

# The Baseball Charm

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**Objective:** Students will learn about how agriculture affects their everyday life.

**Learning Standards:** 11.A.2d; 11.B.2c; 12.B.2b

**Assessment Framework:** 12.4.01; 12.4.02; 12.4.05; 12.4.07; 12.4.10

## Suggested Reading Materials:

IAITC Corn Ag Mag

Corn by Gail Gibbons (ISBN13: 9780823422456)

Gimme Cracked Corn and I Will Share (ISBN13: 9780802796844)

Anna's Corn by Barbara Santucci (ISBN-13: 978-0802851192)

## Background Information:

Most people would never connect agriculture to one of America's favorite activities—baseball! But, the game of baseball could not exist without agriculture. The **Baseball Charm** will remind you of how many different ways agriculture is present when you attend a baseball game.

## What You Will Need:

Toothpicks

Tickets

Cow Confetti ([www.confetti.com](http://www.confetti.com))

Corn

Chicken/Pig Confetti ([www.confetti.com](http://www.confetti.com))

Popcorn Kernel

Yarn

Grains of Wheat/Wheat Flour

Cotton Balls

Plastic Jewelry-sized Zipper Baggie

Grass or Grass Seed

Peanuts

## Activity Instructions:

1. Add each of the materials to the baggie. Talk about the importance of each material and what each represents. (see chart on next page)
2. Once you have put all of the materials in the baggie, seal it tightly. Using a hole punch, place a hole above the zipper seal.
3. Tie a piece of yarn through the hole to make it a necklace.
4. Your students now have their very own baseball charm! They should be able to tell how each item relates to agriculture.



## Extended Response

Illinois corn is used in many products. Explain how the corn grown in Illinois is used around the world. Be sure to discuss the ways corn is used in everyday products we may not even think about.

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ITEM	IMPORTANCE	REPRESENTED BY...
<b>Bat</b>	Today's official bat is a smooth round stick made of one piece of solid wood. It must be no more than 2.6 inches in diameter at its thickest part and no more than 42 inches long. The best bats are made from wood from northern ash trees. In recent years, maple bats have become more popular as a result of Barry Bond's 73 homeruns hit in 2001 using maple bats.	Toothpick
<b>Mitts/Gloves</b>	Mitts vary according to the size of the player's hand or the position played. The best mitts are made from natural materials, usually cowhide from cattle. Oil to soften a glove may come from fish or animals.	Cow Confetti
<b>Baseball</b>	An official baseball used in the major leagues today is formed by yarn wound around a core made from cork, rubber or a similar material. Lower quality baseballs have cores made from cotton.	Yarn
<b>Baseball Hat</b>	Made from cotton which is produced mainly in the southern United States. Cotton is a natural fiber that keeps you cool.	Piece of Cotton Ball
<b>Turf Grass</b>	Many ball fields are covered with natural turf grass which is usually a mixture of perennial rye grass, Kentucky blue grass, fescue and other grasses.	Grass or Grass Seed
<b>Tickets, Programs, Schedules</b>	These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans.	Ticket
<b>Tape &amp; Bandages</b>	Corn dextrins (carbohydrates produced from starch) and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents.	Corn
	<b>Foods eaten at the ballpark are also connected to agriculture.</b>	
<b>Hot Dogs</b>	Made from pork/beef/chicken served in a wheat bun.	Chicken/Pig Confetti
<b>Peanuts</b>	Come from peanut farmers in southern states.	Peanuts (be aware of allergies)
<b>Popcorn</b>	A specific type of corn grown by farmers. It's Illinois' State Snack Food!	Popcorn Kernel
<b>Soda Pop</b>	Sweetened with corn syrup!	Corn
<b>Chewing Gum</b>	Base comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners.	Corn
<b>Nachos &amp; Cheese</b>	Corn flour with cheese as a dairy product.	Corn
<b>Soft Pretzels</b>	Wheat flour is used to make the pretzels.	Grains of Wheat