# SCHOOL CALENDAR 2016-2017

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Annual, kernel, straw, combine, dweller, domestic, embryo

### August 2016

### Recommended Reading:

The Thing About Luck by Cynthis Kadohata Pizza Party by Grace Maccarone Farmer George Plants a Nation by Peggy Thomas The Little Red Hen and the Ear of Wheat by Mary Finch

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|---|---|--|----------|
| 31     | <b>1</b><br>One bushel of wheat contains<br>approximately one million<br>individual kernels and weighs<br>60 pounds. | <b>2</b><br>United States farmers grow<br>nearly 2.4 billion bushels of<br>wheat on 63 million acres<br>of land.                                  | <b>3</b><br>The Roman goddess, Ceres, who<br>was deemed protector of the<br>grain, gave grains their common<br>name today – "cereal." | <b>4</b><br>Kansas is the largest wheat<br>producer in the United States,<br>and North Dakota is a close<br>second. | 5<br>Illinois produces soft red winter<br>wheat, which is used in cake<br>mixes and pretzels.                                  | 6        |
| 7      | 8<br>In the United States, wheat<br>accounts for about 2/3 of all<br>grains consumed.                                | <b>9</b><br>Wheat is an annual grass plant<br>that grows to be 2-4 feet tall<br>and produces a dry, one-seeded<br>kernel.                         | 10<br>A kernel of wheat, called the<br>wheat berry, is the seed from<br>which the wheat plant grows.                                  | <b>11</b><br>The head of a wheat plant is<br>called a spike head.   | 12<br>A wheat head contains 50 to 75<br>kernels.   | 13       |
| 14     | <b>15</b><br>A modern combine can harvest<br>1,000 bushels of wheat per hour.  | 16<br>A combine cuts the wheat and<br>then cleans and separates the<br>kernels from the plant.  | 17<br>Wheat is grown in 42 states in<br>the United States.  | 18<br>A bushel of wheat makes about<br>forty-five 24 ounce boxes of<br>wheat flake cereal.                          | 19<br>By 7000 - 6000 BC, Swiss lake<br>dwellers were grinding wheat<br>kernels and water to bake<br>flatbread.                 | 20       |
| 21     | 22<br>Wheat kernels are ground<br>into flour.  | 23<br>The rest of the wheat plant below<br>the spiked head is called straw<br>(after harvest), which<br>is bundled and used as animal<br>bedding. | 24<br>Wheat originated in the "cradle<br>of civilization" in the Tigris and<br>Euphrates river valley, near what<br>is now Iraq.      | <b>25</b><br>About half of the wheat grown<br>in the United States is used<br>domestically.                         | 26<br>In Illinois, 83% of the wheat<br>grown is in the southern half of<br>the state, which offers a longer<br>growing season. | 27       |
| 28     | <b>29</b><br>Wheat germ is the embryo of the<br>wheat kernel that develops into a<br>wheat plant.                    | <b>30</b><br>Each American consumes, on<br>average, 53 pounds of bread<br>per year.   | <b>31</b><br>New varieties of wheat can take<br>up to 17 years to develop before<br>they are available for farmers to<br>plant.       | 1   | 2  | 3        |



The second

1 Ares

Equus, gait, foal, herbivore, domestication, withers

### September 2016

Recommended Reading:

Ponies by Pam Pollack and Meg Belviso Horses! by Gail Gibbons Riding Freedom by Pam Munoz Ryan War Horse by Michael Morpurgo

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|--|---|---|----------|
| 28     | 29   | 30  | 31   | <b>1</b><br>Scientists believe that horses have<br>evolved over the past<br>50 million years from much<br>smaller creatures.                  | 2<br>Ponies are adult horses shorter<br>than 56 inches. Young horses<br>and ponies are called foals.            | 3        |
| 4      | 5<br>Horses can sleep both lying down<br>and standing up.                                  | 6<br>The four natural gaits, or speeds,<br>of a horse are walk, trot, canter<br>and gallop. | <b>7</b><br>Horses belong to the Equus<br>family. Equus comes from the<br>ancient Greek word meaning<br>quickness. | 8<br>Out of all the earth's land<br>animals, the horse has the<br>biggest eyes.   | <b>9</b><br>The life span of a horse is<br>generally 20 to 25 years.  | 10       |
| 11     | 12<br>Horses are herbivores, and prefer<br>a diet of fresh grass and hay<br>(dried grass). | 13<br>There are over 75 million horses<br>in the world.                                     | 14<br>A typical horse only sleeps<br>between 2.5 – 3 hours per day.  | 15<br>Horses are ungulates - mammals<br>with hooves.  | 16<br>Due to domestication, horses are<br>found all over the world except<br>Antarctica.                        | 17       |
| 18     | 19<br>There are more than 400<br>different breeds of horses.                               | 20<br>Horses can weigh as little as 120<br>pounds or as much as 2,200<br>pounds.            | <b>21</b><br>A hand is a unit used to measure<br>the height of a horse. A hand is<br>equal to 4 inches.            | 22<br>The height of a horse is measured<br>from the ground to their withers,<br>which is the high point between a<br>horse's shoulder blades. | 23<br>Humans first domesticated horses<br>between 4000 and 3000 BC.   | 24       |
| 25     | 26<br>Horses only breathe through their<br>noses and not through the mouth<br>like humans. | <b>27</b><br>A male horse is called a stallion,<br>and a female horse is called a<br>mare.  | 28<br>Horse hooves are made from the<br>same protein as fingernails and<br>human hair.                             | <b>29</b><br>A group of horses is a herd.   | 30<br>Tack is the name given to<br>brushes, saddles and other<br>equipment used to ride and care<br>for horses. | 1        |



Homogenize, gestation, ruminants, beta-carotene, pasteurization, acute, silage, udder

### October 2016

### **Recommended Reading:**

Clarabelle by Cris Peterson Yogurt and Cheeses and Ice Cream that Pleases by Brian P. Cleary The Cow in Patrick O'Shanahan's Kitchen by Diana Princhard Dairy Queen by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|----------|--|--|--|---|---|----------|
| 25       | 26   | 27   | 28   | 29  | 30  | 1        |
| 2        | <b>3</b><br>The first dairy cattle introduced<br>to the United States arrived at<br>Jamestown in 1611.                           | <b>4</b><br>Homogenization is the process<br>where milk fat is broken into<br>tiny particles evenly spread<br>throughout the milk.   | 5<br>Americans eat over 31 pounds of<br>cheese each year, and cheddar<br>cheese is the most popular<br>natural cheese in<br>the U.S. | About 97% of all United States<br>dairy farms are family-owned<br>and operated.   | <b>7</b><br>The most common breed of<br>dairy cattle found in the U.S. is<br>the Holstein, which is black and<br>white.         | 8        |
| 9        | 10<br>The udder is the part of a dairy<br>cow that produces, stores and<br>dispenses milk.                                       | <b>1</b><br>Heifers are female dairy cattle<br>and after two years, they give<br>birth to their own calves.  | 12<br>Plastic milk bottles were first<br>introduced to the United States<br>commercially in 1967.                                    | <b>13</b><br>Typically, a dairy cow weighs<br>1,500 pounds and consumes<br>about 100 pounds of feed each<br>day.  | 14<br>Dairy cattle are called ruminants<br>because they have four<br>compartments in their stomach.                             | 15       |
| 16       | 17<br>Dairy cattle cannot produce milk<br>unless they give birth to a calf.<br>After that, they are milked 2-3<br>times per day. | 18<br>The natural yellow color of<br>butter comes mainly from the<br>beta-carotene found in the grass<br>cows eat.   | 19<br>Cattle have an acute sense of<br>smell and can smell something up<br>to six miles away.  | 20<br>Dairy products provide 9 essential<br>nutrients including calcium,<br>potassium, phosphorus, protein,<br>vitamins A, D & B12, riboflavin<br>& niacin. | 21<br>Louis Pasteur discovered the<br>process called pasteurization,<br>which kills bacteria and protects<br>purity and flavor. | 22       |
| 23<br>30 | 24<br>Newborn calves weigh about<br>80-100 pounds.<br>31<br>The gestation (pregnancy) period<br>for cows is nine months.         | <b>25</b><br>Each year, U.S. dairy farmers<br>provide milk to make more than<br>1 billion pounds of butter, 7<br>billion pounds of cheese and 1<br>billion gallons of ice cream. | 26<br>It takes about two days for milk<br>to go from the farm to the retail<br>store.  | 27<br>Farmers can milk over 100 cows<br>in an hour! Before modern<br>milking machines, farmers could<br>only milk six cows per hour.                        | 28<br>Silage is fermented corn, wheat<br>or hay with the stalks and leaves<br>that is chopped and fed to cattle.                | 29       |

SOYBEAN (Late Season)

1

Consumption, nutrient, legumes, biodiesel, biodegradable, amino acids, export, versatile

### **Recommended Reading:**

Awesome Agriculture Soybeans: an A-to-Z Book by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey Auntie Yang's Great Soybean Picnic by Ginnie Lo Soybeans in the Story of Agriculture by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggey The Super Soybean by Raymond Bial

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|---|---|---|----------|
| 30     | 31   | <b>1</b><br>The soybean is used for animal<br>and human consumption,<br>as well as consumer and<br>industrial use. | <b>2</b><br>In 2014, Illinois harvested 547.7<br>million bushels of soybeans,<br>making it the #1 producer in<br>the U.S.                     | <b>3</b><br>Soybeans play an important role<br>in the nutrient cycle. Planting<br>legumes, such as soybeans, helps<br>add nitrogen back to the soil<br>naturally. | <b>4</b><br>Over 5,000 years ago,<br>farmers in China began growing<br>soybeans.  | 5        |
| 6      | 7<br>The soybean is the highest<br>natural source of dietary fiber.  | 8<br>In 1904, George Washington<br>Carver discovered a method of<br>extracting soybean oil.                        | <b>9</b><br>Decatur, Illinois, is considered<br>"The Soybean Capital of<br>the World."  | 10<br>Made from soybeans, biodiesel<br>is a renewable fuel that is both<br>biodegradable and non-toxic.   | <b>11</b><br>Soybeans are small round seeds,<br>each with a tiny hilum (brown<br>spot).                                       | 12       |
| 13     | 14<br>Soybeans are a source of<br>high-quality protein and contain<br>all eight of the essential<br>amino acids. | 15<br>The average American consumes<br>nearly 1/2 cup<br>of soybeans in some form each<br>day.                     | 16<br>The Mississippi River is an<br>important route for delivering<br>soybeans to the Port of<br>New Orleans where they will<br>be exported. | 17<br>Forty-five percent of all soybeans<br>grown in the United States are<br>exported.   | 18<br>New soy products are being<br>developed every day. The foam<br>in the seats of Ford vehicles are<br>made with soybeans. | 19       |
| 20     | 21<br>Soybeans are bushy, green<br>plants that are three to five feet<br>tall, called legumes.                   | 22<br>Soy ink is used in over 95% of<br>America's daily newspapers.  | 23<br>Each soybean plant grows 60-80<br>pods, and each pod has three to<br>four beans inside.   | 24<br>More soybeans are grown in the<br>United States than anywhere else<br>in the world.   | 25<br>In the fall, the soybean plant<br>turns brown, and the leaves drop<br>off before they are harvested.                    | 26       |
| 27     | 28<br>One acre of soybeans can<br>produce 82,368 crayons.  | 29<br>A 60 pound bushel of soybeans<br>yields about 48 pounds<br>of protein-rich meal and<br>11 pounds of oil.     | 30<br>The soybean is one of the<br>most versatile seeds grown<br>in the world.  | ]   | 2   | 3        |

November 2016



Poultry, protein, comb, wattle, omnivore, angular, domesticate, yolk

### December 2016

#### **Recommended Reading:**

Chickerella by Mary Jane and Herm Auch Chiggar by Ramond Bial Chicks & Chickens by Gail Gibbons The Secret Chicken Society by Judy Cox

| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 27     | 28  | 29   | 30  | <b>1</b><br>The term poultry refers to<br>chickens, turkeys, ducks,<br>ostriches, emus, quail, pheasants,<br>geese or pigeons raised for meat<br>or eggs. | <b>2</b><br>Eggs contain the highest known<br>quality food protein.  | 3        |
| 4      | 5<br>Laying hens sit on eggs for 21<br>days until they hatch.   | <b>6</b><br>A rooster is a male chicken;<br>a tom is a male turkey.  | <b>7</b><br>You can tell whether an egg is<br>fresh or stale by dropping it in<br>water. A fresh egg will sink,<br>but a stale one will float.    | 8<br>Chickens need grit, which is a<br>mixture of angular, hard crushed<br>rock in their diet to produce eggs.  | <b>9</b><br>The comb is a fleshy crest on a<br>chicken's head, and the wattle is<br>the hanging flap of skin under<br>their beaks. | 10       |
| 11     | 12<br>Chickens are omnivores. They<br>eat seeds and insects but also eat<br>larger prey like small mice and<br>lizards. | <b>13</b><br>The shell color is a breed<br>characteristic and is only "skin<br>deep." The eggs inside are the<br>same regardless of the shell color. | 14<br>The outer covering of the egg<br>called the shell, is composed<br>largely of calcium carbonate,<br>which protects the rest of the<br>egg.   | 15<br>Chickens are not completely<br>flightless. They can get airborne<br>enough to make it over a fence<br>or into a tree.                               | 16<br>It takes a hen approximately one<br>day (24-26 hours) to produce<br>an egg.  | 17       |
| 18     | <b>19</b><br>By 3000 BC, Egyptians had<br>domesticated, or tamed, fowl that<br>were laying eggs for man to eat.         | 20<br>The yellow portion of the egg is<br>called the yolk.   | <b>21</b><br>To tell if an egg is raw or hard-<br>cooked, spin it. If the egg spins<br>easily, it is hard cooked but if it<br>wobbles, it is raw. | <b>22</b><br>As a hen ages, her eggs increase<br>in size.   | 23<br>Chickens can run up to nine<br>miles per hour for short periods<br>of time.  | 24       |
| 25     | 26<br>Researchers at NASA are testing<br>a new jet fuel made from chicken<br>fat.                                       | <b>27</b><br>Egg yolks are one of the few<br>foods that naturally contain<br>Vitamin D.  | 28<br>Most eggs are laid between<br>7 a.m. and 11 a.m.  | 29<br>Eggs are a good source of lutein,<br>which is important for eye health.   | <b>30</b><br>The house or cage in which a<br>chicken lives is called a coop.   | 31       |



Ruminant, by-products, steer, breed, cloven, heifer

### **Recommended Reading:**

Beef Cattle an A-to-Z Book by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey The Practical County Drama Queen by Michelle Houts Steering Toward Normal by Rebecca Petruck Temple Grandin by Sy Montgomery

### January 2017

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 1      | <b>2</b><br>Cattle are ruminants,<br>which means they have four<br>compartments in<br>their stomach.                         | <b>3</b><br>Ear tags are one way farmers<br>mark their cattle for easier<br>recognition and to keep detailed<br>records on their feeding and<br>health.           | <b>4</b><br>The United States supplies 25% of<br>the world's beef supply with 10%<br>of the world's cattle. | 5<br>Between the meat from beef cattle<br>and the beef by-products, we are<br>able to use 99% of every steer<br>(male cattle used for meat). | <b>6</b><br>The cattle family (Bovidae) also<br>includes sheep, goats, goat-<br>antelopes and antelopes.             | 7        |
| 8      | <b>9</b><br>Beef is a good source of<br>ZIP (Zinc, Iron & Protein)<br>which helps keep you strong and<br>healthy.            | <b>10</b><br>When a calf is born it weighs<br>60 – 100 pounds, depending on<br>the breed.   | <b>11</b><br>Cattle weighing 1,000 pounds<br>will produce about 1,600<br>hamburgers.                        | <b>12</b><br>Columbus brought cattle with him<br>on his second voyage to the New<br>World in 1493.   | 13<br>The term "chew the cud" means<br>that cattle re-chew the food they<br>have previously chewed and<br>swallowed. | 14       |
| 15     | 16<br>Gelatin, made from bones and<br>horns, is used in making candles,<br>marshmallows, ice cream and<br>photographic film. | 17<br>There are over 94 million head of<br>beef cattle being produced by 1<br>million beef producers in the U.S.<br>Of these operations, 97% are<br>family-owned. | <b>18</b><br>The hide from one beef animal<br>can make 20 footballs, 12<br>basketballs or 144 baseballs.    | <b>19</b><br>Cattle can see in color,<br>just like people.   | 20<br>Ground beef, roasts, sirloins,<br>steaks, ribs and chuck are cuts of<br>beef that come from cattle.            | 21       |
| 22     | 23<br>Male cattle used for breeding are<br>called bulls.   | 24<br>Beef cattle have cloven,<br>or split, hooves.   | 25<br>Texas is the top producer of<br>beef in the U.S., followed<br>by Nebraska, Missouri and<br>Oklahoma.  | 26<br>The diet of cattle is a mixture<br>of grain, hay, grass and<br>supplements.  | 27<br>Cattle can eat around 40 pounds<br>of food each day.   | 28       |
| 29     | <b>30</b><br>Each year, the average American<br>eats over 60 pounds of beef.   | <b>31</b><br>Female cows, prior to giving<br>birth, are called heifers.   | ]   | 2  | 3  | 4        |



Piglet, manure, insulin, farrowing, sow, humidity

### February 2017

#### Recommended Reading:

Pigs: An A-to-Z Book by Susan Anderson and JoAnne Buggey Pigs & Piglets by Ann-Marie Kishel Pig 05049 by Christien Meindertsma The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs by Jon Scieszka

| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday   | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 29     | 30  | 31   | <b>1</b><br>A sow is a female pig used for<br>breeding. Sows are pregnant for<br>three months, three weeks, and<br>three days.  | 2<br>An average litter is 8 to 12<br>piglets. At birth, piglets weigh 2<br>½ pounds.                | <b>3</b><br>Pigs are one of the few animals<br>that do not overeat.  | 4        |
| 5      | <b>6</b><br>Adult pigs drink up to 5 gallons<br>of water each day.  | <b>7</b><br>Since pigs cannot sweat, they are<br>kept in temperature and humidity<br>controlled barns, out of extreme<br>weather conditions. | 8<br>Salt pork was shipped to Valley<br>Forge to feed the Continental<br>Army in the winter of 1776-77.   | <b>9</b><br>The pig dates back 40 million<br>years. By 4900 BC, pigs were<br>domesticated in China. | 10<br>Insulin is made from pigs'<br>adrenal glands and helps people<br>with diabetes lower their blood<br>sugar.                     | 11       |
| 12     | <b>13</b><br>As popular as pork is in the U.S.,<br>China is actually the #1 producer<br>and consumer of fresh pork. | <b>14</b><br>Pigs rank as the fourth most<br>intelligent animal.   | 15<br>A pig's tongue contains 15,000<br>taste buds. By comparison, the<br>human tongue has 9,000 taste<br>buds.   | 16<br>Mother pigs are called sows.<br>Baby pigs are called piglets.                                 | 17<br>Research shows that pork<br>tenderloin is just as lean as<br>a skinless chicken breast.  | 18       |
| 19     | 20<br>Pork is the food products that<br>come from pigs. Some examples<br>are bacon, ham, sausage and<br>pork chops. | 21<br>Hog manure is often spread on<br>fields as fertilizer for crops.   | <b>22</b><br>When hot dogs were first sold,<br>street vendors called them "red<br>hots." Served without buns, a<br>pair of white gloves came with<br>each one to keep fingers cool<br>while eating. | 23<br>Farrowing, in hog farming,<br>means giving birth.   | 24<br>In days of old, sea captains kept<br>pigs on board because they<br>believed that pigs always swam<br>toward the nearest shore. | 25       |
| 26     | 27<br>Pigs weigh about 280 pounds<br>by the time they are four to six<br>months old.                                | 28<br>A pig can run a seven-minute<br>mile!  | 1   | 2   | 3  | 4        |

PUMPKIN (Early Season)

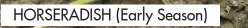
Gourd, ornamental, pollination, edible, pilgrims, immigrants, angiosperm

### March 2017

#### **Recommended Reading:**

From Seed to Pumpkin by Wendy Pfeffer How Big Could Your Pumpkin Grow? by Wendell Minor Pumpkin Fiesta by Caryn Yacowitz Squashed by Joan Bauer

| Sunday | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday |
|--------|--|---|---|---|---|----------|
| 26     | 27   | 28  | <b>1</b><br>Pumpkins are members of the<br>gourd family, which includes<br>cucumbers, melons, cantaloupe<br>and zucchini. | <b>2</b><br>Although pumpkins are native<br>to Central America and Mexico,<br>they now grow on all continents<br>except Antarctica. | 3<br>Illinois farmers grow more<br>ornamental and processing<br>(canning & cooking) pumpkins<br>than any other state.                             | 4        |
| 5      | <b>6</b><br>Pumpkins are 90% water.  | <b>7</b><br>Morton, Illinois, is known as the<br>"Pumpkin Capital of the World."            | <b>8</b><br>Giant pumpkins can grow<br>5 pounds a day.  | <b>9</b><br>Pumpkin seeds are also known<br>as pepitas.   | 10<br>A pumpkin vine can grow up to<br>30 feet long.  | 11       |
| 12     | 13<br>It takes about 120 days for a<br>pumpkin to grow from planting<br>to harvest.  | 14<br>Pumpkins can range in size from<br>less than a pound to over 1,000<br>pounds.         | 15<br>Because pumpkins are part of the<br>plant that contains seeds, they<br>are a fruit.                                 | 16<br>The name pumpkin originates<br>from "pepon," the Greek word for<br>"large melon."   | 17<br>Pumpkins grow on vines.<br>Through insect pollination, they<br>start growing inside a pumpkin<br>blossom on the vine.                       | 18       |
| 19     | 20<br>Native Americans flattened strips<br>of pumpkins, dried them and<br>made mats. | 21<br>Pumpkin flowers have 5 petals<br>and are edible.                                      | 22<br>Pumpkin seeds contain protein<br>and iron, and they can be<br>roasted as a snack.                                   | 23<br>In early colonial times, pumpkins<br>were used as an ingredient for<br>the crust of pies, not the filling.                    | 24<br>Pumpkins are a great source of<br>vitamin A and potassium.  | 25       |
| 26     | 27<br>The tap root of a pumpkin can<br>grow 2 to 3 feet deep.                        | 28<br>Pumpkins are angiosperms,<br>which is a scientific name for<br>"plants with flowers." | 29<br>Centuries before the Pilgrims<br>landed, Native Americans used<br>pumpkin as a staple in their diets.               | 30<br>Jack-o-lanterns were made out<br>of turnips until Irish immigrants<br>arrived in America and<br>discovered the pumpkin.       | <b>31</b><br>Eighty percent of all pumpkins<br>produced commercially in the<br>U.S. are produced within a 90-<br>mile radius of Peoria, Illinois. | 1        |



Convenience, distilled, potash, cultivate, dormancy, aroma, oxidize

### April 2017

#### **Recommended Reading:**

Jack's Garden by Henry Cole Buried Treasure: Roots & Tubers by Meredith Sayles Hughes The Vegetables We Eat by Gail Gibbons Tops & Bottoms by Janet Stevens

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday |
|----------|---|--|--|--|---|----------|
| 26       | 27  | 28   | 29   | 30   | 31  | 1        |
| 2        | <b>3</b><br>Horseradish is a root harvested<br>in the spring and fall.  | <b>4</b><br>In the U.S., an estimated 24<br>million pounds of horseradish<br>roots are ground and processed<br>annually to yield 6 million gallons<br>of prepared horseradish. | 5<br>Horseradish is still planted and<br>harvested mostly by hand.   | 6<br>Processors grate the root,<br>releasing volatile oils that<br>distinguish horseradish from<br>all other flavors.                                      | Z<br>Sales of bottled horseradish<br>began in 1860, making it one of<br>the first convenience foods.                        | 8        |
| 9        | 10<br>There are only 2 calories in<br>a teaspoon of horseradish.  | <b>11</b><br>In the American South,<br>horseradish was rubbed on the<br>forehead to relieve headaches.   | 12<br>Ground horseradish is mixed<br>with distilled vinegar to become<br>basic prepared horseradish.<br>Other spices and ingredients can<br>also be added. | 13<br>Horseradish is celebrated at the<br>International Horseradish Festival<br>in Collinsville, Illinois, the first full<br>weekend of June each year.    | 14<br>Sixty percent of the world's<br>supply of horseradish is grown<br>in Collinsville, IL, and the<br>surrounding area.   | 15       |
| 16       | 17<br>The area around Collinsville<br>supplies soil rich in potash that<br>the horseradish needs to thrive.   | 18<br>Horseradish is a member of the<br>mustard family.  | 19<br>Horseradish is cultivated for its<br>thick, fleshy white root.   | 20<br>The cold winters of Illinois<br>provide the required root<br>dormancy, and the long summers<br>provide excellent growing<br>conditions.              | <b>21</b><br>Egyptians used horseradish as<br>far back as 1500 BC. Early<br>Greeks used it as a rub for lower<br>back pain. | 22       |
| 23<br>30 | 24<br>The vinegar used in processed<br>horseradish stops the oxidization<br>of isothiocyanate, a compound<br>that generates the "heat" of<br>horseradish. | 25<br>Until it is grated or ground,<br>the bite and aroma of the<br>horseradish are almost absent.   | 26<br>Early settlers brought horseradish<br>to North America and began<br>cultivating it in<br>the colonies.   | 27<br>In the name horseradish, "horse"<br>is believed to denote large size<br>and coarseness, and "radish"<br>comes from the Latin radix,<br>meaning root. | 28<br>Horseradish is believed to have<br>originated in Central Europe.  | 29       |

APPLES (Mid Season)

Tart, antioxidants, archeology, volume, propagated

### **Recommended Reading:**

The Year Money Grew on Trees by Aaron Hawkins Seed by Seed by Esme Raji Codell The Apple Orchard Riddle by Margaret McNamara and G. Brian Karas The Apple Star Adventure by Chris Summerhayes

|        |   | Ι   | May 2017   | 7  | Seed by Seed by Esme Raji Codell<br>The Apple Orchard Riddle by Marga<br>The Apple Star Adventure by Chris Si                           | ret McNamara and G. Brian Karas<br>ummerhayes |
|--------|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday                                      |
| 30     | <b>]</b><br>The GoldRush apple, a sweet-<br>tart yellow apple with a long<br>shelf life, is the official Illinois<br>state fruit. | <b>2</b><br>Don't peel your apple. Two-thirds<br>of the fiber and antioxidants are<br>found in<br>the peel. | <b>3</b><br>The apple tree originated in an<br>area between the Caspian Sea<br>and the Black Sea.                      | <b>A</b><br>Archeological evidence shows<br>that humans have enjoyed apples<br>since at least 6500 BC.   | 5<br>Apples are part of the rose<br>family, just like pears<br>and plums.   | 6   |
| 7      | 8<br>It takes about 36 apples<br>to create one gallon of<br>apple cider.  | <b>9</b><br>At room temperature, apples<br>ripen 10 times faster than if they<br>are refrigerated.          | 10<br>Apple trees typically blossom in<br>spring with fruit maturing<br>in autumn.                                     | <b>11</b><br>Twenty-five percent of an apple's<br>volume is made up of air, which<br>is why apples float.  | <b>12</b><br>Apple trees can live for more<br>than 100 years.   | 13  |
| 14     | <b>15</b><br>The world's top apple producers<br>are China, United States, Turkey,<br>Poland and Italy.                            | 16<br>Apples are propagated by two<br>methods: grafting or budding.   | 17<br>It takes an apple tree four<br>to five years to produce its<br>first fruit.                                      | 18<br>America's longest-lived apple tree<br>was reportedly planted in 1647,<br>and was still bearing fruit when a<br>derailed train struck it in 1866. | <b>19</b><br>Most apples are still picked<br>by hand in the fall.   | 20  |
| 21     | 22<br>The crabapple is the only apple<br>native to North America.   | 23<br>Apples can range in size from a<br>little larger than a cherry to the<br>size of a grapefruit.        | 24<br>Red Delicious apples are the most<br>widely grown apple variety in the<br>United States.                         | 25<br>Apples arrived in North America<br>via early European settlers.  | 26<br>Apple seeds contain a cyanide<br>compound, but the seeds are<br>covered in a protective coating<br>which keeps the compound safe. | 27  |
| 28     | 2,500 varieties of apples<br>are grown in the U.S. with<br>100 of those varieties grown<br>commercially.                          | 30<br>Pomology is the science<br>of apple-growing.  | <b>31</b><br>A peck is a unit of dry volume,<br>and a peck of apples is 10.5<br>pounds. Four pecks equals<br>a bushel. | 1  | 2   | 3   |



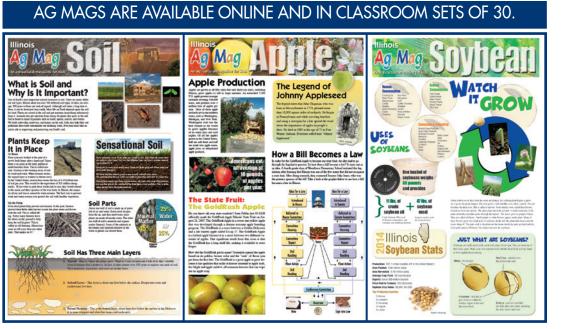
Maize, biodegradable, fossilized, components, evaporation, commodities, ethanol

### **Recommended Reading:**

Anna's Corn by Barbara Santucci Ethanol and Other New Fuels by Tea Benduhn Corn: From Farm to Table by William Anton Four Seasons of Corn by Sally M. Hunter

### June 2017

| Sunday       | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday           |
|--------------|--|---|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 28           | 29   | 30  | 31  | 1   | 2 Corn is called maize by<br>most countries; this comes fro<br>the Spanish word 'maiz.'   | <b>3</b>           |
| 4            | 5  | 6 Four states, Iowa, Minnesota,<br>Nebraska and Illinois, grow<br>over half of all the corn   | 7   | 8 The United States<br>grows almost all the<br>world's popcorn.   | 9   | 10                 |
| 11           | 12 Corn is actually a grain,<br>not a vegetable, and it is po<br>of the grass family.  | 13 <sup>in the U.S.</sup>   | 14 In the days of the early<br>American settlers, corn was<br>so valuable that it was used  | 15  | 16 Corn is grown all over the world, but the U.S. supplies almost half of all the corn  | 17                 |
| 18           | 19   | 20 A kernel is the yellow<br>seed on an ear of corn.<br>One ear of corn averages  | 21 as money and traded for other products.  | 22 Corn plastic is more<br>environmentally friendly tha<br>petroleum based plastic, and   |   | 24                 |
| 25           | 26 There are several types of<br>corn. The most common typ<br>are field corn,<br>sweet corn and popcorn.   | 27 <sup>800 kernels in 16 rows.</sup>   | 28 Popcorn is the official<br>Illinois snack food.<br>July 2017   | 29 <sup>is completely biodegradable</sup>   | e. 30 Fossilized corn cobs and<br>pollen found in Mexico suggethat Ancient Mayans cultival<br>corn sometime between 170   | ted                |
|              |  | •   |   |   | and 1240 BC.  |                    |
| Sunday       | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday  | and 1240 BC.<br>Friday  | Saturday           |
| Sunday<br>25 | Monday<br>26   |   |   |   |   | Saturday<br>1      |
| ,            | 26<br>3 Each corn kernel contains<br>four major components: sta  | Tuesday<br>27<br>4  | Wednesday<br>28<br>5 An acre of corn will give off<br>4,000 gallons of water  | Thursday  | Friday<br>30<br>7 Tassels, stalks, husks, ears,<br>leaves, roots and kernels  | Saturday<br>1<br>8 |
| 25           | 26<br>3 Each corn kernel contains  | Tuesday         27         4         11         Corn will always have an even number of rows on   | Wednesday<br>28<br>5 An acre of corn will give off  | Thursday         29         6         13 A bushel is a unit of measur for volumes of dry commodities  | Friday<br>30<br>7 Tassels, stalks, husks, ears,<br>leaves, roots and kernels<br>are all part of a corn plant.<br>re 14  | 1                  |
| 25<br>2      | <ul> <li>26</li> <li>3 Each corn kernel contains four major components: staprotein, oil and fiber.</li> <li>10</li> <li>17 Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried</li> </ul> | Tuesday<br>27<br>4<br>rch,<br>11 Corn will always have an   | Wednesday<br>28<br>5 An acre of corn will give off<br>4,000 gallons of water<br>per day in evaporation.<br>12<br>19 Ethanol, a high performance<br>fuel made from corn,   | Thursday<br>29<br>6<br>13 A bushel is a unit of measur  | Friday<br>30<br>7 Tassels, stalks, husks, ears,<br>leaves, roots and kernels<br>are all part of a corn plant.<br>re 14<br>ities,<br>. One<br>21 Field corn is also known as<br>dent corn, which is higher in  | 1<br>8<br>15<br>22 |
| 25<br>2<br>9 | <ul> <li>26</li> <li>3 Each corn kernel contains four major components: staprotein, oil and fiber.</li> <li>10</li> <li>17 Native Americans flattened</li> </ul>                           | Tuesday         27         4         11       Corn will always have an even number of rows on each cob.         18         25       One bushel of corn produces 2.8 gallons of ethanol. | Wednesday         28         5       An acre of corn will give off 4,000 gallons of water per day in evaporation.         12         19       Ethanol, a high performance fuel made from corn, is a renewable resource; | <ul> <li>Thursday</li> <li>29</li> <li>6</li> <li>13 A bushel is a unit of measur for volumes of dry commodi such as shelled corn kernels.</li> <li>20 bushel of corn is equal</li> </ul> | Friday<br>30<br>7 Tassels, stalks, husks, ears,<br>leaves, roots and kernels<br>are all part of a corn plant.<br>re 14<br>ities,<br>. One<br>21 Field corn is also known as<br>dent corn, which is higher in<br>starch and lower in sugar th<br>sweet corn. | 1<br>8<br>15<br>22 |





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1701 Towanda Avenue • Bloomington, IL 61701 • 309-557-3334 • aitc@ilfb.org Visit us on our website at www.agintheclassroom.org