

Lesson 5: The History of Agriculture

Common Core:

Next Generation Science Standards: Grade 5

5-ESS3

Earth and Human Activity Students who demonstrate understanding can: 5-ESS3-1. Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

Time: 1hr

Objectives:

To describe how methods of farming have changed over hundreds of years.

To evaluate evidence we have about farming in the past.

Key words: Vocab Tree

Agriculture; Reliability; Irrigation; Ploughing; Harvesting; Threshing

(Using Key words: Students can create a glossary, in books or on wall in classroom. Students are encouraged to practice using vocab in written or verbal sentences - perhaps writing example sentences and displaying them. Students could earn points for using the vocab in novel sentences each week)

Resources:

- PowerPoints - Ancient Egyptian farming; Modern Farming
- Ancient Egyptian Farming Photos (same ones that are in Ppt, slide 1-9)
- <http://www.mnn.com/leaderboard/stories/19-super-kids-who-will-save-the-world-from-adults> - article for optional Enterprise Homework assignment

Activities:

Introduction

Class Discussion

Q: Hundreds of years ago, why did people farm? (For food for their families).

Q: Nowadays, why do people farm? (To feed themselves, but also to earn money).

Q: How could we find out about how people farmed 10 years ago? (Ask some farmers, look on the Internet).

Q: How could we find out about how people farmed 100 years ago? (Read some books).

Q: How could we find out about how people farmed 1000 years ago? (Pictures)

(Further Discussion - As time passes, is the evidence more or less reliable?)

Group Activity

Give each group a couple of pictures of ancient Egyptian farming. (Also on slides 1-9 on PowerPoint)

Have them write all the information that they can get (especially linked to farming) from these images, then feedback to the class.

Go through key words: Ploughing; Harvesting; Threshing; Irrigating

Discussion:

How do we farm today?

Is this true for all countries?

Show PowerPoint slides: 10-17 and discuss alternative methods of farming via the Ppt

Recap

Further Activities or Homework

Research food crises from the past - causes and effects

Assessment:

Healthy Growing Session (if participating):

Enterprise Intro: Just like modern day farmers, you will be planning a business project to raise money. Perhaps selling your produce at a farmers market, working in a local café, selling produce at your baseball game, teaching people how to compost, selling seedlings, selling produce at recess to other students, etc - *something revolving around the garden and/or what we've been learning.*

Enterprise Workshop:

Business representative(s) visits and discusses with class how to start with an idea and develop it into a successful project.

Step 1: Brainstorm - imagination, no ideas are bad, think big (ie. airplane made into a garden-->gave tours)

Step 2: Narrow

Step 3: Market Research/Investigate

- a) Has this been done before?
- b) What's the competition like?
- c) Do people want/need it?

Step 4: Plan and Design/Create (who are your customers, when, why, where?)

Step 5: Market and Promote

Step 6: Prepare (people, place, tools)

Step 7: Implement

Garden activity

Take small groups of students out to weed and explore the garden.

Homework

Using this article about “19 Superkids Who Will Save the World From Adults,”
<http://www.mnn.com/leaderboard/stories/19-super-kids-who-will-save-the-world-from-adults>
assign each student one of these 19 kids, in which they will report back to the class on. The report could include:

- Who the Superkid is
- How the Superkid developed their idea
- Some challenges the Superkid may have experienced
- Some reasons the Superkid's idea was such a success
- How the Superkid has inspired the student