



From Tassel to Table



From Tassel to Table Chain

Materials:

One individual-sized cereal box

Hole Punch

Yarn (8 pieces, 6-8 inches each)

Corn Ag Mag

Construction Paper (Yellow, Green, Pink, Brown, Blue, Red, Orange)

Scissors

Access to www.agintheclassroom.org

Corn kernels

Directions:

1. Learn about corn by reading the Corn Ag Mag.
2. Have students make one of each item out of construction paper: kernel, corn, combine, cob, elevator, manufacturer, truck and grocery cart. These are available at: www.agintheclassroom.org under "Make & Takes."
3. Instruct students to punch a hole on each side of the construction paper items, except the corn kernel, which needs the top punched.
4. Have students create a chain by placing the items in the following order:
 - Kernel: The corn plant starts with a kernel. Farmers plant kernels in the spring time. The kernel needs moisture and warm temperatures to grow.
 - Corn plant: During the spring and summer months, the corn plant grows. It develops leaves and a strong root system. Wind pollination fertilizes the silk. This fertilization is what creates an ear of corn. The corn plant continues to mature until mid-October.
 - Combine: When the kernels are at the right moisture level, farmers harvest the corn using a combine.
 - Cob: The kernels are shelled, which means they are taken off of the cob.
 - Elevator: These kernels can be stored on the farm or taken to a grain elevator. At the elevator, farmers receive money in exchange for the corn.
 - Manufacturer: Corn is processed to make products you use everyday, such as cereal. Check the ingredient label on your cereal box. You might see ingredients such as corn meal and corn syrup. A manufacturer makes and packages cereal.
 - Truck: Once the cereal has been made, it is transported to your grocery store by using trucks.
 - Grocery Store: A grocery store displays and sells a variety of products, so that you, the consumer, can pick out and purchase your cereal.
 - Cereal Box: Check the Nutrition Label. There is corn in your cereal box. Now, you know how it got there!
5. Have the students place all the items in their cereal box. Then, starting with the kernel, they can slowly pull shapes out and share how corn goes from the tassel to the table.

Note to Educator: It may be helpful to discuss each step of chain prior to doing this activity. Use this activity for an interest approach or to culminate a corn or food lesson.

Illinois Learning Standards: .12.A.2a; 15.A.2a; 15.D.2b

Illinois Assessment Framework: 12.4.03; 12.4.04; 12.4.05















