

A Day Without Ag

Objective

Students will spell the word “agriculture,” discuss its meaning and find information in a dictionary about the word. Students will identify every day things made from agriculture. Students will sort items made from agriculture.

Background

“Ag” is short for agriculture. When you think of agriculture you probably think of people growing crops or raising cows, pigs, sheep and chickens on a farm. But agriculture means much more than that. The people who work in factories to build tractors and other farm machinery play an important role in agriculture. People in universities who research new agricultural products and new ways to grow food and fiber are involved in agriculture, too.

The grocer must buy agricultural products to fill the grocery shelves. The restaurant owner must buy agricultural products to prepare and serve his or her customers. The clothes you wear and the furniture on which you sit were probably made from agricultural products.

Growing and selling greenhouse and nursery plants is agriculture. Forestry is agriculture, too. Tree farmers plant, nurture and harvest trees. Then they sell the trees to companies that make paper products. The people who work in factories where they make paper and the people who sell it in stores are as much a part of agriculture as the farmer who plants the tree.

Think of all the ways in which agriculture touches your life. When you wake up in the morning, you might be lying on cotton sheets. Your pillow could be filled with down feather from a goose. The frame of your bed is probably made of wood. These are all ag products, and you aren’t even out of bed yet. When you do get out of bed, you may put your feet onto a rug made from the wool of a sheep or a linoleum floor made from soybean oil. The soap you use in the shower might contain cottonseed oil or lanolin, a kind of oil from the sheep’s wool. The handle of your hairbrush might be made from the bones and horns of a beef animal, and the bristles might be the bristles, or hair, of a pig. The towel you dry off with and the jeans and T-shirt you put on are made from cotton. Once you get to school you might pick up a crayon made from pig fat or soybeans. You’ve already used dozens of agricultural products, and you haven’t even started eating yet. Just imagine a day without agriculture. Do you think you could survive?

English Language Arts

1. Read and discuss background and vocabulary.
2. Practice spelling “agriculture” as a class by stomping, whispering and yelling the letters. Discuss the meaning of the word “agriculture.”

Oklahoma Academic Standards

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2. Phonological Awareness: 3,4. Writing Process:
Vocabulary: R.1,2,3; W.1.
Language: R.2,3
Economics: 1,3
Number & Operations: 1.1,2; 2.2

KINDERGARTEN

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2. Phonological Awareness: 3,5. Phonics and Word Study: 3. Writing Process:
1. Vocabulary: R.1,2,3; W.1.
Language: R.2,3
Economics: 1,3
Number & Operations: 1.1,2,5,6

GRADE 1

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2. Phonics and Word Study: 1. Vocabulary:
R.1,5; W.1. Language: R.1,2,3

GRADE 2

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3,4; W.1,2. Phonics and Word Study: 1. Vocabulary:
R.1,5; W.1. Language: R.1,2,3

Vocabulary

agriculture—the science or occupation of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising live- stock

farm—a piece of land used for growing crops or raising livestock

fiber—a slender and very long natural or synthetic unit of material (as wool, cotton, asbestos, gold, glass, or rayon) usually able to be spun into yarn

grocer—a dealer in food and household supplies product

research—careful study and investigation for the purpose of discovering and explaining new knowledge

tractor—a vehicle that has large rear wheels or moves on tracks and is used especially for pulling farm implements

- Students will look up the word “agriculture” in a dictionary.
 - What page is it on in the dictionary?
 - Is it in the front, middle or end of the dictionary?
 - Is it in the right or left column?
 - Is it at the top or bottom of the page?
 - Have students write the definition.
 - How many vowels are in the word “agriculture?” How many consonants? How many syllables?
 - What part of speech is the word “agriculture?”
3. Students will use the word “agriculture” in a sentence and tell what kind of sentence it is (declarative, etc.)
 4. Hand out student worksheets.
 - Students will use the worksheets to list all the agricultural products that touch their lives in a day.
 - Students will share their lists.
 - Students will divide the items on their lists into categories (animal products/plant products, things to eat/things to wear).
 - Students will create their own categories.
 - Younger students will sort the pile according to the beginning sound of each item.

Social Studies

1. Students will bring agricultural products from home and pile them all in one area.
 - Invite another class, parents or the principal to view the display.
 - Students will explain the importance of agriculture.
2. Discuss the concepts of “want” and “need.”
 - Divide students into groups.
 - Students will go through their lists of ag products and decide which are needs and which are wants.
 - Students share their findings during a class discussion.

Math

1. Students will count the number of letters in the word “agriculture.”
 - Students will write the numeral and spell the number word.
 - Students will use tally marks to count the number of letters.
 - Students will dot out odds and evens as they count the number of letters.
 - Students will review the family facts in the number of letters (e.g., $5+6=11$).

Extra Reading

Kinsey-Warnock, Natalie, *A Farm of Her Own*, Dutton, 2001.
Chitwood, Suzanne Tanner, *Wake Up, Big Barn*, Cartwheel, 2002.
Elliott, David, and Holly Meade, *On the Farm*, Candlewick.
Hill, Lee Sullivan, *Farms Feed the World*, Carolrhoda, 1997

Name _____

A Day Without Ag

Make a list of all the agricultural products you use in a day. If you run out of space, use the back of this page.



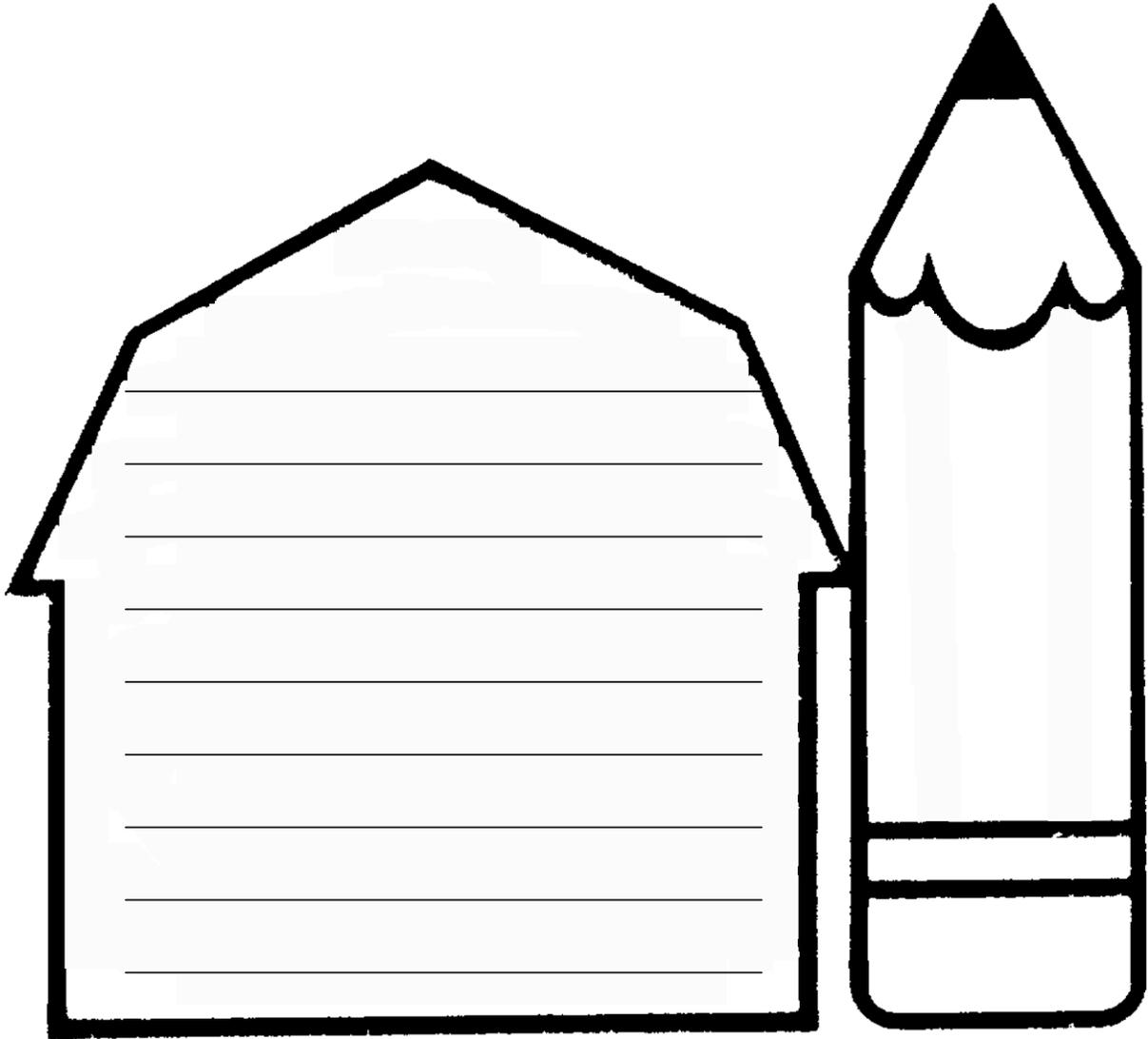
The form consists of a large rectangular area for writing, enclosed by a double-line fence. The top right corner of the page features a small illustration of a farm scene, including a house, a barn, a silo, and trees. The writing area is divided into three columns by two vertical lines, with horizontal lines providing space for text.

Name _____

A Day Without Ag

Make a list of everything you can find in your home that has something to do with agriculture.

beans	jeans	soap	chair	rug
bread	shirt	sheets	meat	grass
eggs	shoes	bat	gum	bed



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Think of all the ways agriculture touches your life. When you wake up in the morning, you are lying on cotton sheets. Your pillow could be filled with down feathers from a goose. The frame of your bed is probably made of wood. These are all ag products, and you aren't even out of bed yet.

When you do get out of bed, you may put your feet onto a rug made from the wool of a sheep or a linoleum floor made from soybean oil. The soap you use in the shower might contain cottonseed oil or lanolin, a kind of oil from the sheep's wool. The handle of your hairbrush might be made from the bones and horns of a beef animal, and the bristles might be the bristles, or hair, of a pig. The towel you dry off with and the jeans and T-shirt you put on are made from cotton. Once you get to school you might pick up a crayon made from pig fat or soybeans. You've already used dozens of agricultural products, and you haven't even started eating. Just imagine a day without agriculture. Do you think you could survive?