



Read & STEAM

Big Farms, Little Farms



Lesson Summary

Students will learn about different types of farms in Wisconsin through the book *Big Farms, Little Farms* and a sensory evaluation activity

Grade Level

K-5

Length of Lesson

45 minutes

Materials

- Three local products prepared for student sampling (wash and cut up fruit or vegetables, create maple syrup or honey samples, cube cheese, popcorn, etc.)
- Agriculture Across Wisconsin map (optional)

Reading Guide

1. Introduce the story using these questions **(2 min)**
 - a. Who has been to a farm?
 - b. What happens on a farm?
 - c. What is a farmer?
2. Read *Big Farms, Little Farms* by Chase Pagel **(10 min)**
3. Reflect on the story with these questions **(3 min)**
 - a. What types of plants and animals were on the farms?
 - b. Why are there different types of farms?
 - c. What types of farms have you seen near where you live?
 - d. "Today we will try some foods grown or raised by our local farmers!"
 - i. Optional addition: bring in inedible local products such as wool

Vocabulary

Farmer: a person who cultivates land or raises animals for food, fiber, or other agricultural products.

Commodity: a basic good or raw material that is often used as an input in the production of other goods or services.

Additional Lesson Links

- Matrix lessons
 - [A Day Without Agriculture](#)
 - [Agriculture and Me](#)
 - [All Kinds of Farms](#)
- Other resources
 - [Agriculture Across Wisconsin Map](#)
 - [Farm Pop-ups](#)
 - [Wisconsin Agriculture Stats + Facts](#)

Standards

NALO:

T2.K-2.b

T2.K-2.c

T2.3-5.e

T5.K-2.a

T5.K-2.d

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Sensory Evaluation

1. Set-Up for the activity

- a. Prepare three different products produced by local farms/businesses (reference Agriculture Across Wisconsin poster for ideas on top commodities within your county)
 - i. For example: wash and cut up fruit or vegetables, create maple syrup or honey samples, cubed cheese, popcorn, etc.

2. Begin Sensory Evaluation activity (25 min)

- a. Have all students wash their hands
- b. Ask the students:
 - i. What is your favorite food? Why?
 - ii. What is your least favorite food? Why?
- c. Explain:
 - i. “We decide if we like or dislike foods by using our five senses. Can you name them all (sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell) Today, we will use our five senses to try foods our local farms produce!”
- d. Give each student the first local product
 - i. Ask them to look at it and discuss what it looks like with their peers. Utilize the word bank on pg. 3
 - ii. Ask them to smell it and discuss
 - iii. Ask them to taste it and discuss
 1. What does it sound like (is it crunchy)?
 2. What is the texture (what does it feel like)?
 - iv. Have students rate the product 1-5 on their hand all at once
- e. Repeat each step in part d with the other two products

3. Review the activity with these questions (5 min)

- a. What was your favorite product?
- b. What kinds of farms were these products grown or raised on?
- c. What other kinds of farms are near us or around Wisconsin?
- d. “Next time you are in the grocery store, look around to see what kind of farm might have produced what is on the shelves!”

Word Bank

Color:

- Golden
- Bright
- Pale
- Vibrant
- Dull
- Brownd
- Charred
- Creamy
- Rich
- Glowing

Texture:

- Crispy
- Crunchy
- Smooth
- Glossy
- Greasy
- Flaky
- Sticky
- Oily
- Fuzzy
- Lumpy

Form:

- Round
- Chunky
- Thin
- Thick
- Curved
- Spiral
- Layered
- Folded
- Crumbled
- Twisted

General:

- Fresh
- Juicy
- Burnt
- Melted
- Steamy
- Glazed
- Sizzling
- Bubbly
- Toasted
- Frosted

Taste/Smell:

- Sweet
- Sour
- Salty
- Bitter
- Spicy
- Savory
- Tangy
- Zesty
- Bland
- Creamy
- Buttery
- Earthy
- Rich
- Sharp
- Fruity
- Peppery
- Pungent
- Smoky
- Umami
- Tart
- Citrusy
- Sugary