

## Instructional ideas for D75 teachers

Agricultural concepts have real-world connections to students. Teaching about agriculture can provide opportunities for students gain new knowledge and develop important skills.

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Use the [Curriculum Matrix](#) as a resource for teaching agricultural concepts. You can find over 400 lessons on the Curriculum Matrix. The Matrix is a keyword-searchable database that provides pre-K-12 educators with lesson plans and companion resources that connect agriculture to academic content. The lesson plans are standards-based and help students see the importance of agriculture in daily life.

### \*Tips

- Search the Matrix by keyword or filter results using the Advanced Search option. For a list of agricultural terms, download a spreadsheet of the Matrix vocabulary.
- Lessons can be scaled up or down depending on the needs of your students.
- Feel free to use an entire lesson or only portions of a lesson.

*\*Note: lessons can be scaled up or down and customized based on student needs. The grade levels are general.*

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**Cooking and food safety-based lessons** – cooking involves identifying ingredients, measuring, following a recipe, practicing food safety, and learning how to use cooking supplies safely.



Lesson ideas found by searching the keyword “cooking” on the Curriculum Matrix:

- [A Taste of Leafy Greens](#) Grades K-2, this lesson is good if you have a growing space and can plan out what you and students will grow. An experiential learning idea for this lesson is to coordinate a visit to a farmer’s market, urban farm, community garden, or grocery store to purchase the items.
  - [Supermarket Smarts](#) Grades 6-8, this lesson discusses the importance of food safety in retail food establishments and covers how to practice food safety at home. A similar lesson for grades 9-12, [Fast-Food Footwork](#)
  - [FoodMASTER Middle: Weights and Measures](#) Grades 6-8, this lesson uses measuring cups, a scale, and ingredients commonly found in most foods to help students understand nutrition labels. An experiential learning idea for this lesson is to invite a chef, cafeteria staff, or nutrition educator to talk about what they do for work and help with the lesson.
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**Career and entrepreneurship-based lessons** – learning career skills involves providing or developing a service or product that people can engage with, and learning how to make/create things, follow a procedure, or communicate messages. Some of the lessons identified below are project-based learning lessons which helps students explore real-world situations.

If your school has a growing space, consider if it's possible to have a fall or spring produce sale where students can participate in growing, harvesting, making posters, selling items, and collecting money. Another idea is to sell baked goods or other non-perishables that students can make.



Lesson ideas found by searching the keyword “career” on the Curriculum Matrix:

- [Let's Go Shopping!](#) Grades K-2, this lesson helps students understand needs and wants, goods and services, and producers and consumers and has students participate in a grocery store simulation. An experiential learning idea for this lesson is to coordinate a visit to a grocery store to explore the concepts in the lesson. A similar lesson for grades 3-5, [Let's Go Shopping!](#)
- [Energy Bar Exploration](#) Grades 6-8, this is a project-based learning lesson where students make an energy bar and create a plan to market the bar to a target audience.
- [Mind Your Own Beeswax](#) Grades 6-8, this is a project-based learning lesson that helps students understand beeswax as a byproduct of honeybees, provides instructions on how to make a beeswax product and develop a marketing plan for selling the product.

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**Art in the Garden – but not just the garden! Arts and crafts are creative and fun ways to make things plus build fine motor skills, self-esteem, and more.**

- [Art in the Garden](#) - Found on the New York Agriculture in the Classroom website

For many of these lessons in Art in the Garden, the materials can be acquired via donations or purchased online or from a local store.

- [My Little Seed House and Seed Book](#), Grades K-2
- [Shape, Form, and Function in the Garden](#)
- [Flower Power](#), Grades 3-5



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**Gardening-based instruction** – gardening and tending to plants helps students learn skills and competencies including how to plant, what plants need to grow, how to harvest, and how to use what they harvest. Other benefits are sensory awareness, gratification from effort, patience, responsibility, and more.

[School Garden Center](#)

**Instruction on hatching chicks** – similar to gardening, caring for animals can help students build many skills and competencies.

[Hatching Science Center](#)