



American Heart Association®

Teaching Gardens®

Grade Band

3-5

Time

1 hour

Season

Any

Location

Indoors

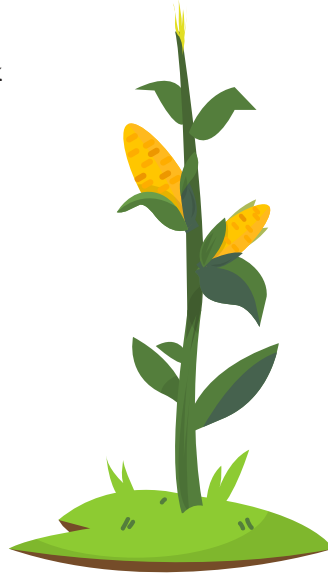
Crops of the World

Description:

In this activity, students work in small groups to research a crop. Then they present their crop to students from other groups so that each student can learn from their peers about a wide variety of crops.

Materials:

- Access to kid-friendly internet research sites such as Kiddle or KidRex®, and/or a school library with nonfiction books on crops
- A “Getting to Know Our Crop” graphic organizer for each student
- A pen or pencil for each student



Connections to Content Standards:

Common Core English Language Arts:

Grade 3:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2

Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Grade 4:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2

Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Grade 5:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2

Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Preparation:

- Photocopy the “Getting to Know Our Crop” graphic organizer for each student.
- Divide your students into four small groups.
- Identify crops that are growing in your school garden, or that you can plant together in your garden soon.



Crops of the World, *continued*

Activity:

- 1. Discuss the Value of Crops:** Ask students, *How would our lives be different if there were no farms?* Accept all answers, highlighting the following: *Farming is fundamental to just about every aspect of our lives, from what we eat to what we wear! Every day, we rely on crops grown by farmers to survive.*
- 2. Explain the Research Activity:** *Today, you'll be learning about a crop and preparing to teach your peers about it.* Divide the class into four groups (A, B, C and D) and assign each group a crop. If possible, choose crops that are growing in your school garden, or that you can plant together in your garden soon. Give each student a graphic organizer and read through it together, asking students to paraphrase the questions to check for understanding. Then give them about 20 minutes to work together, using the internet or books, to research and find answers to the key questions. You can suggest that they divide up the questions and then share answers with one another.
- 3. Jigsaw:** Once students have completed their research, regroup all of your students into new groups of 4, with one student from Group A, one from Group B, one from Group C, and one from Group D in each group. You can do this by calling out their names and assigning groups, or make it a fun activity by challenging them to rearrange themselves into these new groups without talking. Once all students are in their new groups, explain: *You'll each have about three minutes to share with your new group about your crop. If you are the student in your group from Group A, you'll start. When I say "Rotate!" it will be time for the person from Group B to start, and then we'll go on until each of you has presented. Give groups time to present.*
- 4. Wrap Up:** Gather students back together in a whole group and invite volunteers to share out anything interesting they learned about a crop. If possible, use this as a launch before planting these crops together in your school garden.



Getting to Know Your Crop

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|---|--|
| Name of Crop: | |
| In which parts of the world is this crop most commonly grown? | What are the primary nutritional benefits of this crop? |
| What are some common dishes made with this crop? | What are a few other interesting things about this crop? |

