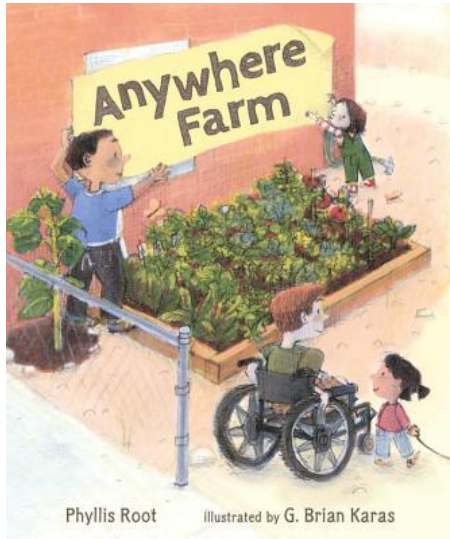


What's the Best Activity for Earth Day? Plant Something!

Agriculture doesn't show up often in the school curriculum. Kindergarteners or first graders may plant seeds at school, but after that, children rarely have a chance to see how plants grow. Yet, that's where all our food ultimately comes from.

So for Earth Day, we recommend that your students plant some edible seeds. You don't need expensive materials. You can poke holes in recycled plastic containers and buy seeds at a dollar store. Check out our *Seed Necklace* lesson that enables students to see a radish plant germinate from root to stem to leaves. Older students can forgo the necklace and watch the seeds develop in plastic bags. Click [here](#) for the lesson.



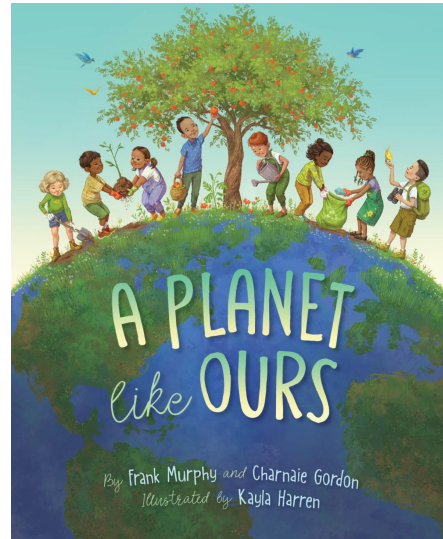


Anywhere Farm by Phyllis Root Grades PreK-2

You might think a farm means fields, tractors, and a barnyard full of animals.

But you can plant a farm anywhere you like! A box or a bucket, a boot or a pan - almost anything can be turned into a home for green, growing things.

All it takes is one small seed and someone to plant it.



A Planet Like Ours By Frank Murphy and Charnaie Gordon Grades 2-5

Earth is a planet unique in the solar system that is able to sustain and nurture life.

This book celebrates all the wonderful and astounding qualities of Earth, while teaching how to protect it for future generations.

After all, "If not us, then who?"

Meet a New Jersey Farmer

Amy Hunter Zorn of Hunter's Farm and Market

Hunter's Farm and Market in Cinnaminson, Burlington County specializes in growing sweet corn and sweet potatoes.

Tell us your farm story.

Hunter's Farm has been continuously farmed by the Hunter family since 1760. My mom, Barbara, opened our current retail market in 1993. I now run the farm market and my brother John handles the wholesale side of the business.

The market is open from mid- May to the day before Thanksgiving. We carry a full line of produce, Jersey Fresh when in season, as well as local eggs, local honey and goods from local businesses and vendors.



What is the most important thing you want the students to know, that you learned on the farm?

There is no such thing as male jobs and female jobs. We all do whatever needs to be done.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part is educating customers about what the Jersey Fresh seasons are, how things are grown, and debunking myths about agriculture.

What is your biggest challenge on your family farm?

My biggest challenge is also my favorite part of the job - educating customers about agriculture.

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