



Corn Mosaics

Understand that sweet corn is grown for human consumption while dent (or field) corn is used for animal feed . Recognize that there are many varieties of corn and many colors that corn can be. Corn is also referred to as maize.

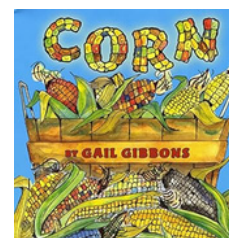
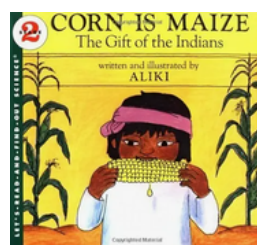
Directions

1. Use a variety of types of corn or paint the kernels different colors before the activity so they can be dry in time.
2. Explicitly model for the children what they are going to do for the activity.
3. Display kernels on paper plates, with each color on a separate paper plate. Have all materials ready.
4. Explain to students that they are going to make a corn mosaic using the kernels.
5. Have students draw the picture with a pencil first so they can use it as a guide when they are placing their kernels.
6. Instruct them to put glue on one half of their picture and place the kernels. Then put glue on the second half and finish filling it in with remaining kernels.

Supplies

- Lots of corn kernels
- Different colors of paint (spray paint perhaps)
- Thick paper (cardstock)
- Glue
- Pencils
- Paper plates
- TIP: Read page two for more background knowledge on corn to share with the children during the activity.

Suggested Books



Fun Facts about Corn

Called “maize” by the Native Americans, corn was a completely new food for the colonists, as it is native only to the Americas. In fact, in the early 1600s the Native Americans introduced the settlers to this crop and taught them how to grow and prepare it. Similar to today, the colonists ate corn both as a vegetable as well as ground it up into a grain. Thus, corn was a very important crop and appeared in multiple ways on many colonial tables. Benjamin Franklin even called it “one of the most agreeable and wholesome grains in the world.”

Today, corn for grain or silage (a mixture of grains that is fed to animals) is raised in nearly every Virginia county. Virginia farmers harvest about 340,000 acres of corn for grain each year! This type of corn, called field or dent corn, is different from what you buy at the grocery store, which is sweet corn. Field corn is grown for animal feed and harvested by large combines. The corn is ground into feed which is fed to cows, chickens, and other animals. Some field corn is also chopped up into silage for cows. Sweet corn is grown for people. There is more sugar in this corn which makes it tasty to eat. This is the type of corn grown in gardens, sold at vegetable stands, or in the market.

While we often think of corn kernels as being white or yellow, the Native Americans grew several different types. Colors included red, white, blue, and black. There are many varieties of corn. Some are better suited for people to eat while others are best for animals. Discuss the types children are familiar with.



Silage



Sweet Corn



Flint Corn