

2024 Agriculture Literacy Week Volunteer Kit



Volunteer Directions

Enclosed you will find tips and tools to help you have the best possible reading experience. You may choose to copy any or all of the activity pages for students to complete after listening to the book. Depending on your amount of time allotted you may choose to do the pages in class with the students or to leave them behind for students to take home.

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Volunteer Tips

Getting Started: The book is best suited for preschool through second grade students. Contact a local school and introduce yourself as well as the project. A sample introductory letter is included if necessary. Be sure to schedule well in advance, as many teachers make their lesson plans several weeks ahead of time. Your visit will most likely last approximately 30 minutes. Gather any supplies you may need, including copies. A template for book plates, which can be personalized for your organization, is available for download at Virginia.Agclassroom.org.

Because of the popularity of this program, we encourage you to collaborate with other agriculture organizations in your area to coordinate reading and encourage visits to as many different classrooms as possible.

Preparation: Read through the book on your own to familiarize yourself with it. Gather any farm related “props” you might be able to bring. Children enjoy any kind of “show-and-tell” items! Your props do not necessarily have to be mentioned in the book, but could be related to your personal farming operation/connection. Great options for this book include the produce items mentioned in the book.

Introduction: Introduce yourself to the students. Share your connection to agriculture. Ask them if anyone has eaten anything from a farm today. Tell them that regardless of what they had for breakfast or lunch, each of them has eaten food from a farm, as all food begins on the farm. The book they will listen to today will show how some fruits and vegetables can be grown year-round in a greenhouse.

Reading: Read the book, stopping on various pages to discuss or to take questions.

Post-Reading: Discuss the book with the class. What questions do they have? What is something new that they learned? Have they eaten any of the produce mentioned in the book?

Extension: Enclosed in the Volunteer Kit are student activity pages as well as classroom activities to accompany the book. You may choose to do any or all of the activities based on your allotted time with the class. Included in your volunteer pack are seeds to use with the germination activity.

Wrap-Up: Thank the students for being good listeners and the teacher for allowing you to visit his/her classroom. Leave the book as well as the newsletter, seeds (if you opted not to do the germination activity), and information card about Agriculture in the Classroom so that the teacher may access supplemental resources.





Produce Matching

Identify produce by matching the tops and bottoms of plants highlighted in the story *Logan's Greenhouse*.

Directions

1. Cut out the flashcards and mix them up.
2. Have students work independently or with a partner to match the tops and bottoms of the produce items.
3. Students will then match the term with the pictures,
4. Next, students will sort the plants by the ones whose edible part grows above ground and those that it grows below ground.

Supplies

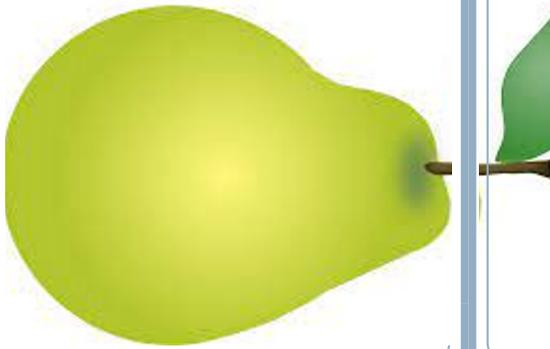
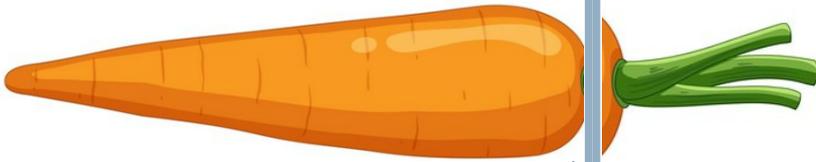
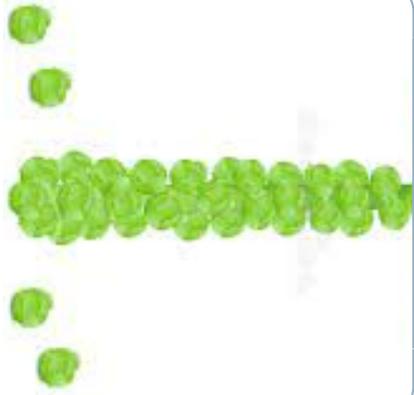
- Produce matching cards, attached
- Writing utensil
- Scissors

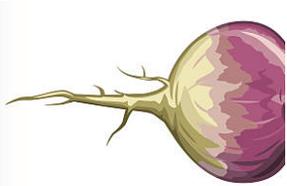
Extension

Identify the plant part that we eat for each produce item. Challenge students to use the “Create Your Own” cards to fill in any missing plant part.

- Root
- Flower
- Fruit
- Leaf
- Stem







Create Your Own!

Create Your Own!

carrot

orange

sweet potato

turnip

brussel sprout

pear



My Little Greenhouse

Learn what a seed needs in order to germinate.

Directions

1. Review what seeds need in order to germinate - water, warmth, air, space.
2. Invite students to color their greenhouses and then cut them out. Now cut along the dotted lines inside the greenhouse to make a window.
3. Wet 1-2 cotton balls and place 2 seeds on each. Place inside plastic baggie.
4. Close the baggie and tape behind the greenhouse window so that seeds are visible.
5. Place in a warm location, such as taped to a window, and observe growth over the next several days.

Supplies

- Greenhouse template, attached
- Seeds (included in book package)
- Cotton balls
- Water
- Tape
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Sandwich bags

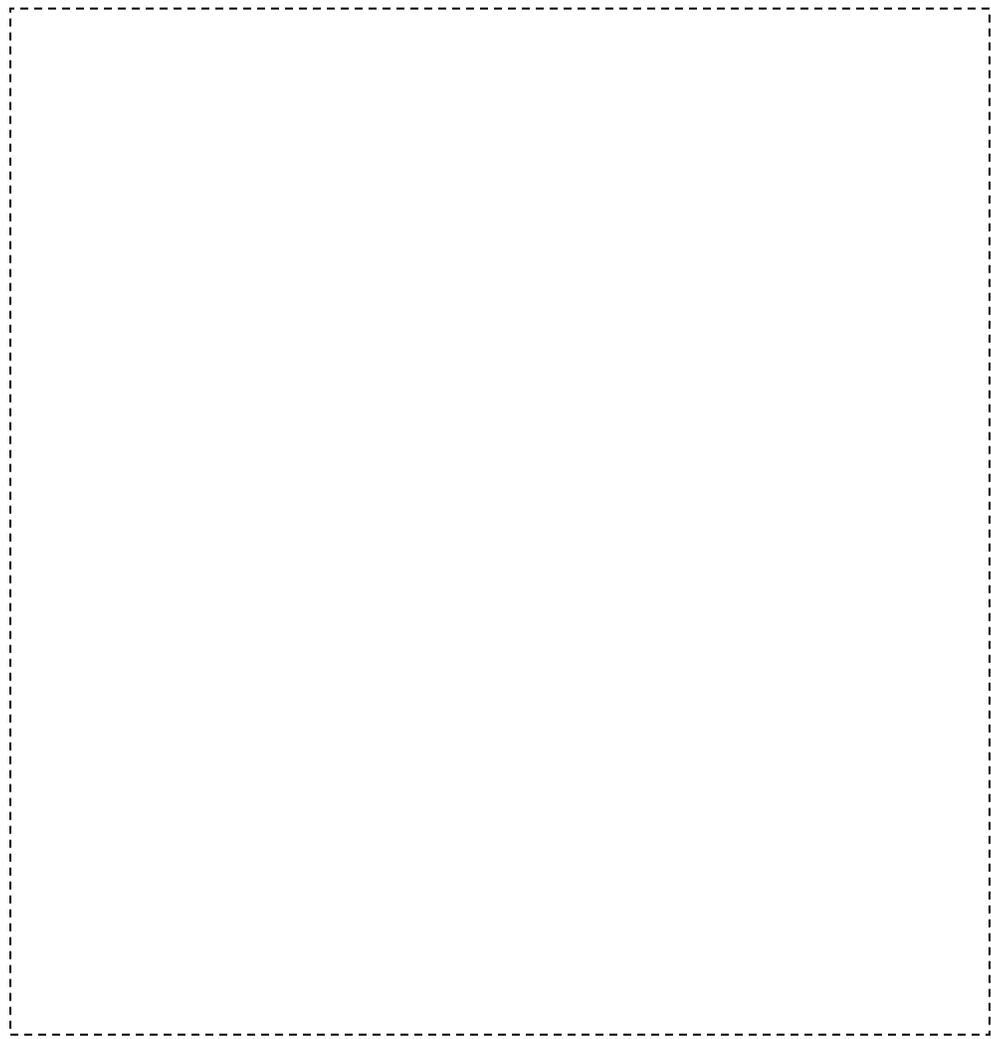
Extension

Ever wonder how the beautiful spring plants at your local garden center get there? Take a virtual field trip to Battlefield Farms and get a behind-the-scenes look at greenhouse and nursery production.



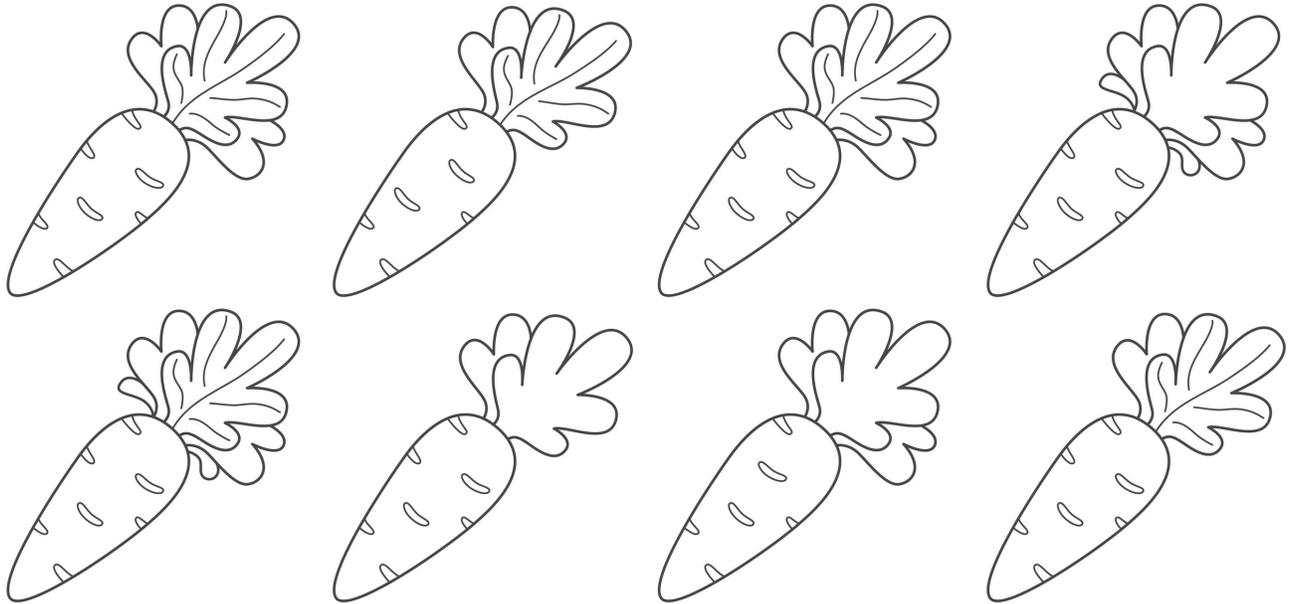
My Little Greenhouse

Name: _____ Date Planted: _____

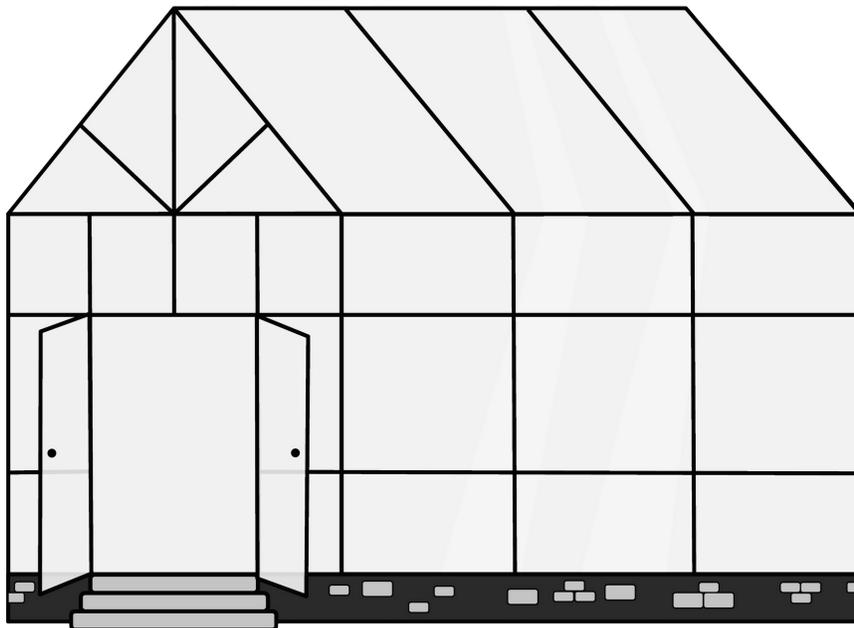


Activity Page

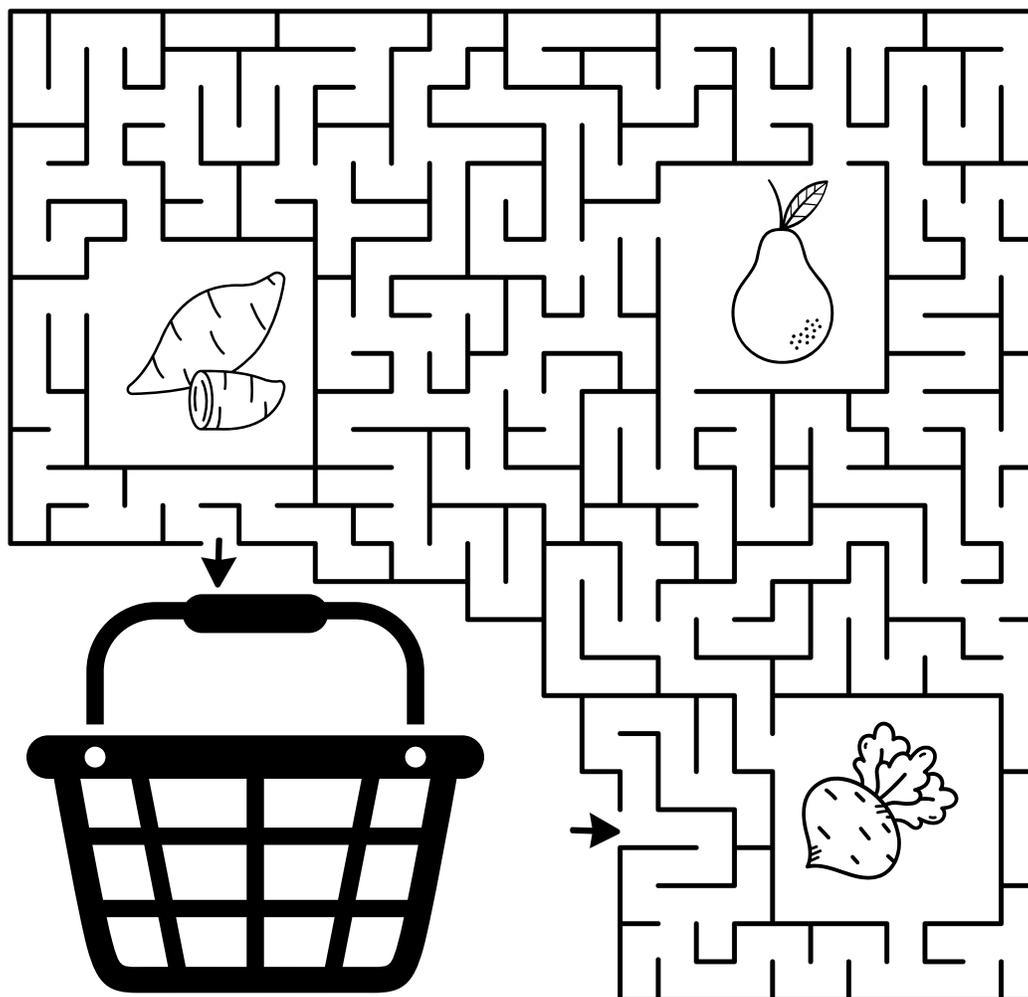
Find the two carrots that are the same and circle them. Color all of the carrots. Did you know that carrots are not all orange? They can be yellow, white, or even purple!



Virginia greenhouses produce a variety of plant products, including flowers and shrubs for landscaping and decoration as well as vegetables like tomatoes and lettuce. Fill the empty greenhouse below with your favorite greenhouse plants.



Fill your basket by going through each of the produce items in the maze.



Unscramble the words below.

CLGIRA

ARSIHD

ENOGRA

TOOATP

Dear Teacher and Administrator:

[Insert County Farm Bureau or Business Name Here] is excited to partner with Agriculture in the Classroom to celebrate the 14th annual Agriculture Literacy Week, March 18-22, 2024. During this week volunteers from across the state will be participating by serving as guest readers in preschool through third grade classrooms where they will read Agriculture in the Classroom's 2024 Book of the Year, Logan's Greenhouse by JaNay Brown-Wood.

This week is routinely recognized by special proclamation from the governor and offers students a fun and educational opportunity to learn more about farming and the source of their food. Additionally, the event connects teachers and schools to resources in their community. Past readers have included the First Lady of Virginia, Virginia's Secretary of Agriculture and many more dedicated members of the agriculture community.

This "greenhouse to table" book takes place in young Logan's greenhouse as he explores various fruits and vegetables. To complement the book Agriculture in the Classroom has developed enrichment activities to further students' learning. These, as well as a comprehensive lesson plan library, can be found on the Agriculture in the Classroom website, Virginia.Agclassroom.org.

We hope that your school/district will join us as we share agriculture's story with you!

Sincerely,

[Insert Name and Contact Information Here]



Thank you for sharing agriculture's story!

