Prairie State Thanksgiving Plate

Social Studies

Grade Level
3-5

Length of Lesson
40-50 minutes

Objective
Students will draw map symbols to identify different counties across Illinois that produce the foods served at Thanksgiving.

Materials

- Thanksgiving Menu Resource
- Shopping List resource
- Illinois State Map Worksheet (one per student)
- Thanksgiving Ingredient cards for placing around the room (1/2 sheet & full sheet options provided)
- clipboards (one per student)
- Coloring utensils for each student

Standards
SS.3.EC.1.; SS.4.EC.2.; SS.5.EC.1.; SS.3.G.1.; SS.4.G.1.; SS.5.G.1.

Lesson Summary
In this lesson, students will discover where their favorite Thanksgiving foods are grown in Illinois. They will also practice reading and creating map features by drawing symbols on a map of Illinois.

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Print out a copy of the "Prairie State, Thanksgiving Plate" worksheet (Illinois Map) for each student. Print out the Ingredient cards and place them around the room.
   Print out or project the "Thanksgiving Menu" resource as well as the "Shopping List" resource.
2. Display the "Thanksgiving Menu" on the board. Tell the students they are going to help you with your Thanksgiving Shopping List. Read your menu aloud. **If time allows, invite students to share what foods they eat on Thanksgiving.**
3. Next, ask the students if they recognize any ingredients within your menu that connect to Illinois agriculture. *"We grow sweet corn in Illinois, we grow pumpkins for pumpkin pie in Illinois, etc."* After giving students time to create a list of ingredients, display the "Shopping List" resource. Compare their lists to see if you covered each of the foods grown or produced in Illinois.
4. Activity:
   - Distribute an Illinois State Map worksheet to each student.
   - Ask students if they know where each of these ingredients (commodities) is grown or raised in Illinois. Ask if they know which county grows the most of each item.
   - Explain to students they will move around the room with their state map and find the ingredient (commodity) signs posted. Students will read the facts about each ingredient, identify the county it is grown in, and draw the ingredient's symbol found in the map key on the correct county on their map. **If necessary, teach map reading skills prior to activity (key identification, cardinal directions, etc).**
5. Come together for a whole class discussion and reflection. Were students surprised by the answers? Do you live in or close to one of the counties from the activity?

TEACHER RESOURCES

Extension Ideas

- This project can be done as a class where you work through each ingredient together and highlight the counties one at a time.
- For your printing needs we have provided half sheet and full sheet Ingredient cards. These cards are easiest to read when printed in color.
- If you would like to teach about the geography of your Thanksgiving dinner on a national level, check out the National Ag in the Classroom lesson “The Geography of Thanksgiving Dinner” here: https://agclassroom.org/matrix/lessons/367/
- Read a book about Thanksgiving or any of the holiday foods suggested from the book recommendations list on the IAITC website found here: https://iaitc.co/aitcbooks
- Find more information about commodities grown in Illinois, check out the USDA Census of Agriculture found here: https://www.nass.usda.gov/publications/agcensus/2022/full-report/volume-1-chapter-2-county-level/illinois
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of the IAITC Ag Mags.

Information from this activity was sourced from the USDA National Agricultureal Statistics Service 2022 Census of Agriculture.

USDA United State Department Agriculture

Prairie State Thanksgiving Plate

Draw the symbol shown in the key on the county where the most of each Thanksgiving ingredient is grown in Illinois.



Key

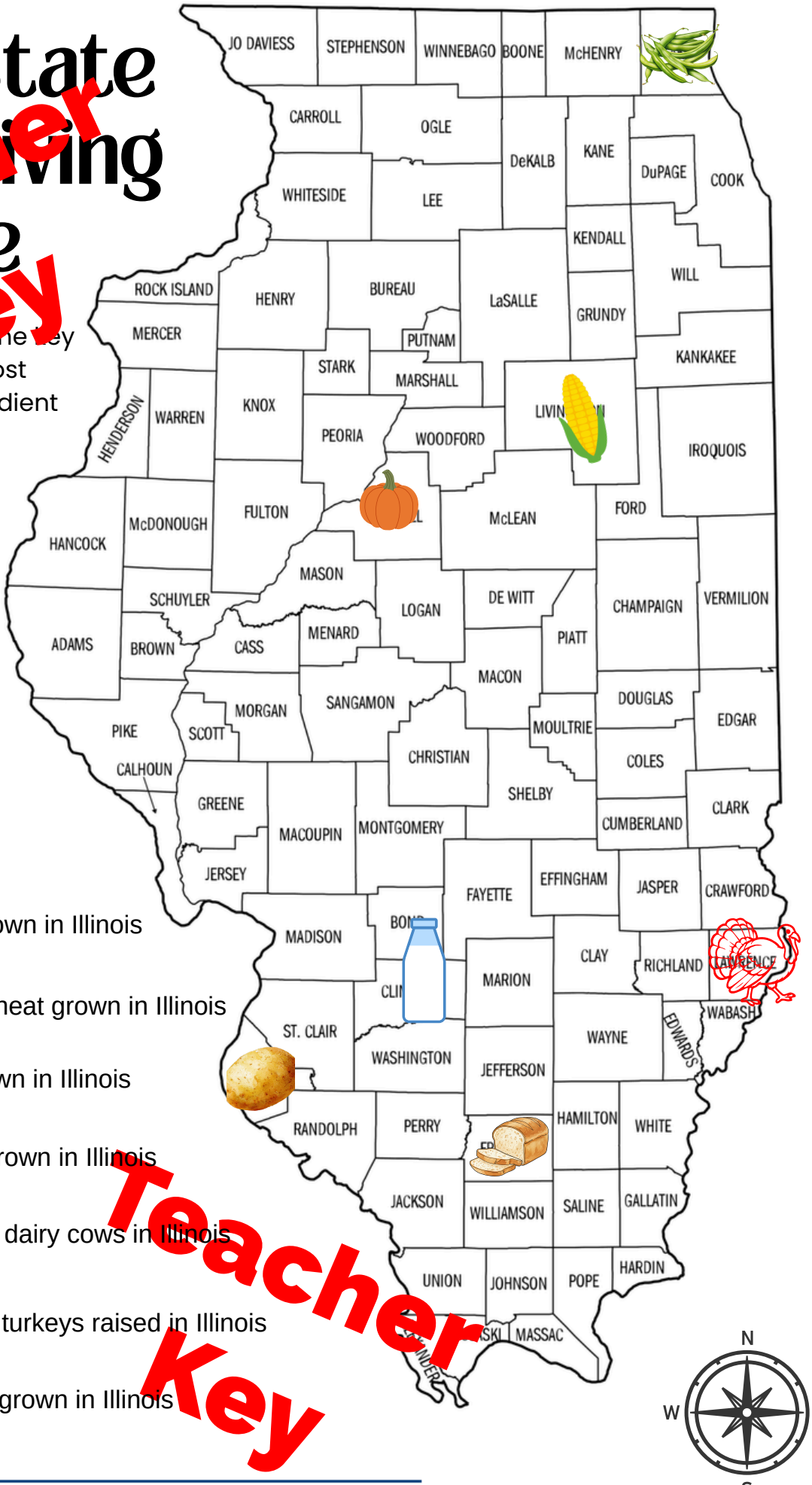
- Most pumpkins grown in Illinois
- Most bushels of wheat grown in Illinois
- Most potatoes grown in Illinois
- Most sweet corn grown in Illinois
- Highest number of dairy cows in Illinois
- Highest number of turkeys raised in Illinois
- Most green beans grown in Illinois

N
W
E
S

Prairie State Thanksgiving Plate

Teacher Key

Draw the symbol shown in the key on the county where the most of each Thanksgiving ingredient is grown in Illinois.



Key

- Most pumpkins grown in Illinois
- Most bushels of wheat grown in Illinois
- Most potatoes grown in Illinois
- Most sweet corn grown in Illinois
- Highest number of dairy cows in Illinois
- Highest number of turkeys raised in Illinois
- Most green beans grown in Illinois

Teacher Key

TEACHER RESOURCES

Thanksgiving Menu Resource



Thanksgiving Shopping List Resource

My Thanksgiving Shopping List

Turkey

Wheat Rolls

Green Beans

Potatoes

Pumpkin

Corn

Milk

Wheat



Wheat is a grain plant. It produces dry, edible seeds called kernels. We use kernels to make foods like bread. We grow soft, red winter wheat in Illinois.

Franklin County grows the most wheat in Illinois. They grow almost 1.4 million bushels of wheat each year!

Turkeys



Turkeys are large birds that are native to North America and have been here for millions of years. The average American eats 15 pounds of turkey each year!

Lawrence County raises the most turkeys each year in Illinois. They raised over 291,000 turkeys in 2022!

Potatoes



There are more than 200 types of potatoes in the United States. In Illinois, the top four types are: Russet, Burbank, Green Mountain and Yukon Gold.

Lake County grows the most potatoes in Illinois. Illinois produces around 195,000 tons of potatoes every year!

Green Beans



Green beans are the second most common garden vegetable. They can also be called string beans or snap beans.

Monroe County grows the most green beans in Illinois. In 2022, Illinois grew over 88 million pounds of green beans!

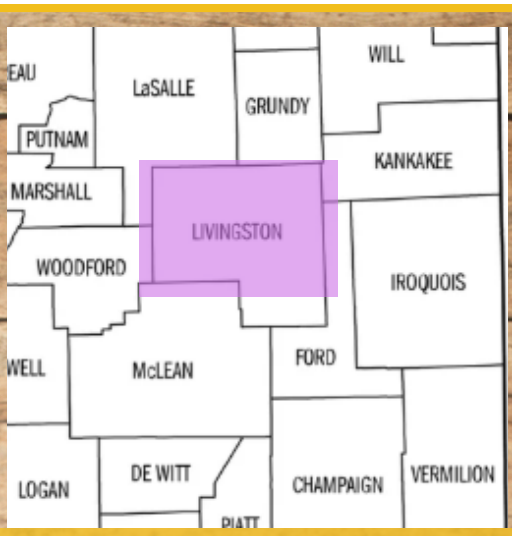
Pumpkins



Pumpkins are a part of the gourd family. They have been growing in North America for thousands of years.

Tazewell County grows the most pumpkins in Illinois. Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world.

Sweet Corn



We eat a type of corn called sweet corn. Sweet corn is picked when the kernels are soft and sweet. About 2% of corn grown in Illinois is sweet corn.

Livingston County grows the most sweet corn in Illinois. Illinois grows roughly 16,000 ears of sweet corn each year!



Dairy cows make milk that can be turned into foods like butter, cheese and whipped cream. We use a lot of dairy at Thanksgiving!

Clinton County has the most dairy cows in Illinois. They have over 14,100 cows! That means they make 120,000 gallons of milk a day!

Wheat



Wheat is a grain plant. It produces dry, edible seeds called kernels. We use kernels to make foods like bread. We grow soft, red winter wheat in Illinois.

Franklin County grows the most wheat in Illinois. They grow almost 1.4 million bushels of wheat each year!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom℠

Turkeys



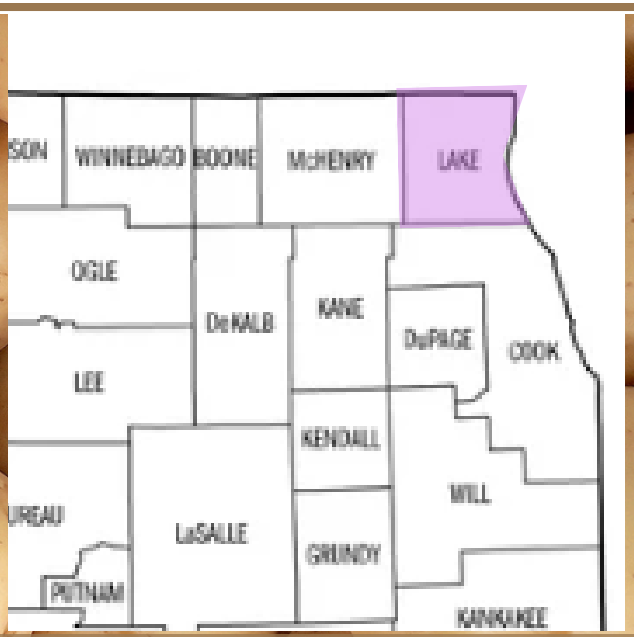
Turkeys are large birds that are native to North America and have been here for millions of years. The average American eats 15 pounds of turkey each year!

Lawrence County raises the most turkeys each year in Illinois. They raised over 291,000 turkeys in 2022!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

Potatoes



There are more than 200 types of potatoes in the United States. In Illinois, the top four types are: Russet, Burbank, Green Mountain and Yukon Gold.

Lake County grows the most potatoes in Illinois. Illinois produces around 195,000 tons of potatoes every year!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom℠

Green Beans



Green beans are the second most common garden vegetable. They can also be called string beans or snap beans.

Monroe County grows the most green beans in Illinois. In 2022, Illinois grew over 88 million pounds of green beans!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom℠

Pumpkins



Pumpkins are a part of the gourd family. They have been growing in North America for thousands of years.

Tazewell County grows the most pumpkins in Illinois. Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world.

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom

Milk



Dairy cows make milk that can be turned into foods like butter, cheese and whipped cream. We use a lot of dairy at Thanksgiving!

Clinton County has the most dairy cows in Illinois. They have over 14,100 cows! That means they make 120,000 gallons of milk a day!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois AGRICULTURE in the Classroom℠

Sweet Corn



We eat a type of corn called sweet corn. Sweet corn is picked when the kernels are soft and sweet. About 2% of corn grown in Illinois is sweet corn.

Livingston County grows the most sweet corn in Illinois. Illinois grows roughly 16,000 ears of sweet corn each year!

For more great educational agriculture resources, visit: agintheclassroom.org

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom℠