



ILLINOIS

Ag in the Classroom

Get-A-Grant Workshop!



Today's Agenda

- Grant Details
- Book Grant Books & Lesson Ideas
- Previous Recipient Examples
- Project Grant Inspiration
- Application Walk-Through
- View a Successful Application

Add questions to Q&A box, time at end to answer



Book Grant

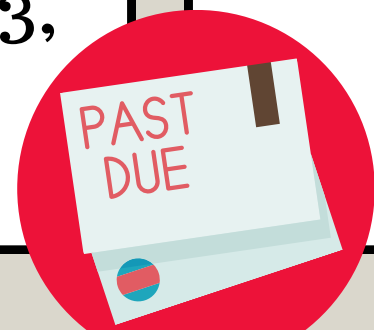
The purpose: integrate agriculture into your spring classroom curriculum. The books you choose should be incorporated into a project, lesson, or unit study in the spring semester.

The Basics:

- Amount: Up to \$250
- Application Deadline: October 16, 2026
- Grant Recipients notified by November 13, 2026

The Deadlines:

- Funding Agreement completed and signed by December 11, 2026
 - **Forfeit the Grant**
- Final Report due May 28, 2027
 - **Whole school blacklisted**



The Categories:

Trees

Ag & Technology

Seasons

Biographies in Agriculture

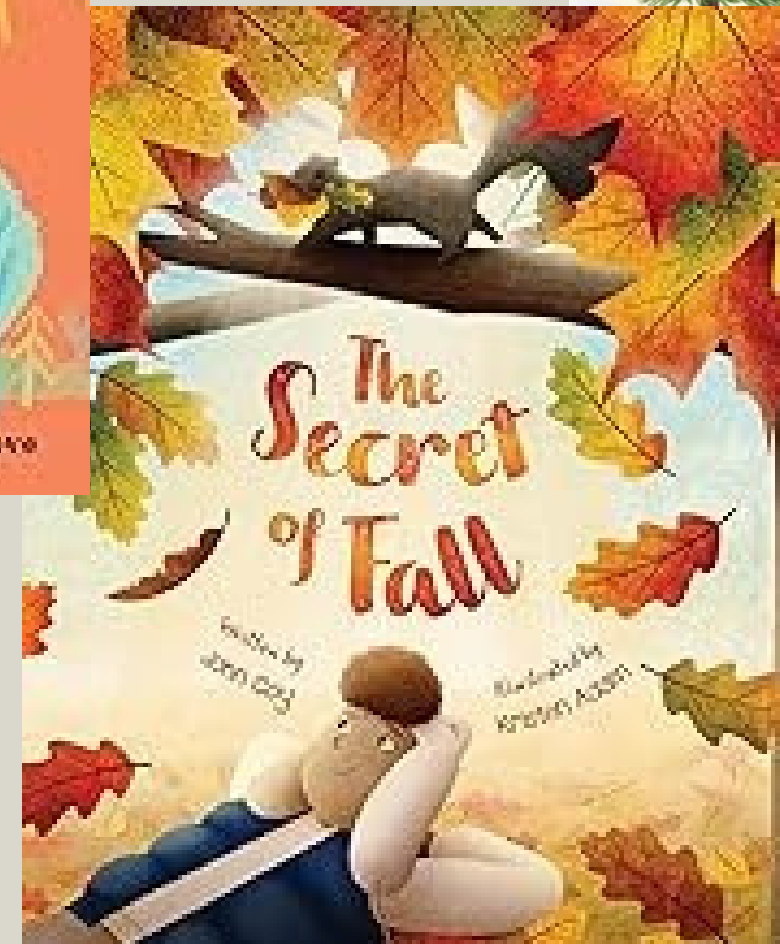
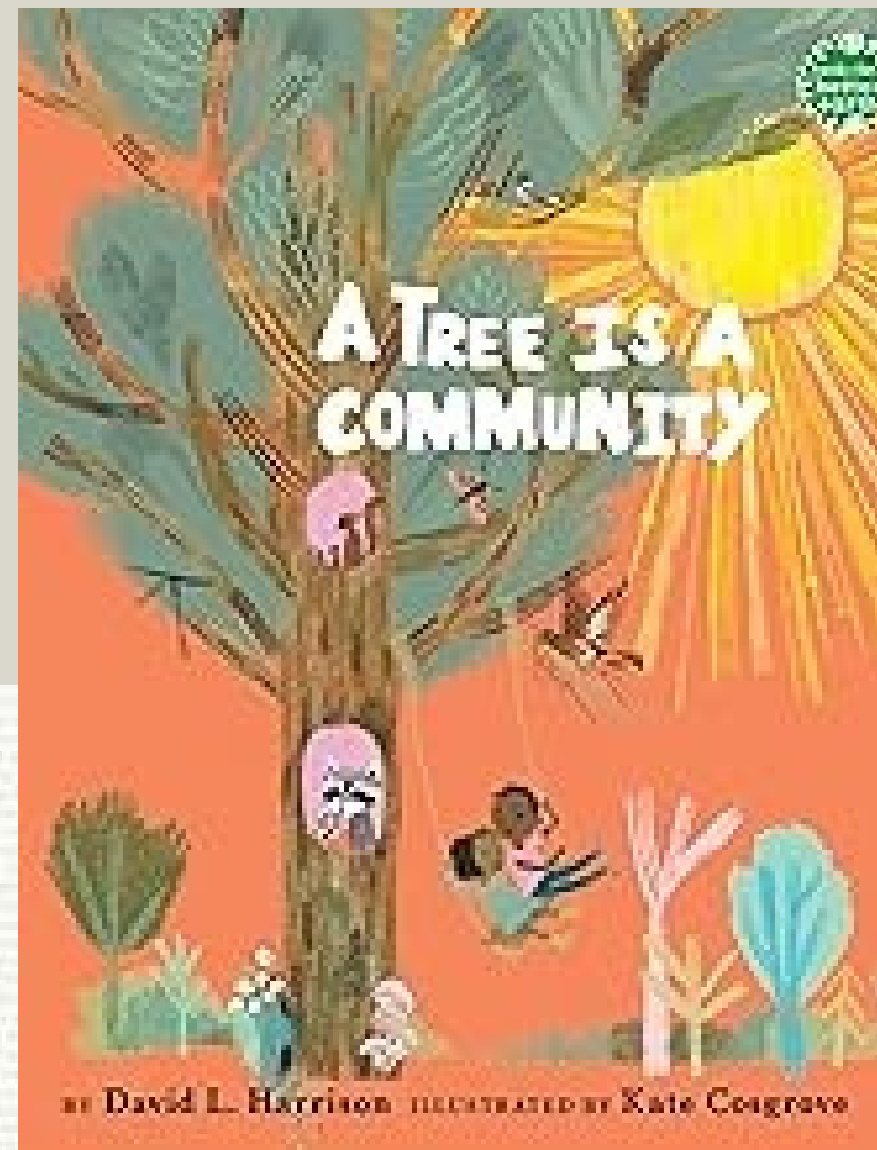
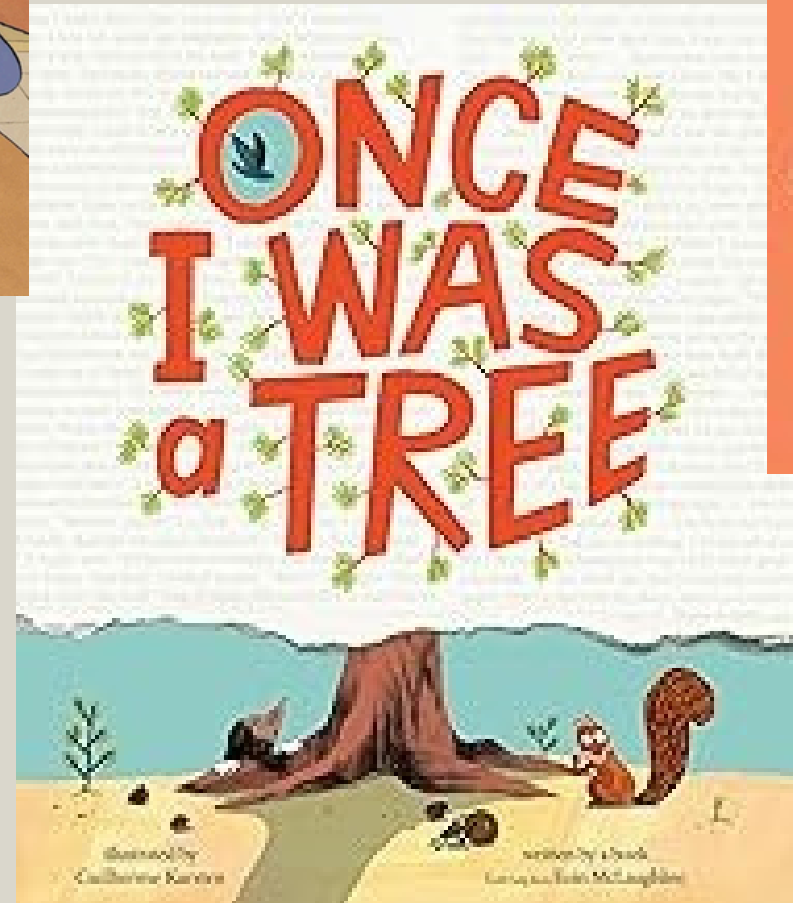
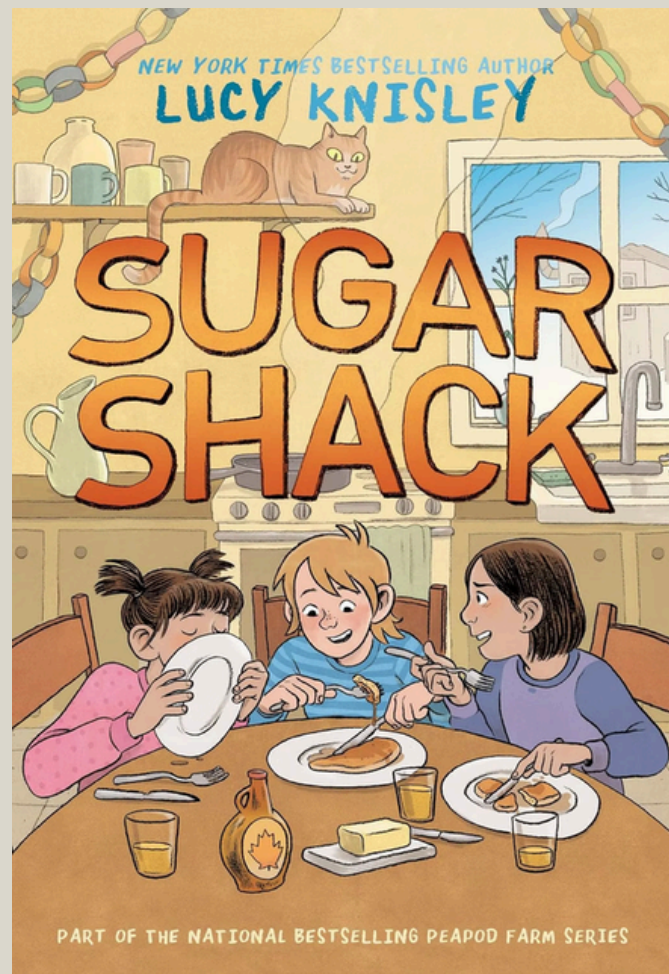
Gardens & Growing

YA Food & Farming Books

Book Grant Application

1. Teacher/School Information
2. Select Your Books
3. Title of Project & Number of Students
4. Learning Standards
5. Objectives
6. Project Overview and Timeline
7. Connection to Agriculture
8. Project Evaluation

Trees

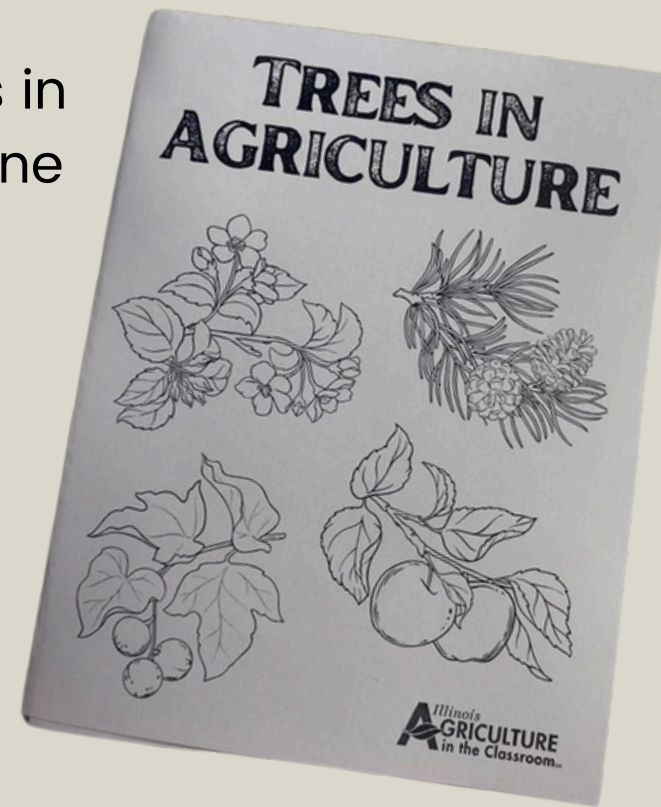


Trees

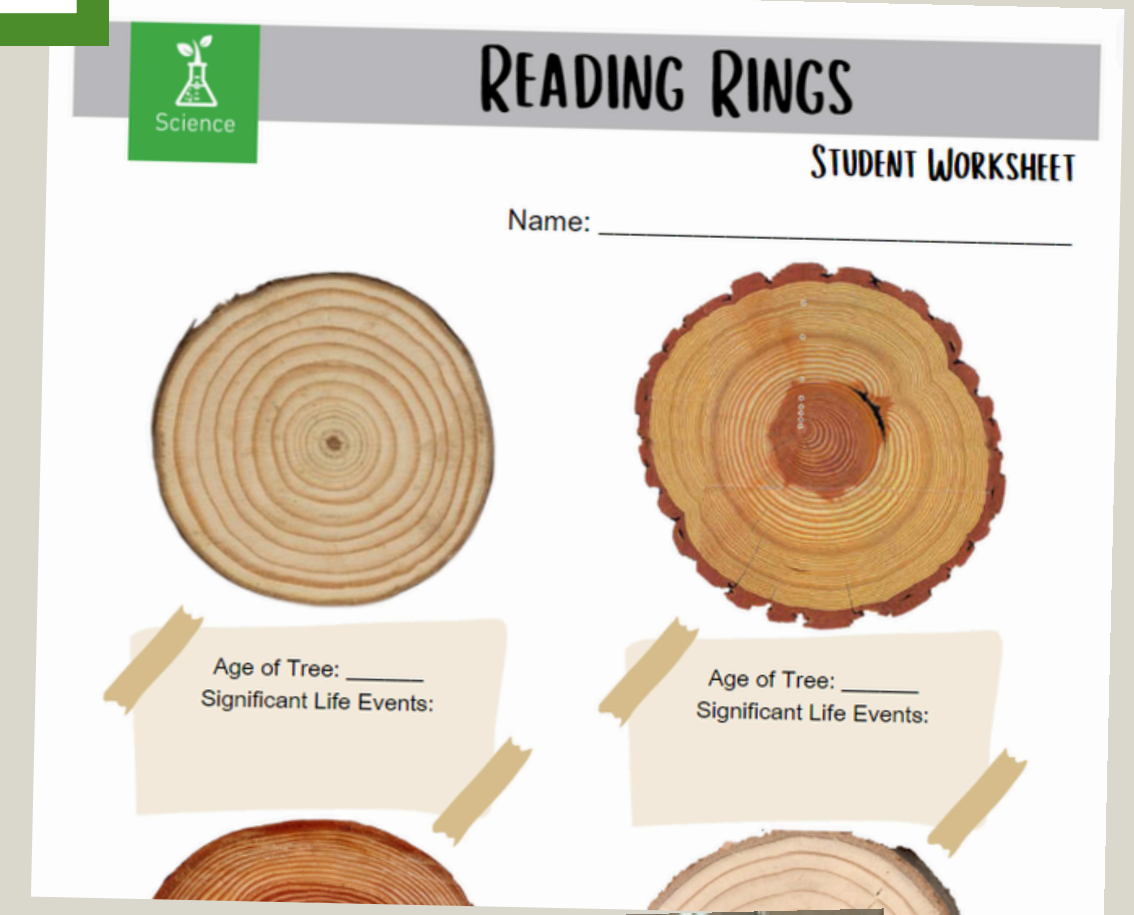
Trees Farm Bites



Trees in Ag Zine



Reading Rings



Comparing Conifer Hardiness

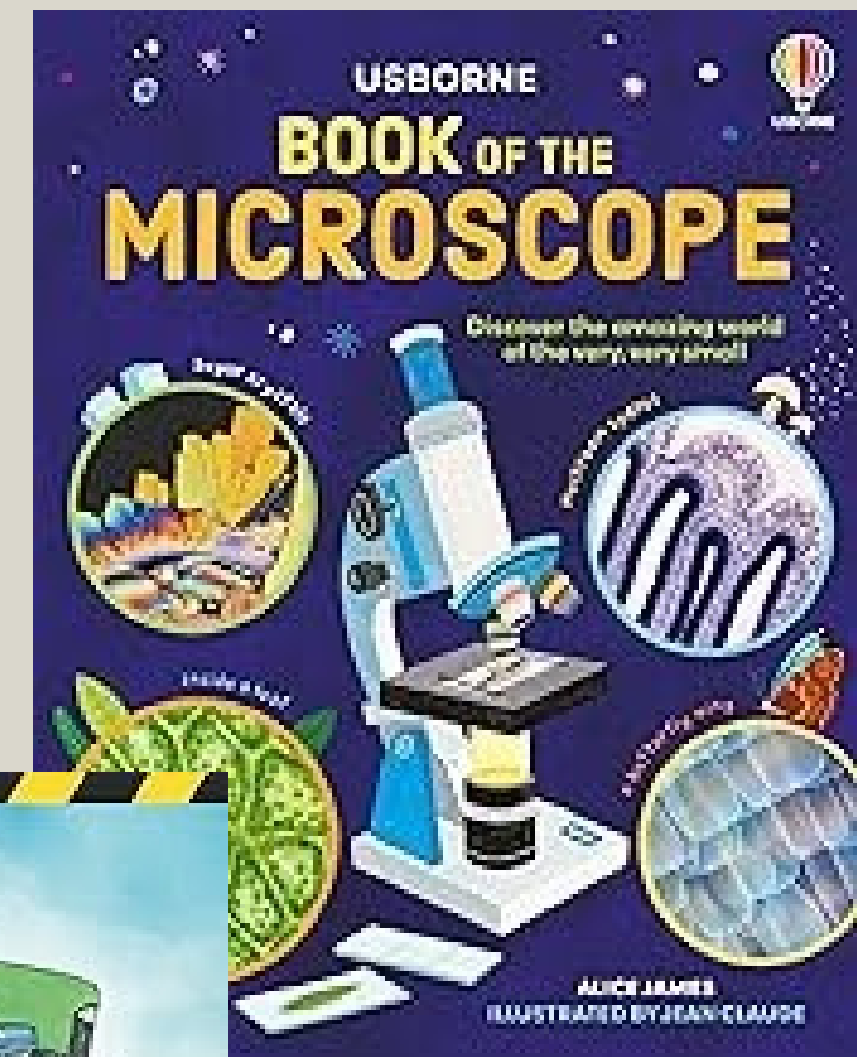
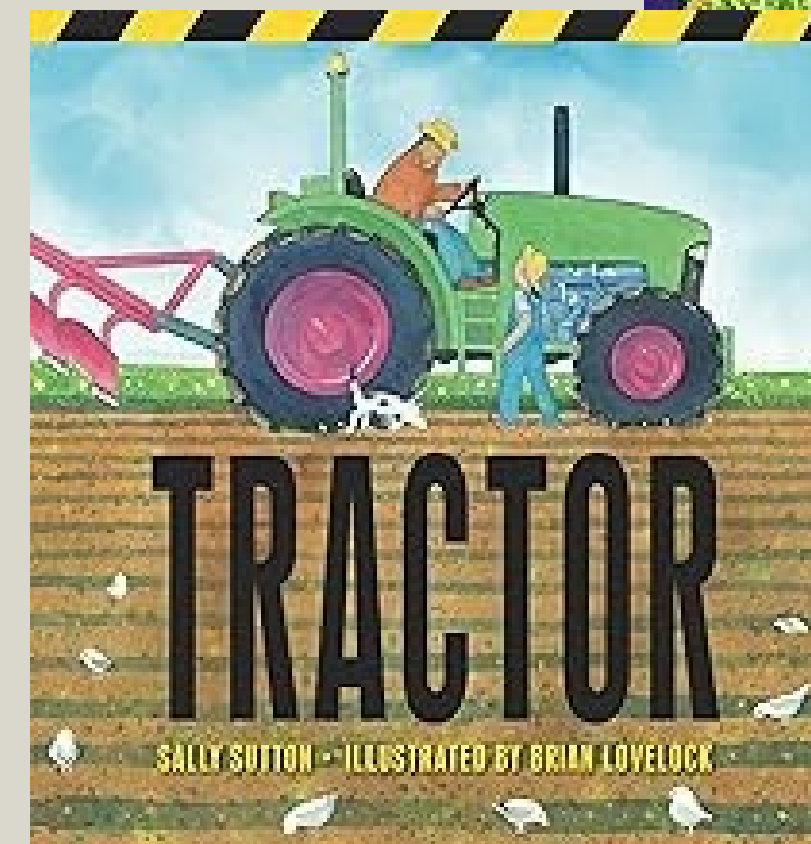
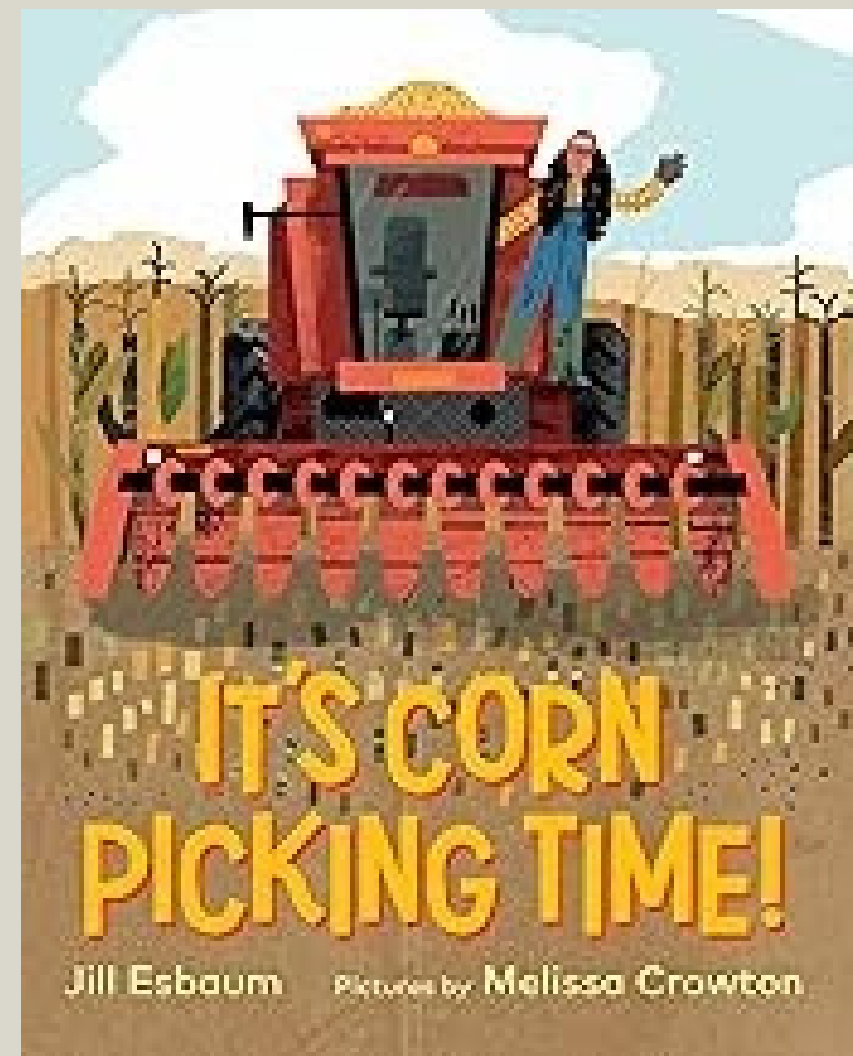
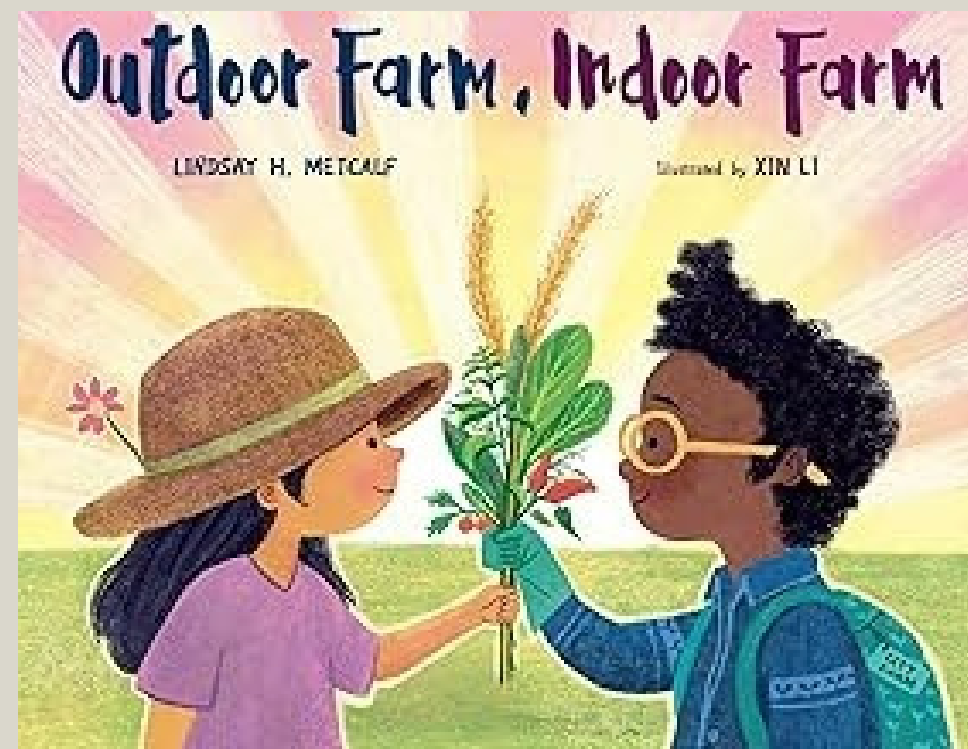
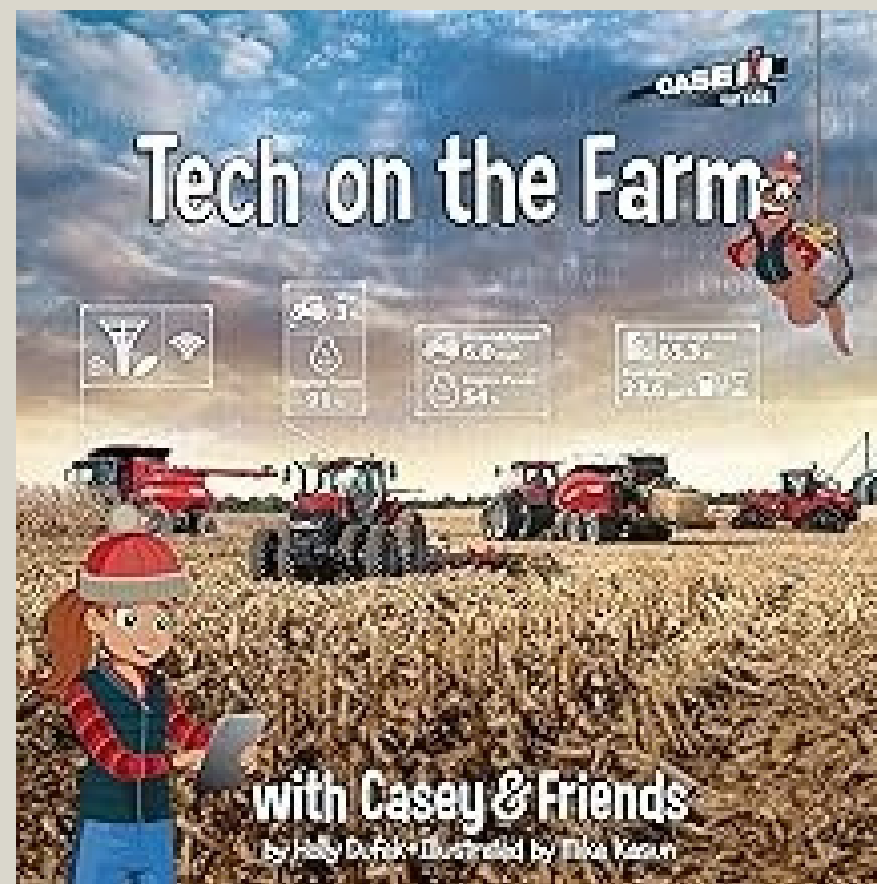


3D Evergreen Tree



Pinecone Adaptation Experiment

Ag & Technology



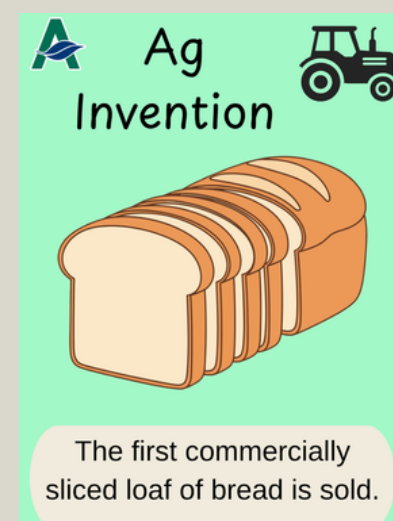
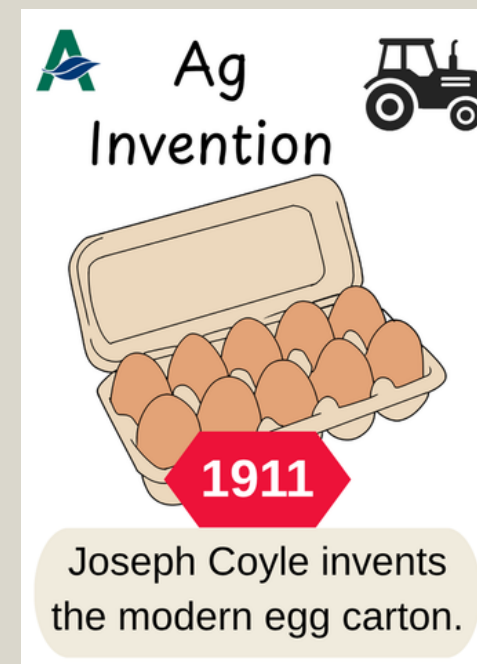
Ag & Technology

Also keep in
mind for project
grants!

Rocks to Robots
Game



micro:bit
AGtivities!



Variable Rate
Irrigation

Ag & Technology

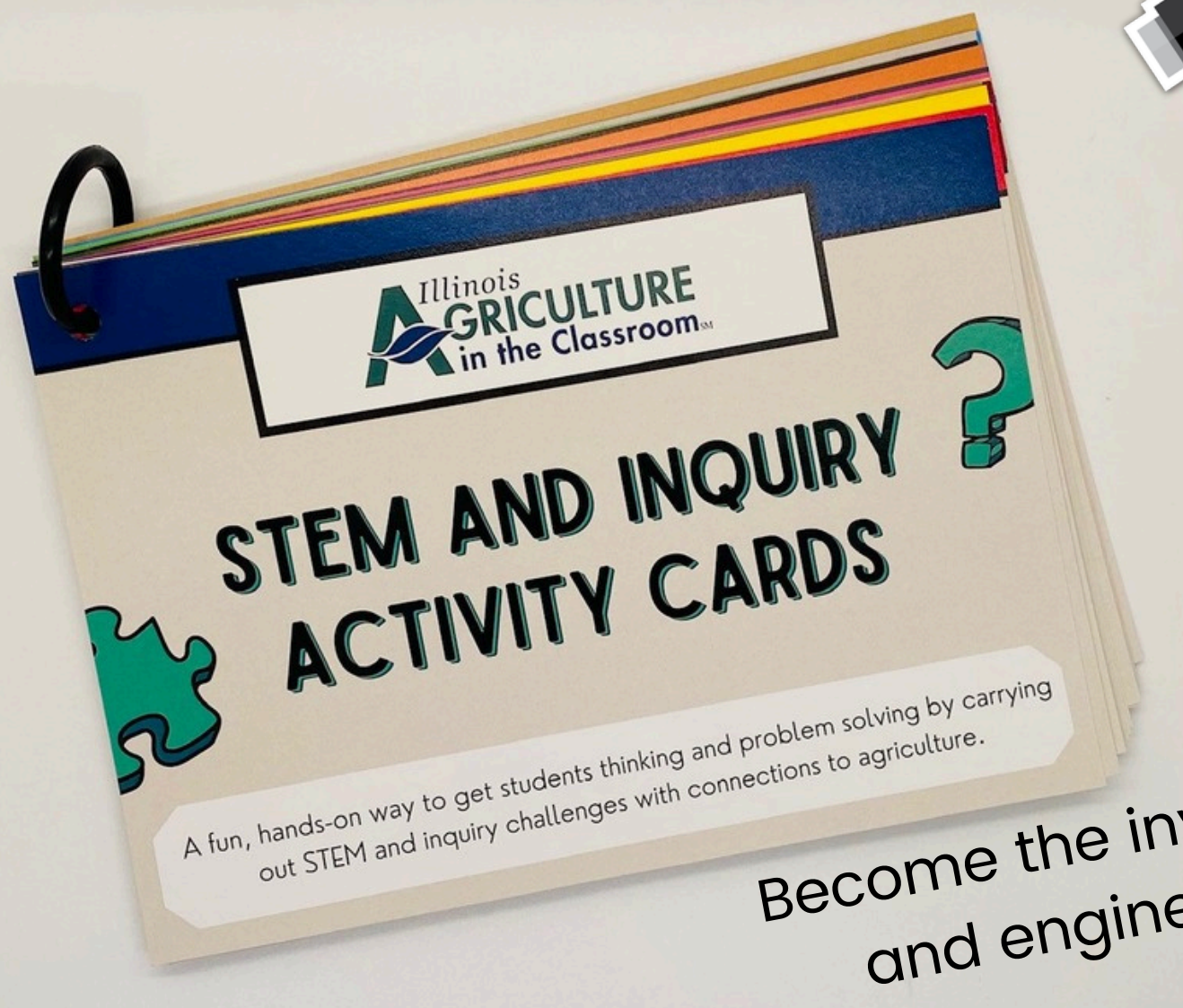
Awesome Ag videos
on Pigs, Dairy, and
more featuring
technology



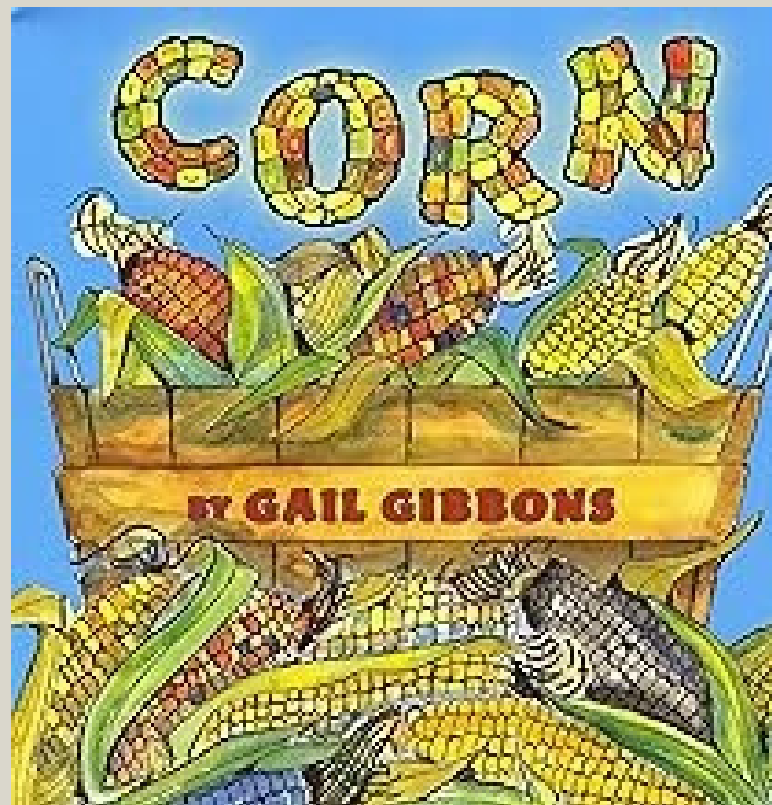
Also keep in
mind for project
grants!



Buzz Bot Harvester

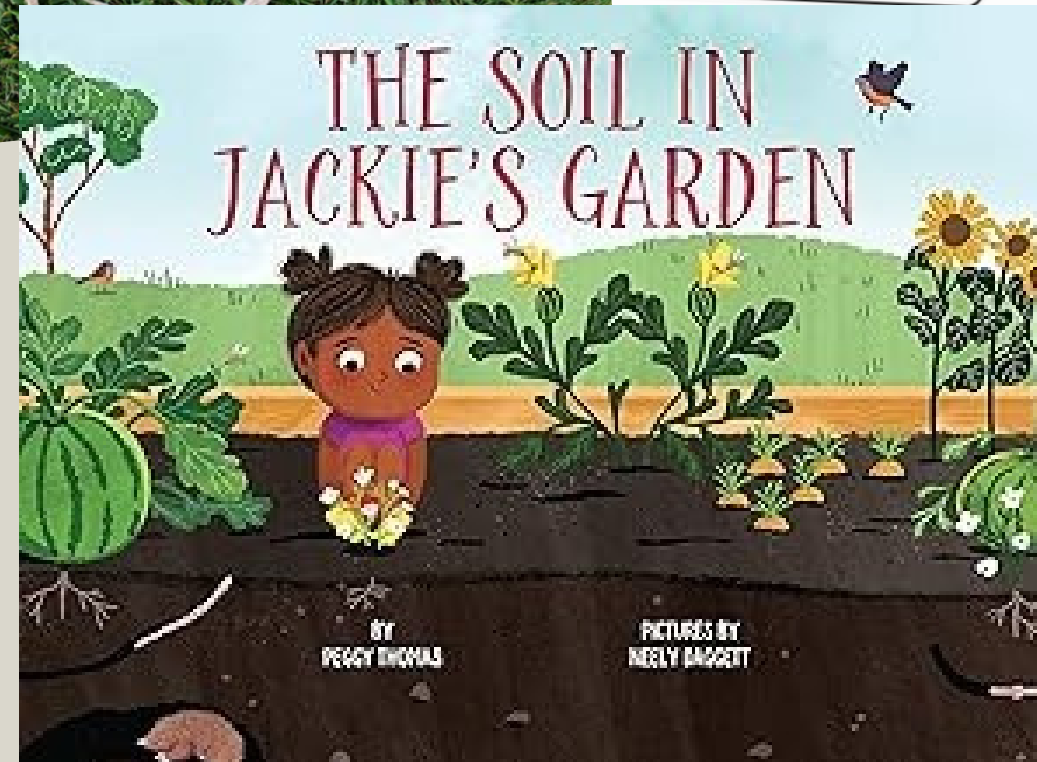


Seasons

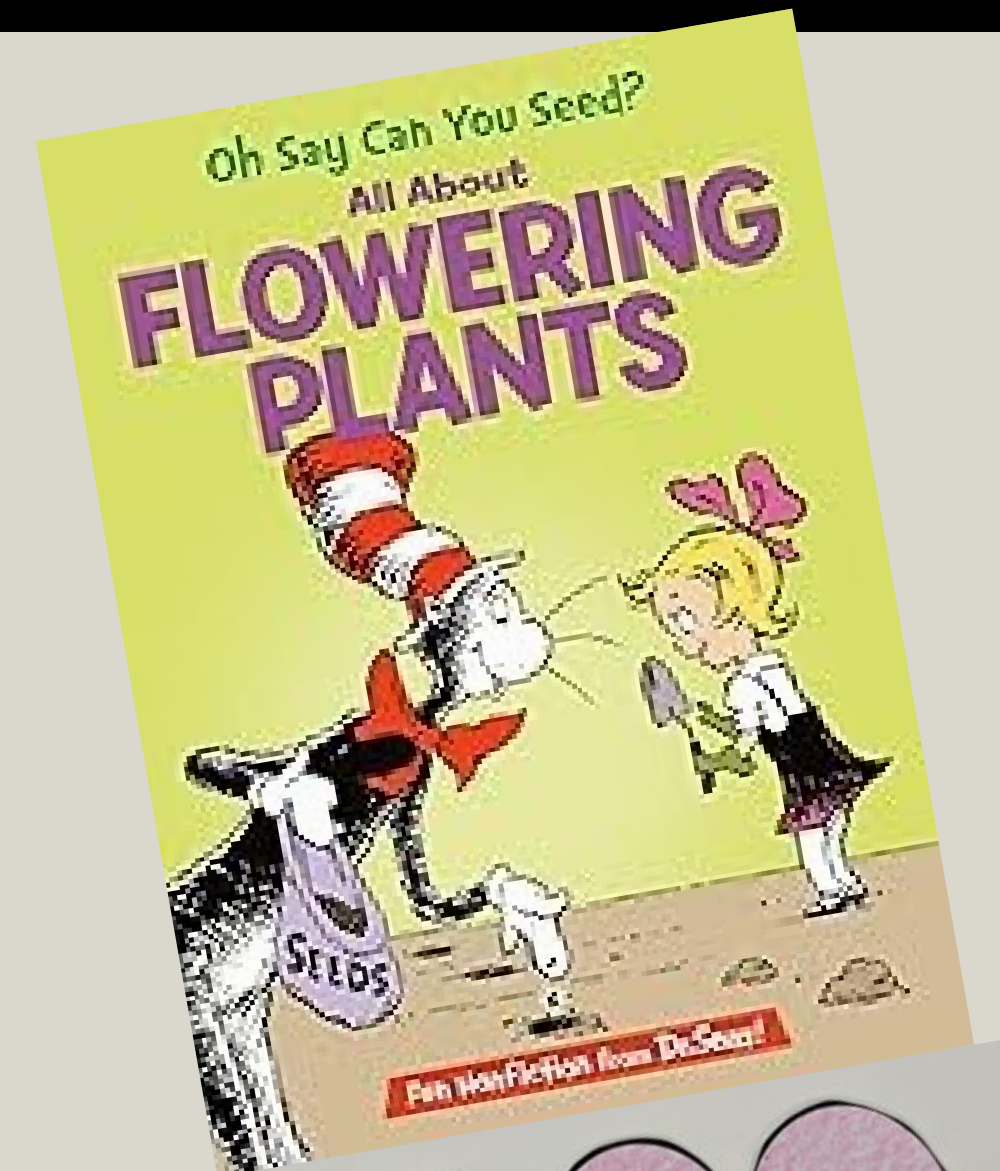


Oobleck

Soil Your Undies!



Parts of a Flower



Seasons

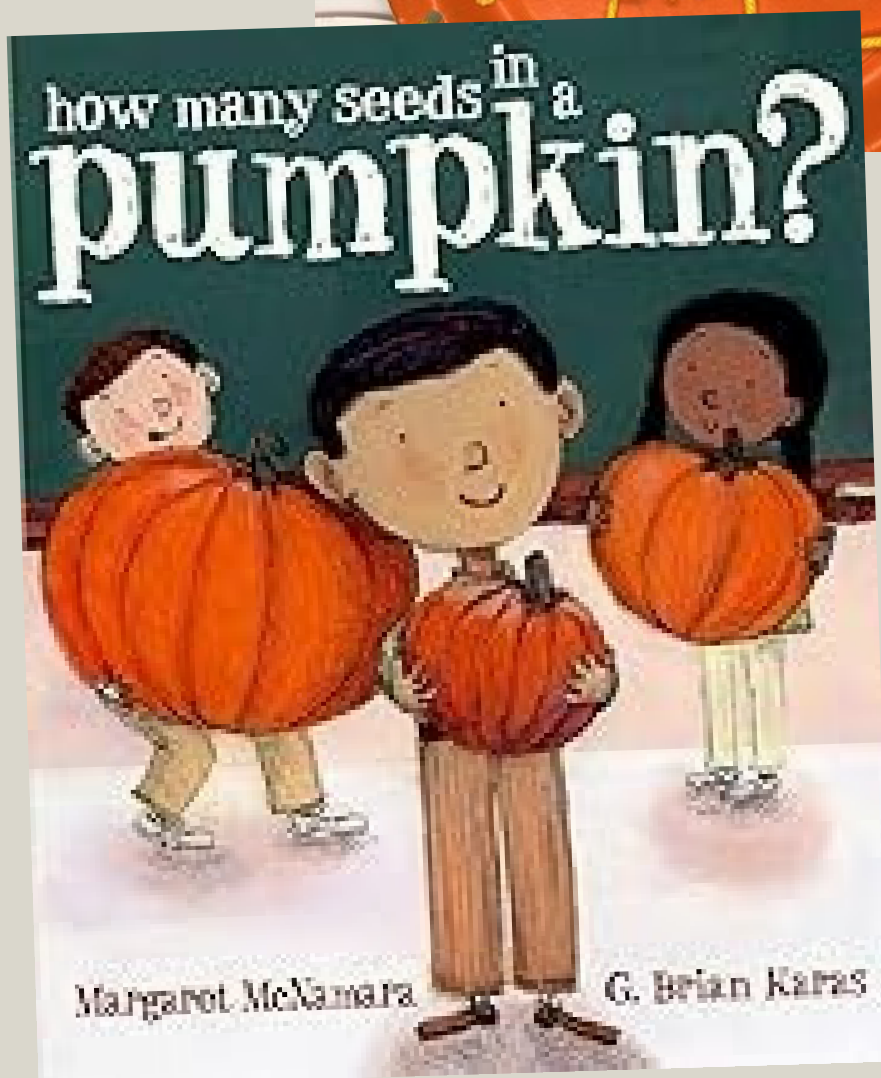
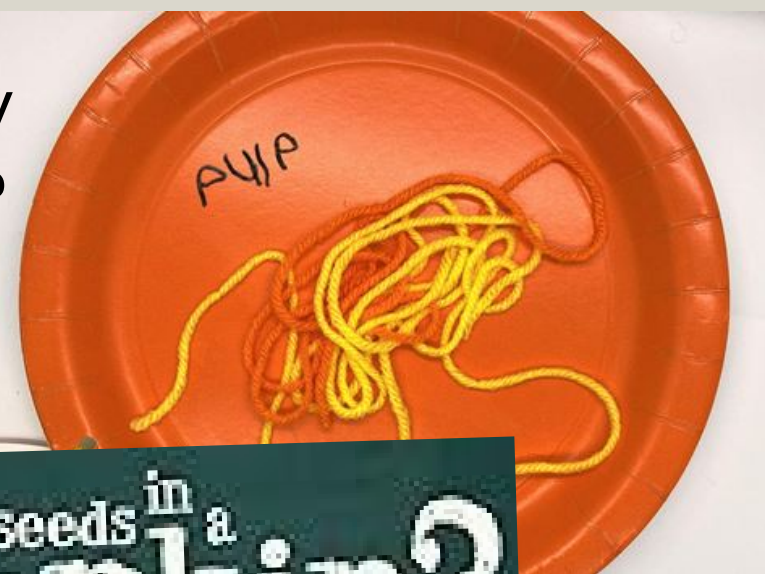
ZEE GROWS A TREE



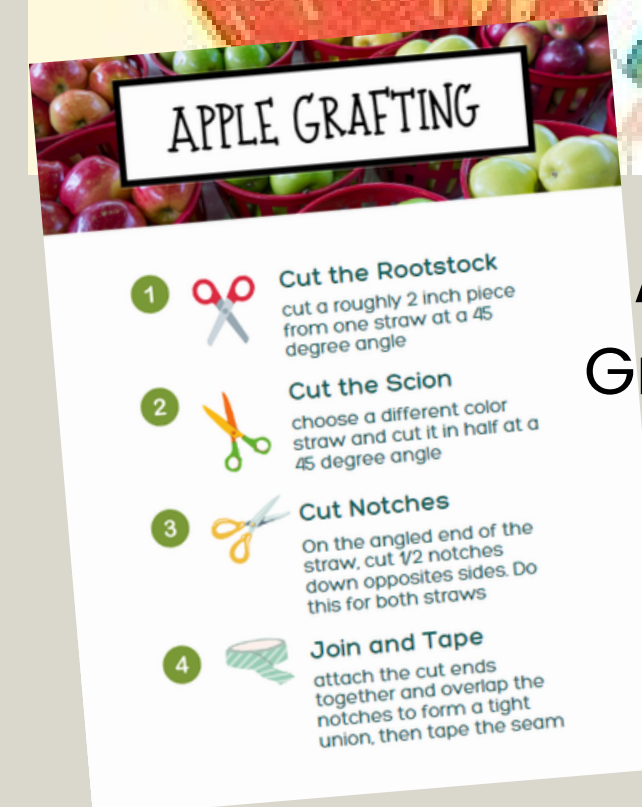
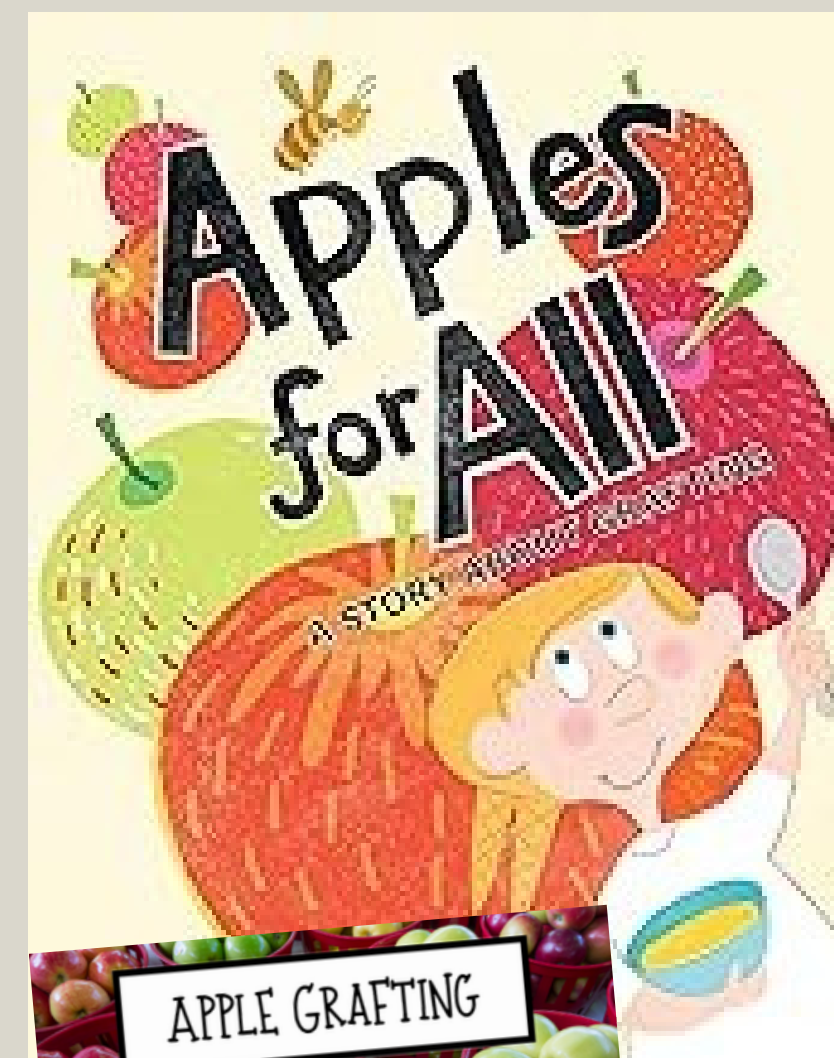
ELIZABETH RUSCH illustrated by WILL HILLENBRAND

*Revisit Tree
Lessons
Slide*

What's
inside my
pumpkin?

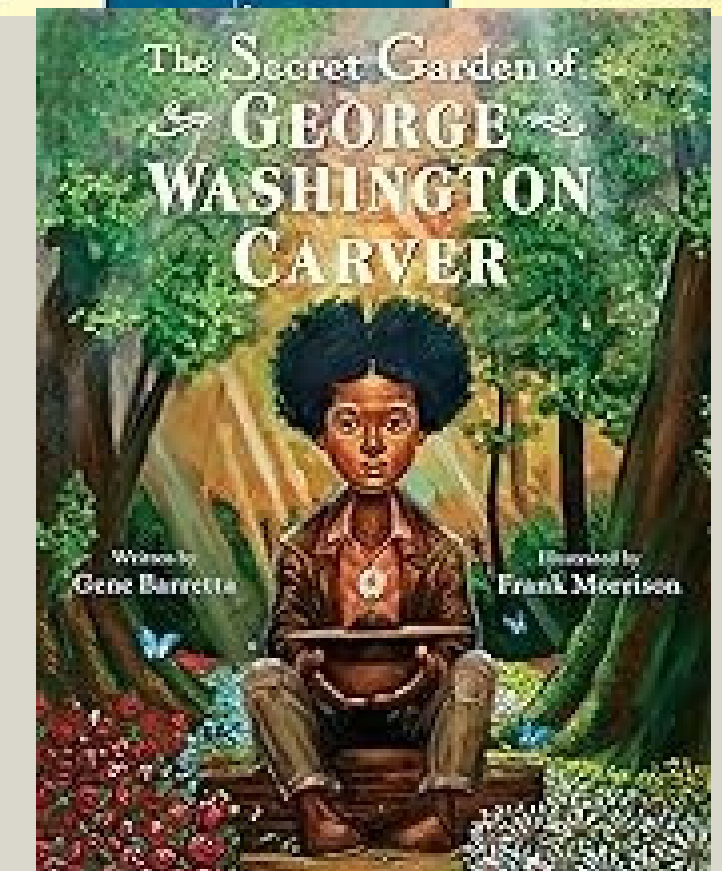
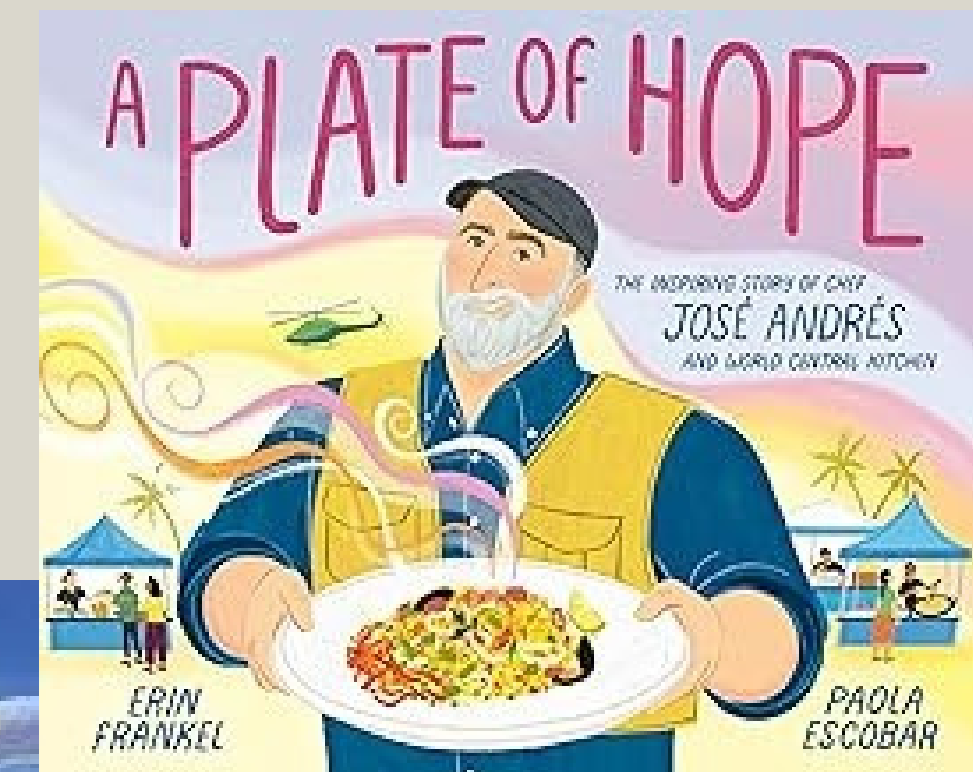
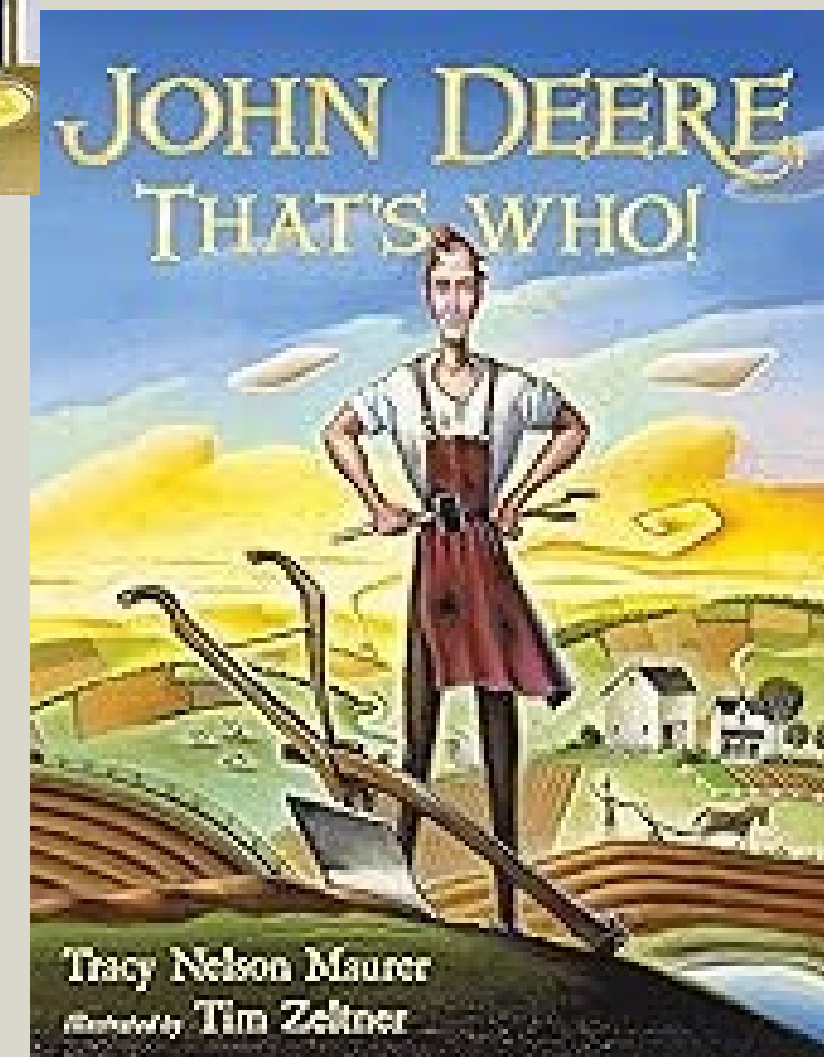
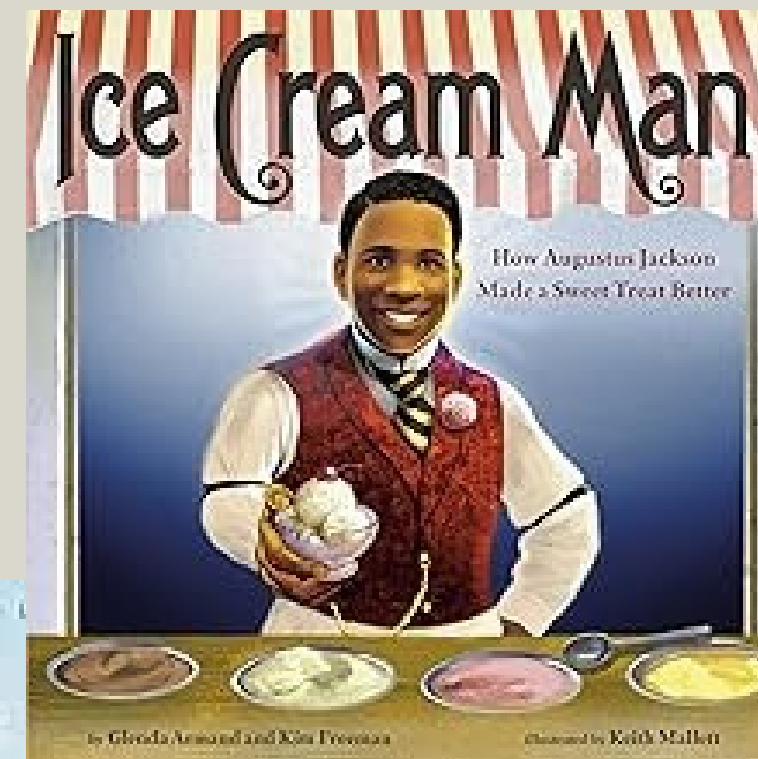
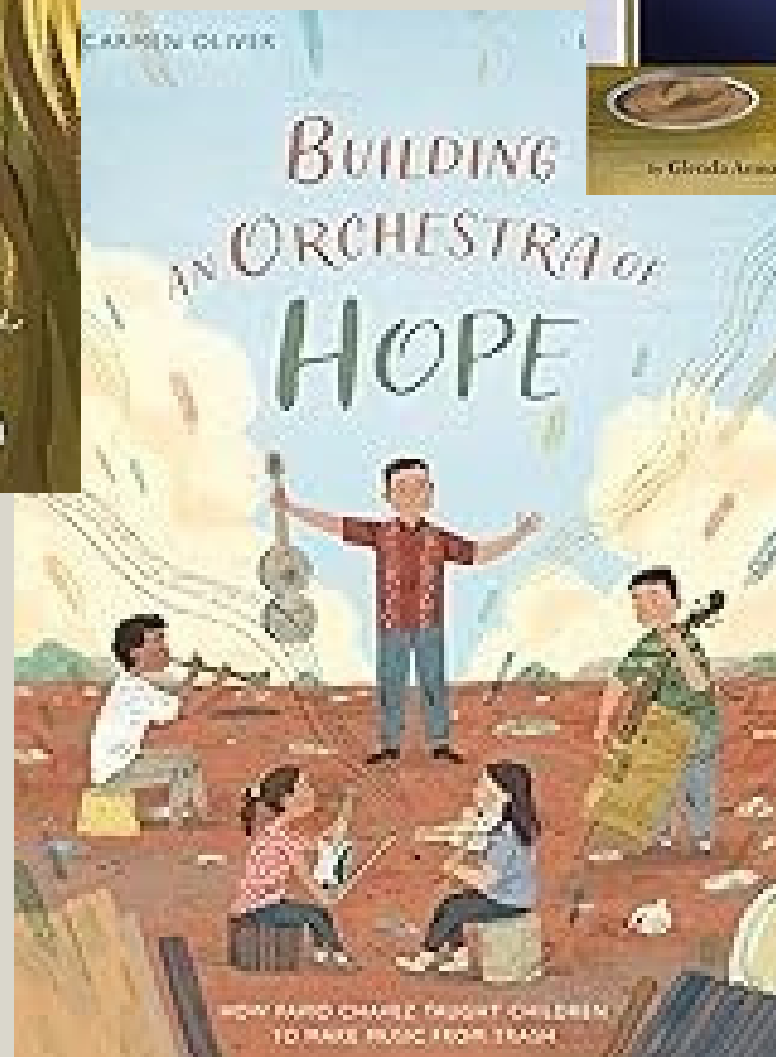
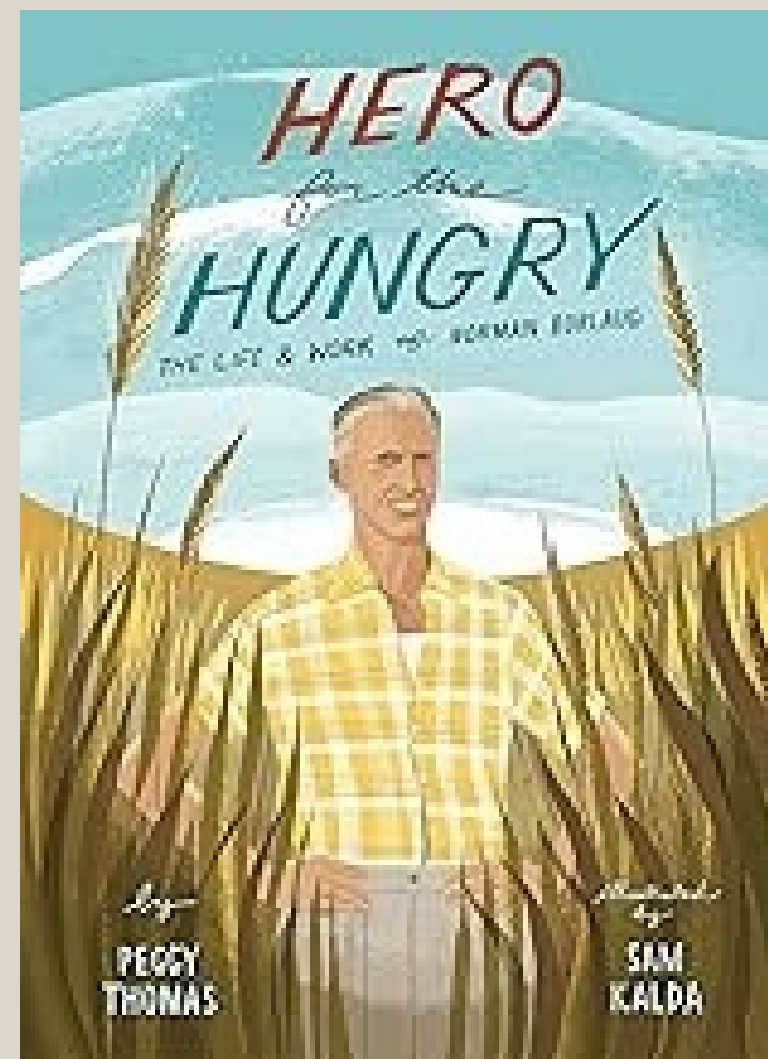


Milk Plastic



Apple
Grafting

Biographies in Agriculture



Biographies in Agriculture

ICE CREAM IN A BAG

Ingredients

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup whipping cream
- Crushed ice (1 bag of ice will freeze 3 bags of ice cream)
- 1 cup rock salt (approximately 8 cups per 5 lbs.)
- 1 quart and 1 gallon size Ziploc bags
- Duct tape
- Bath towel

Directions

- Put the milk, whipping cream, sugar, and vanilla in a 1 quart freezer bag and seal. For security, fold a piece of duct tape over the seal.
 - Place the bag with the ingredients inside a gallon freezer bag.
 - Pack the larger bag with crushed ice around the smaller bag. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of salt evenly over the ice.
 - Wrap in a bath towel and shake for 10 minutes. Open the outer bag and remove the inner bag with the ingredients. Wipe off the bag to be sure salt water doesn't get into the ice cream.
 - Cut the top off and spoon into cups or cones.
 - Enjoy plain or top with nuts, coconut, or fruit!
- 
- A close-up photograph of three scoops of creamy vanilla ice cream served on a white plate. The scoops are stacked slightly, with the top one being the most prominent. The background is dark and out of focus.

Serves 4
people!



Plant a Beat

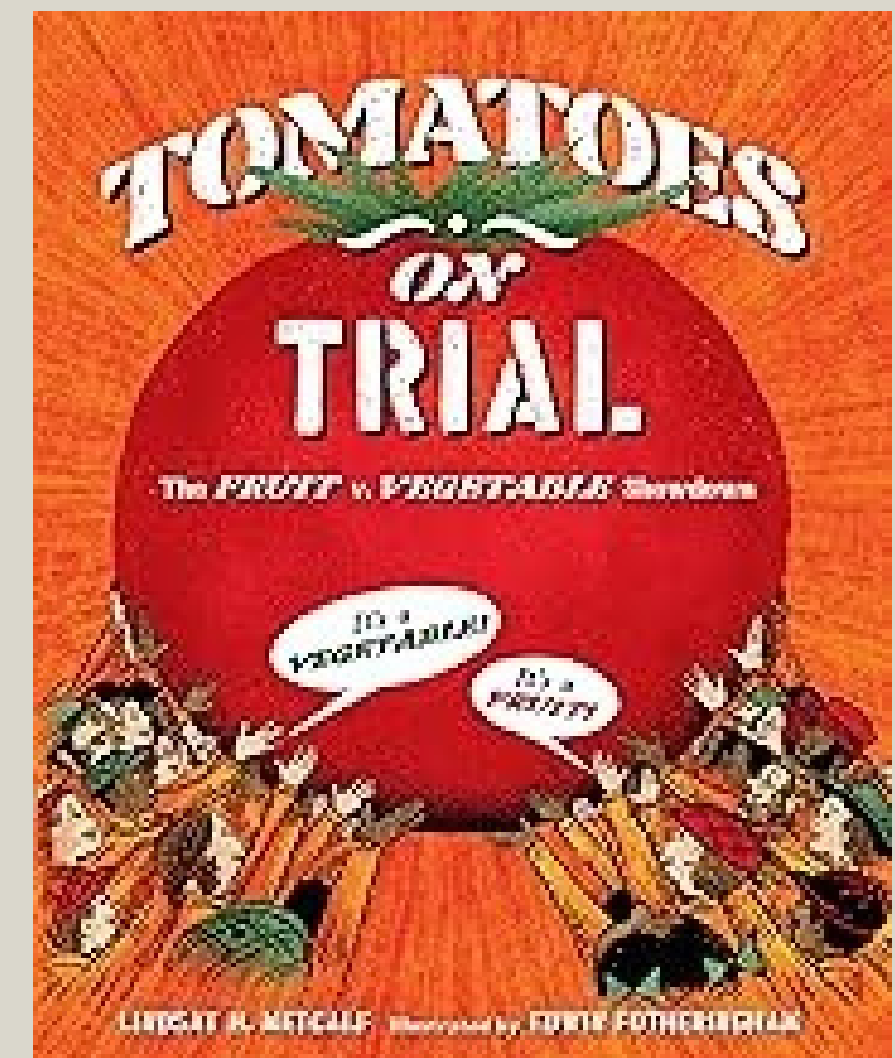
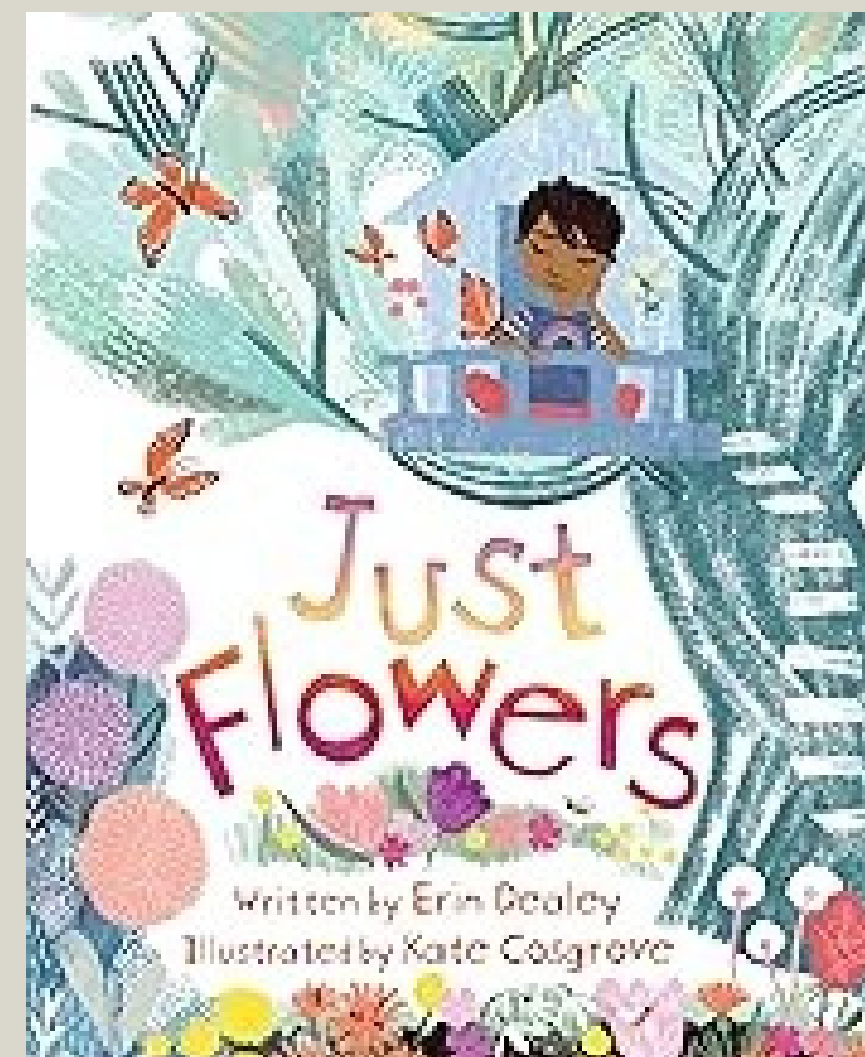
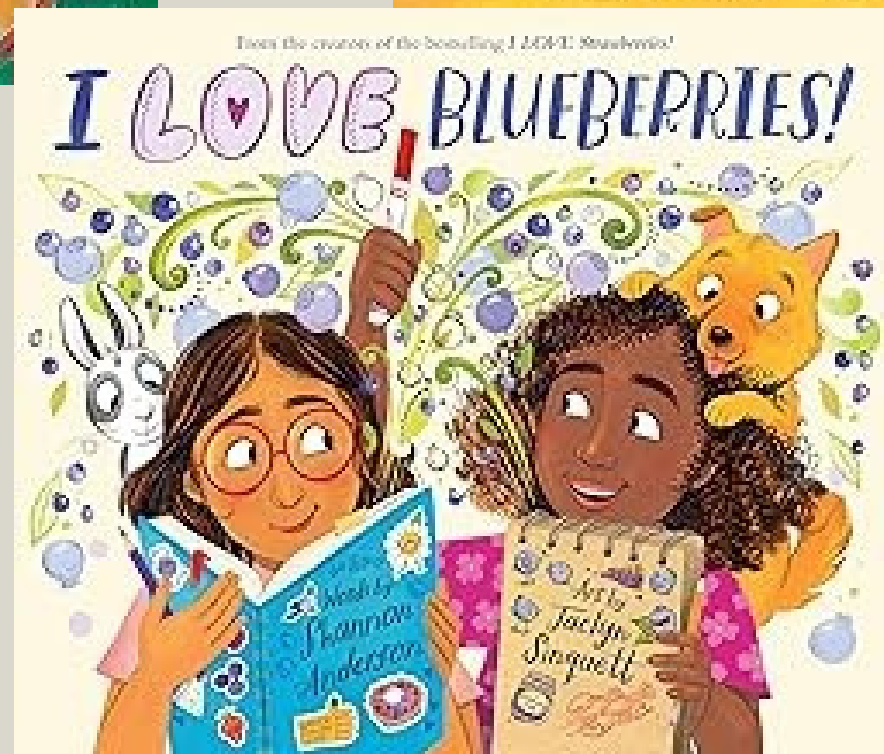
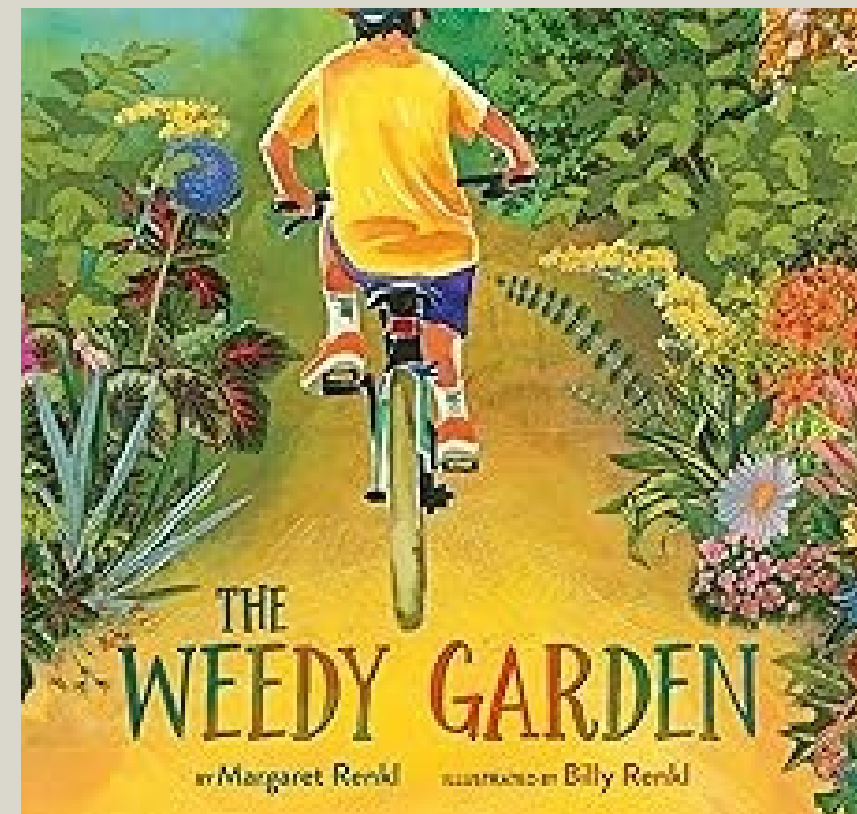
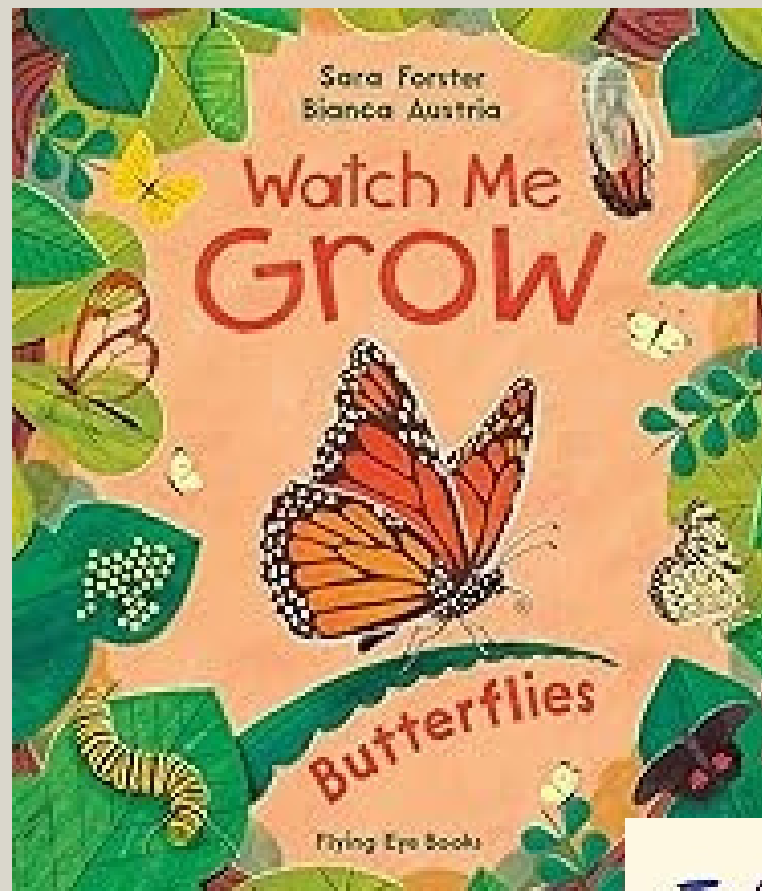
Superheroes of Ag



Colors on Your Plate

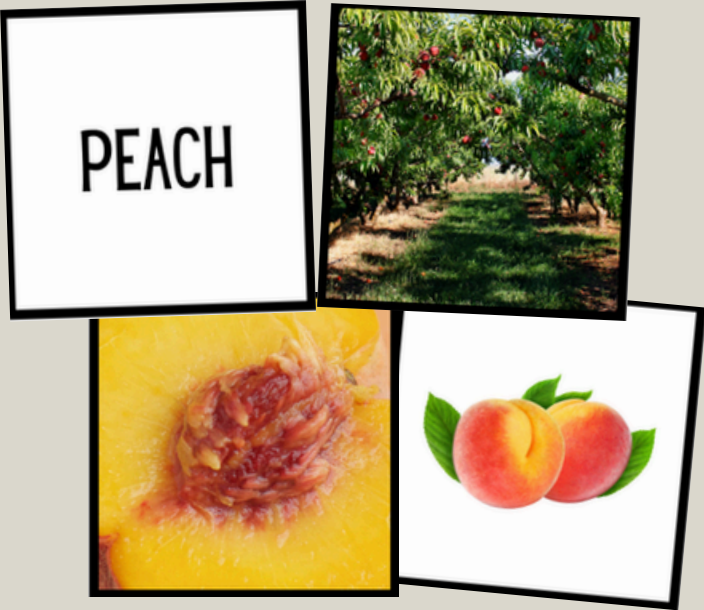


Gardens & Growing

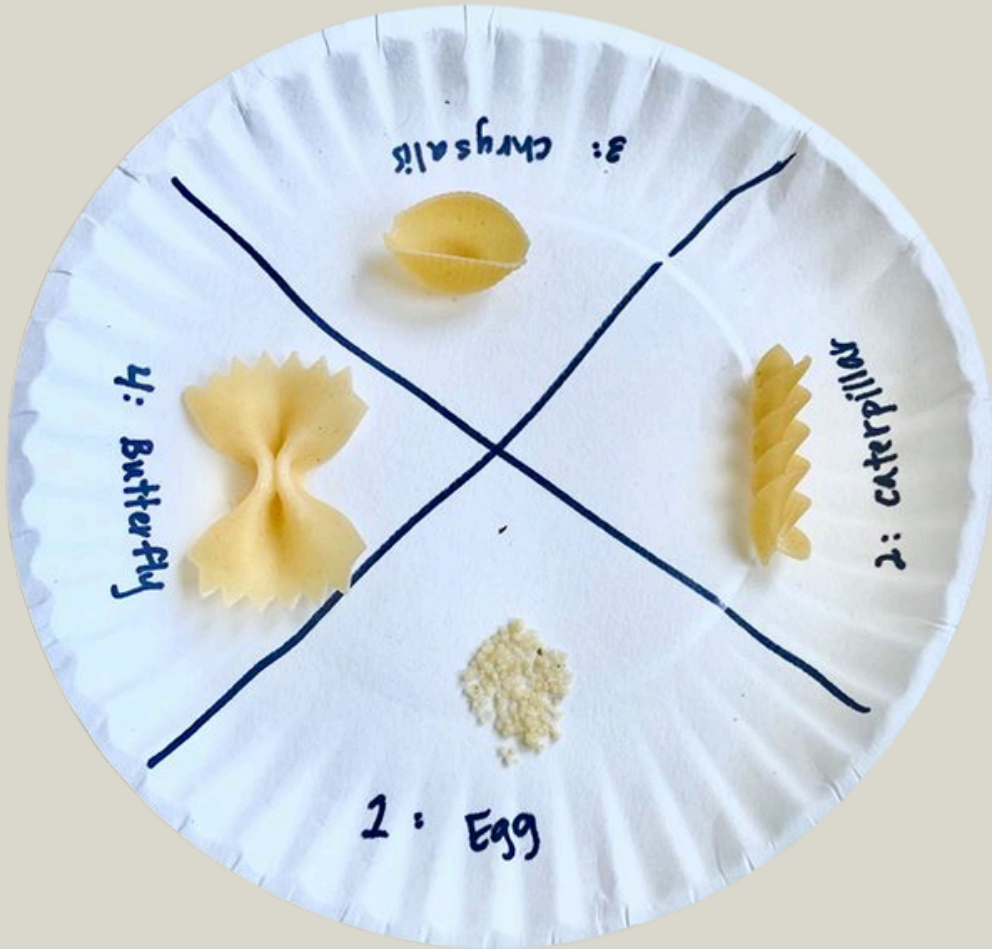


Gardens & Growing

Ins & Outs



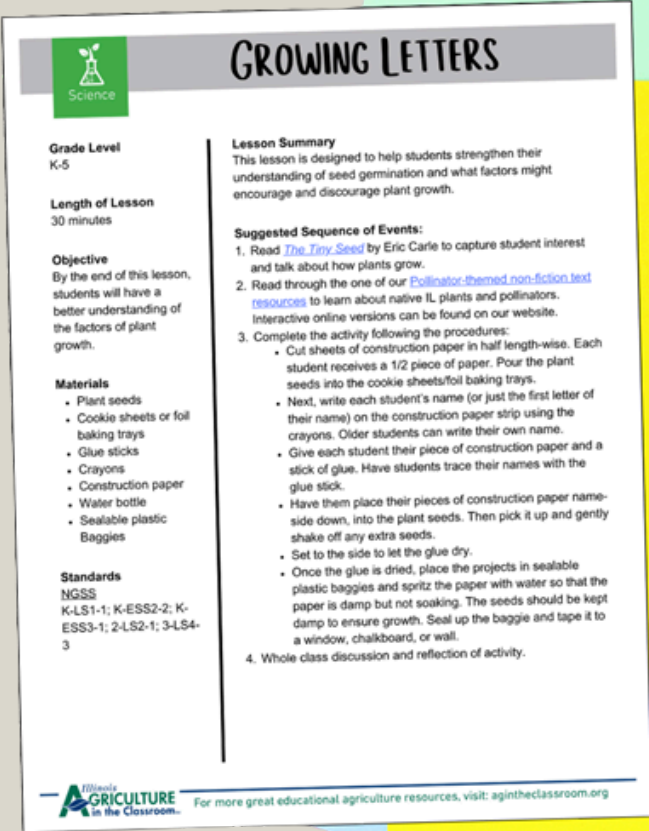
Butterfly Life Cycle



Handprint Flower



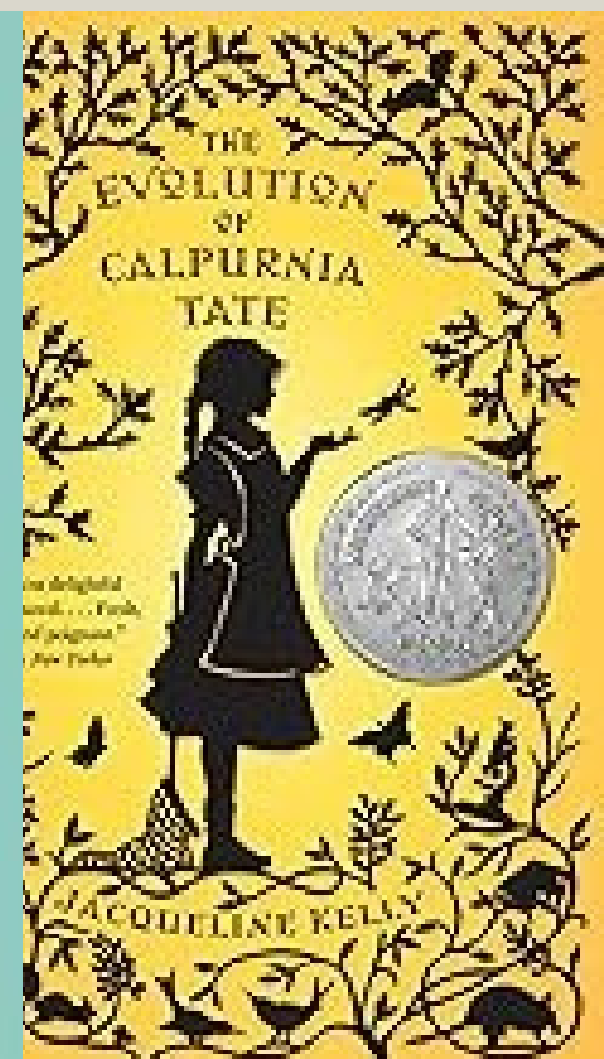
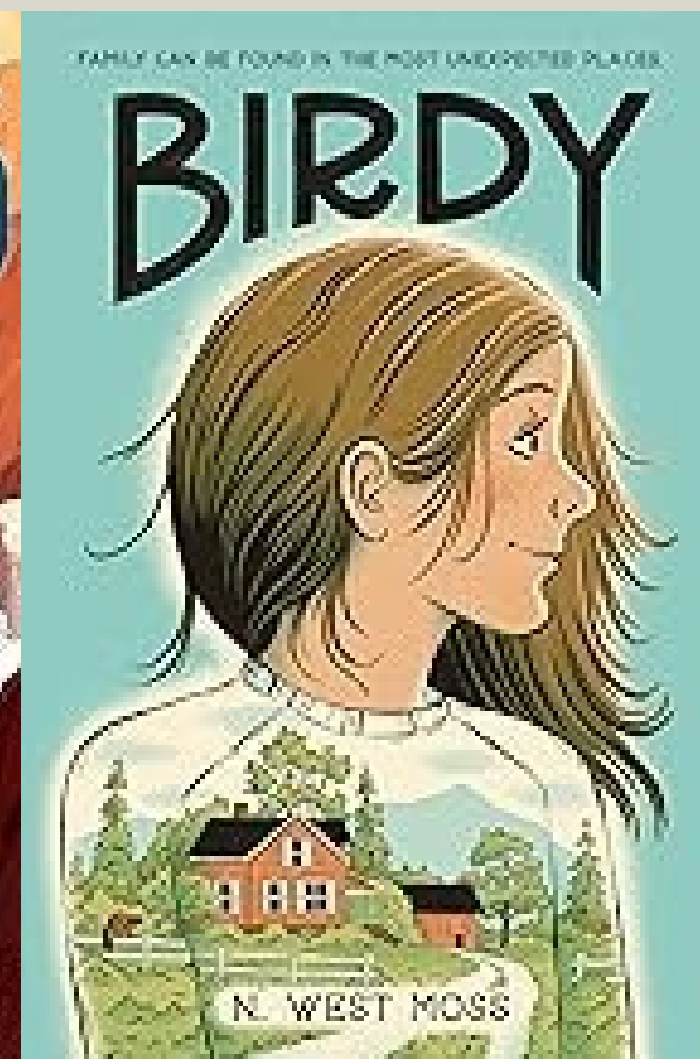
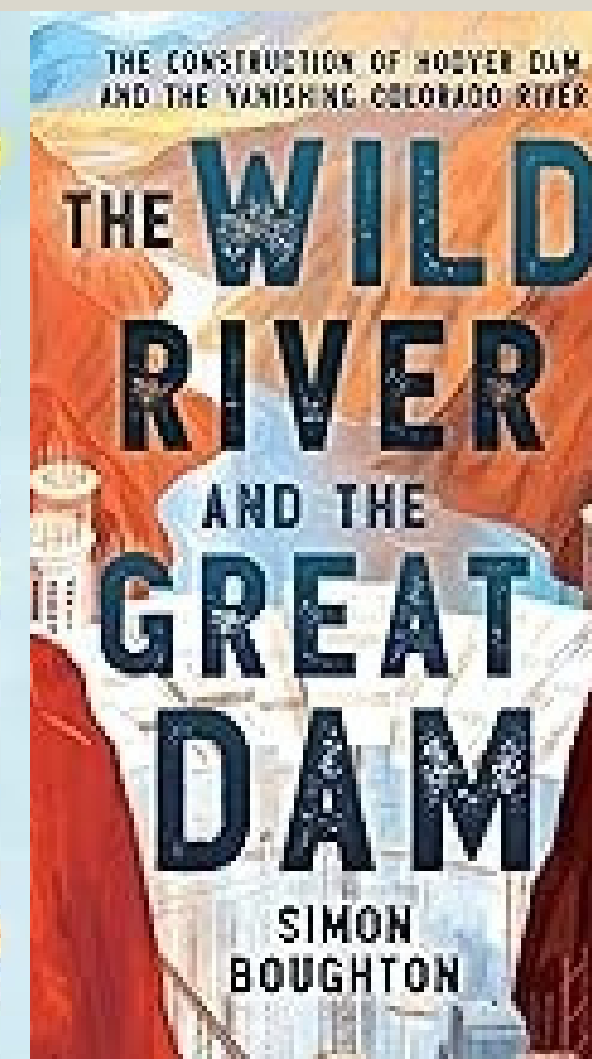
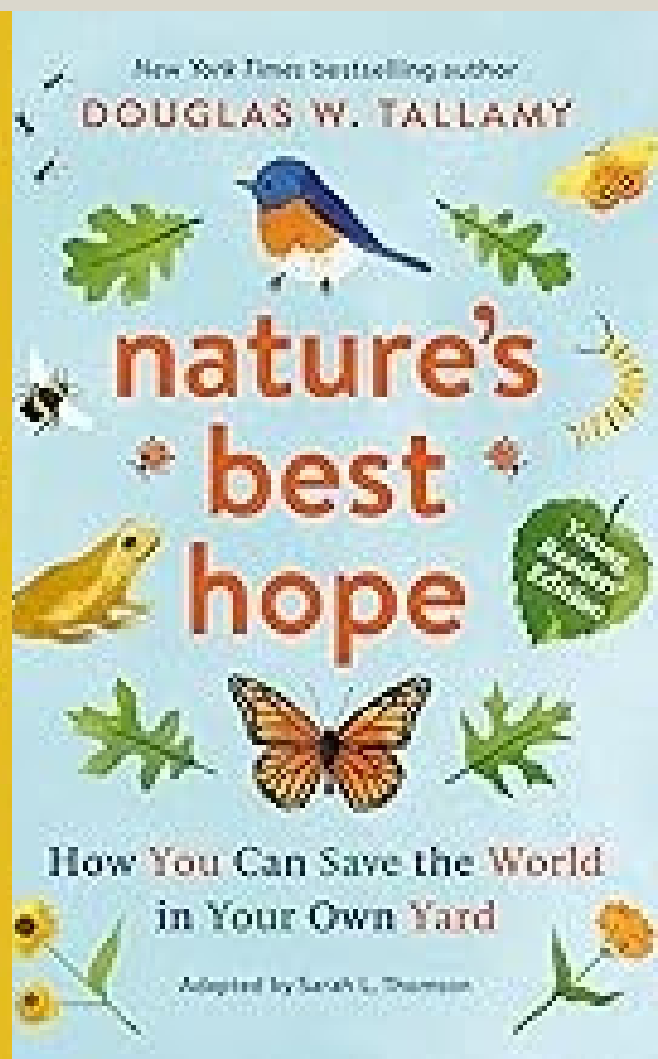
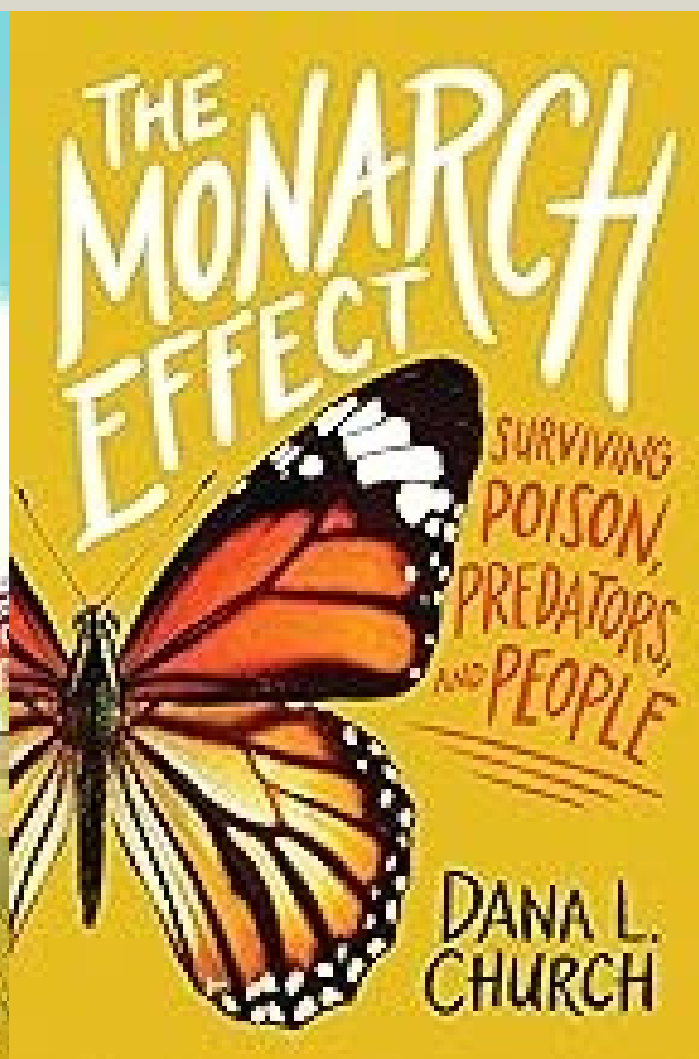
Growing Letters



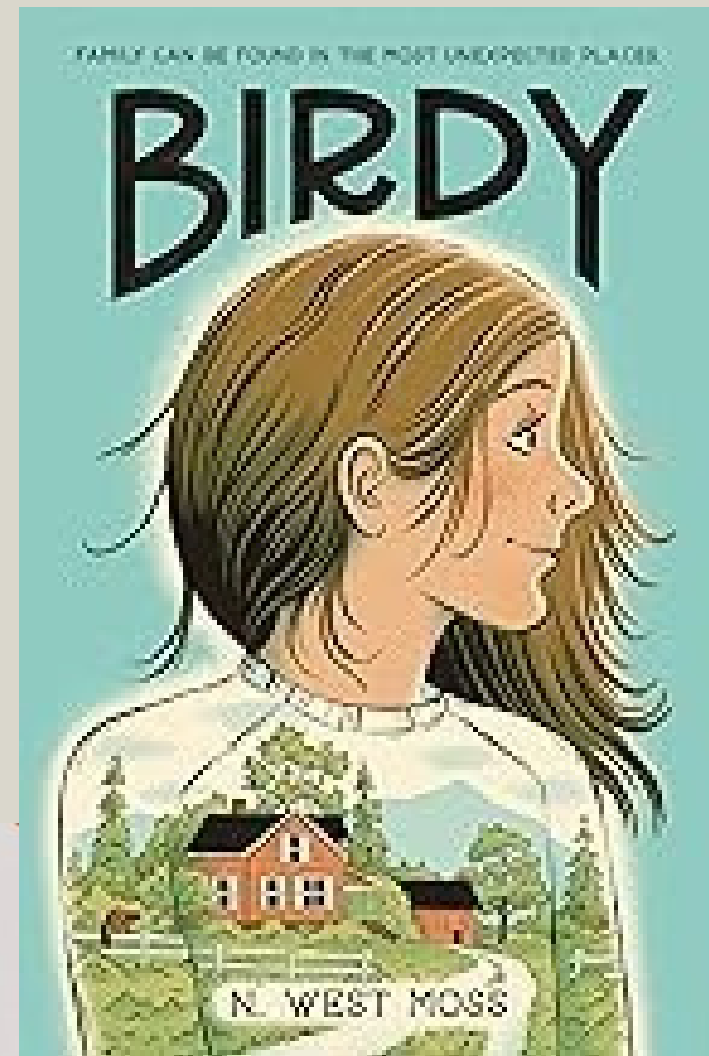
Garden in a Glove



YA Food & Farming Books

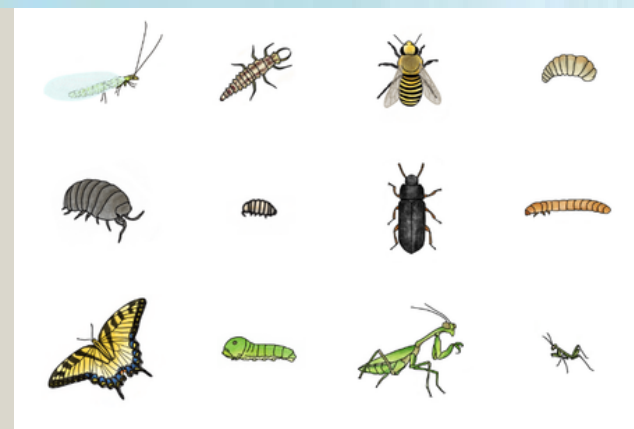
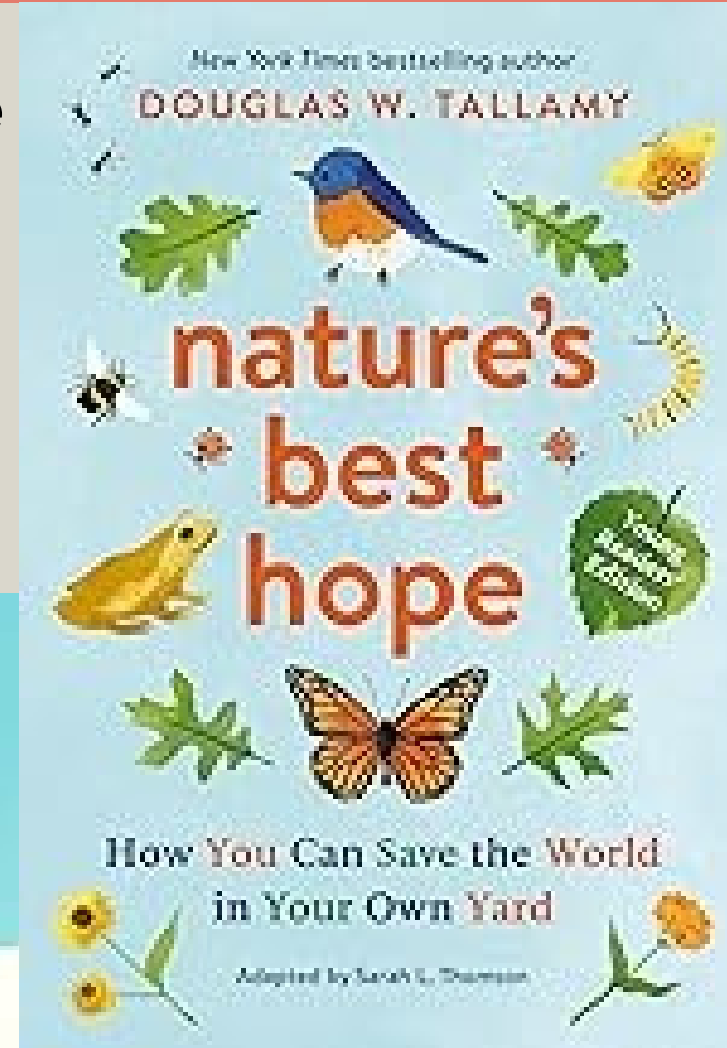
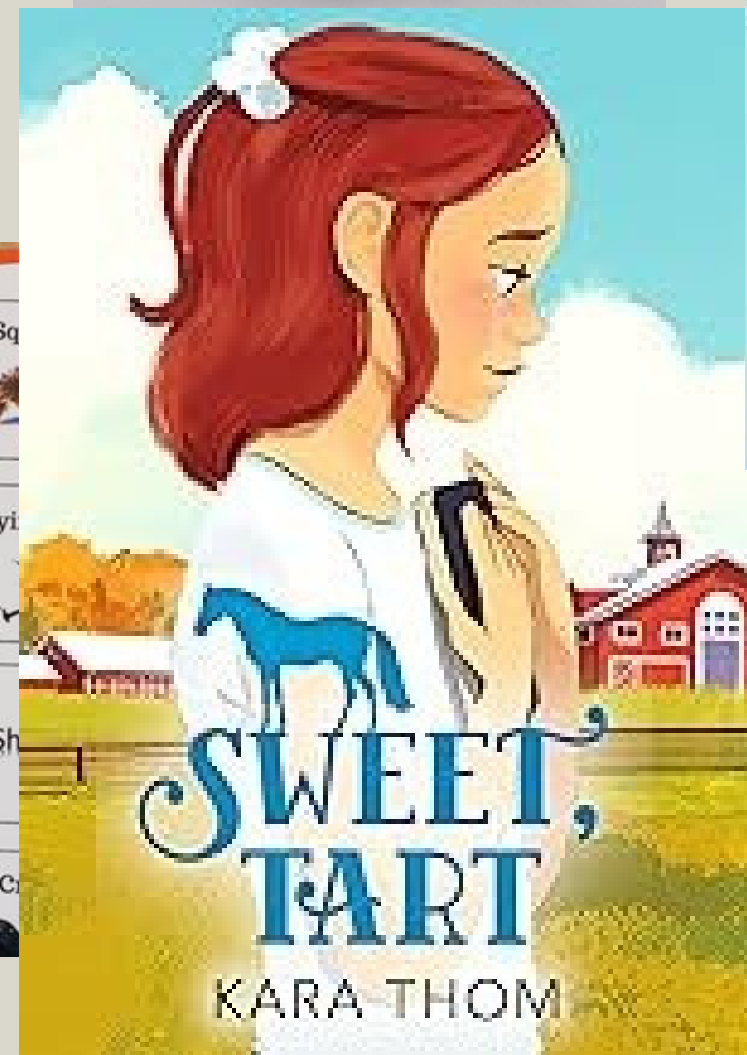


yA Food & Farming Books



Outdoor Bingo

Walking Paper Horse



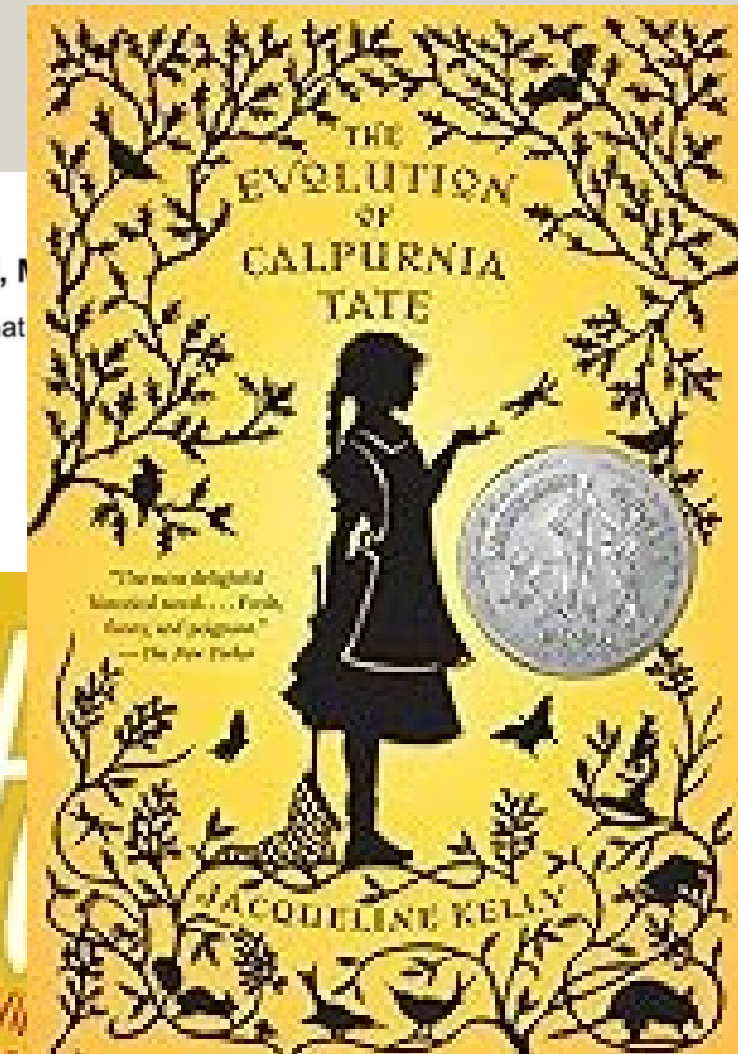
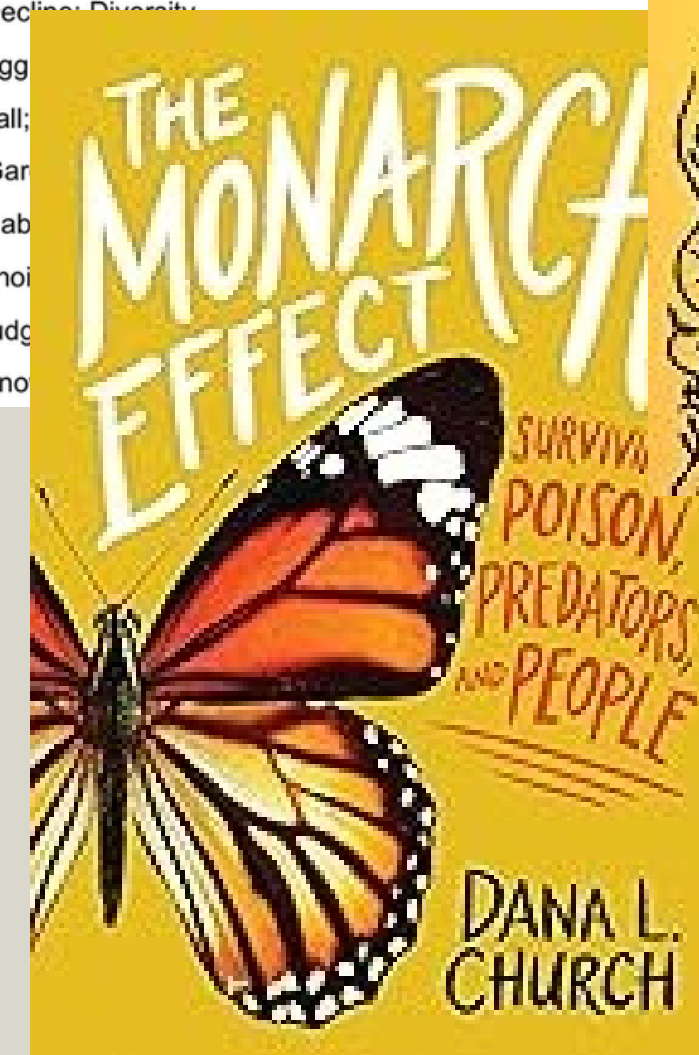
Good Bugs Bad Bugs Memory

It Starts with "M"

It Starts with "M"... Monarchs, Milkweed, Milk, and more!

NOTE: Terms listed are only a few of the many words that limited only by the student's imagination.

A... Adults; Asclepias; Annuals; Antennae; Abdomen
 B... Butterfly; Blooms; Backyard
 C... Chrysalis; Caterpillar; Corridor; Conservation
 D... Decline; Diversity
 E... Egg
 F... Fall;
 G... Gar
 H... Hab
 I... Illinoi
 J... Judg
 K... Kno

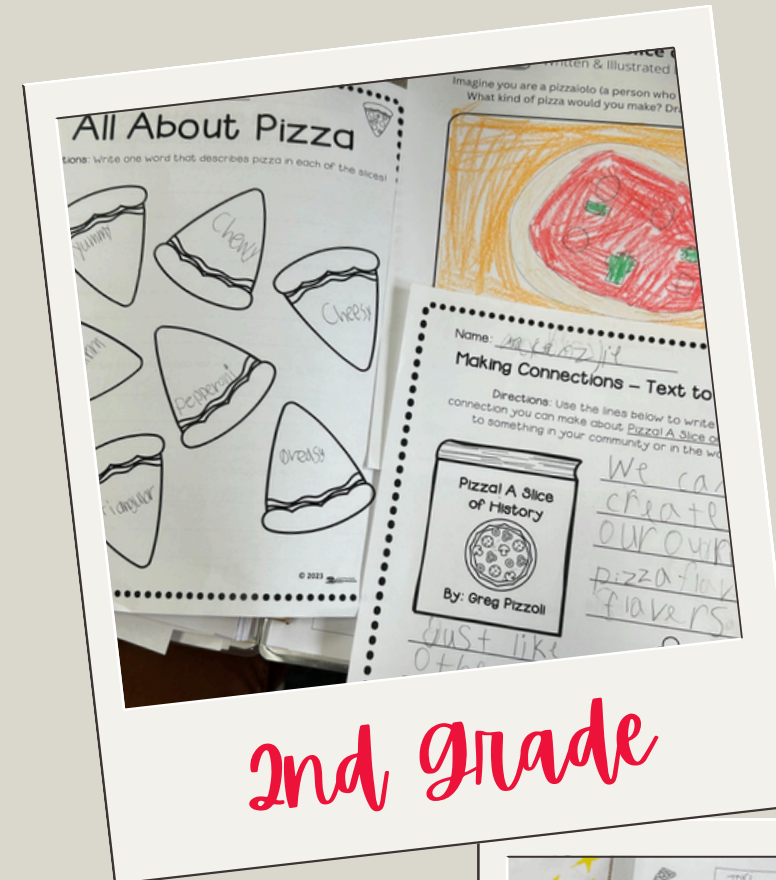


Plant Experiments



Examples of Previous Recipients

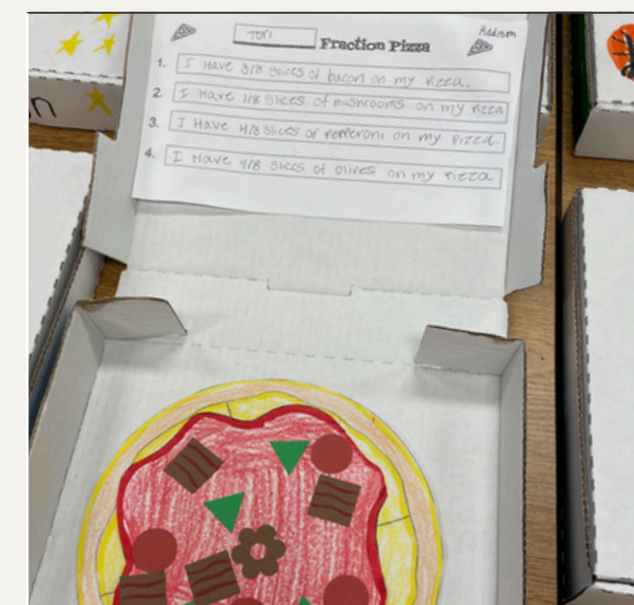
- 4th Grade
- Used "Pizza! A Slice of History" by Greg Pizzoli
- First, students read about the history of pizza. They found Italy on a map and then learned about schools in Italy. Students were amazed to learn how all ingredients come from agriculture and learned how people grow the plants and raise the animals for these ingredients. They invited the owner of a local pizza shop into their classroom to talk to them about his business. He talked to them about the steps to make a pizza and gave each student a certificate for a free pizza to his shop.
- Then, students put their newly learned chef skills to the test and made their own individual pizzas in the school cafeteria using ingredients that were donated by a variety of local pizza shops.



2nd grade



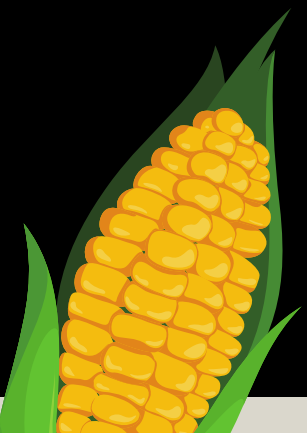
3rd Grade



4th Grade



Examples of Previous Recipients



- Preschool
- Used books from the farming category
- Farm Boots: Students all wore their 'boots' to school, looked at the similarities and differences, and talked about what they used their boots for.
- My Grandpa, My Tree, and Me: Students learned about tree life cycles, parts of trees, and what they need to grow and survive. They helped transplant trees and identify tree parts and even got to see saplings growing from walnuts! Then they learned about foods that come from trees and ate pecan pie.
- Logan's Greenhouse: Learned about flowers, germinated flower seeds with the IATC coordinator, and made flower arrangements for Mother's Day.
- Potatoes For Pirate Pearl: Students learned about potatoes and compared potato chip ingredients/recipes and then went on a treasure hunt using a treasure map to find the gold (potatoes)!

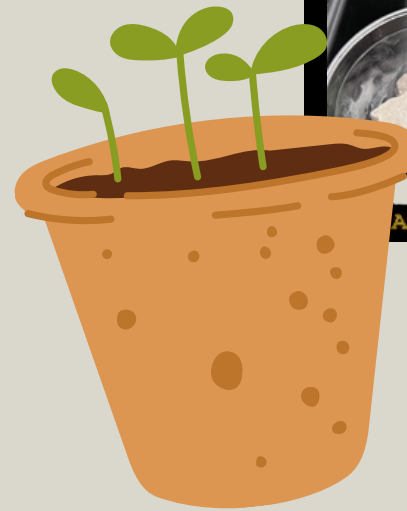


- 2nd Grade
- Used "May Your Life be Deliciosa" by Michael Genhart
- First, students learned about the diversity in their community. After reading the book, students shared their family holiday traditions and used graphic organizers to compare and contrast their traditions with the tradition of the family in the book. Next, students learned about the different types of corn and all the ways we utilize field corn, especially in food. They used descriptive language to describe tamales. Finally, with the help of parent volunteers, students made their own corn tortillas from scratch and ate them with salsa after they were all made!



Examples of Previous Recipients

- Kindergarten
- Used books from the farming category
- Student read through the books and learned about farms and the livestock raised on different farms. They learned about animal life cycles and what "dad", "mom", and baby animals were called. Students also learned about the amount of work that farmers do and what it takes to raise animals. Community members were invited into the classroom to give students the opportunity to see farm animals up close. Students had prepared questions for them. At the end of the unit, students created an informative book about a farm animal of their choosing!



- 4th Grade
- Used books from the soil category
- After finishing their Soil, Rocks, and Landforms unit, students deepened their understanding of soil and erosion by reading the soil books from the Book Grant. Students then used 5 different mediums to grow bean seeds in. After writing their hypotheses on how the seeds would grow in each medium while keeping the light and water consistent. Students made observations, collected data, and analyzed their data, comparing it to their understanding of soil and what plants need to grow. Students also used labeled diagrams to help them identify different plant parts!



Project Grant

The purpose: integrate agriculture into your spring classroom curriculum.
The materials you request should be incorporated into a project, lesson,
or unit study in the spring semester.

The Basics:

- Amount: Up to \$300
- Application Deadline:
October 16, 2026
- Grant Recipients
notified by November 13,
2026

The Deadlines:

- Funding Agreement
completed and signed by
December 11, 2026
 - **Forfeit the Grant**
- Final Report due May 28,
2027
 - **Whole school blacklisted**



The Fine Print:

Grants should focus on materials
that can be used over multiple
school years.

No funding for field trips,
landscaping, plants, incubators,
consumable items.

Project Grant Application

1. Teacher/School Information
2. Title of Project & Number of Students
3. Learning Standards
4. Objectives
5. Materials Needed
6. Project Overview and Timeline
7. Connection to Agriculture
8. Project Evaluation
9. Budget for Project

Examples of Previous Recipients

- 6th-8th Grade
- Grant Materials: 29 Gallon Aquaponics Sprout Garden and a LED grow light.
- The aquaponics sprout garden was set on top of the existing 29 gallon fish tank. Students learned how to set up the system and discussed the needs that both plants and fish need for survival. They learned how the waste from fish becomes the nutrients for the plants. Students collected water samples to test pH levels and collected data throughout the unit, along with making observations of the plant growth. Further class discussion focused on the pros and cons of manmade and natural fish farms, among many other conversations that covered a variety of science standards - life cycles, structure and processes, growth and behavior, flow of energy, etc.



"Class" Photo

- PreK-8th Grade Library
- Grant Materials: Soil, food/nutrition, and Plant books
- Classes visit the library each week and a new book was read to each class when they visited. The local IAITC county coordinator donated some materials to do the Soil Sam activity to help tie in the information from the books to real life. Each class had 2 Soil Sams that they named and 'dressed.' Discussions throughout the semester included topics on agriculture, civilizations, Illinois soil, supply chain and where food comes from (i.e. ketchup from tomatoes, etc.). The Soil Sam activity allowed students to collect data and record that data via charts and completing math equations, and discussed how to change variables in experiments. By the end of the semester, students understood that agriculture is very important to everyone, even if they don't live on a farm.



Examples of Previous Recipients

- 6th Grade
- Grant Materials: 18.5 gallon outdoor compost bin, 4.4 gallon indoor countertop compost bin, compost techniques metal sign, "Composting: Nature's Recyclers" book
- The larger compost bin was set up in the school garden area, and the smaller compost bin stayed in the classroom. Students learned about composting and what can and can't go into the bins. They learned how certain materials breakdown over time and add important nutrients to the soil. Students brought food scraps back from lunch and added to the classroom bin. The "One School, One Book" school event introduced the book "How to Eat Friend Worms" and to connect the unit with the school book, students added worms to their classroom compost bin. They learned about all the organisms and microorganisms that live in soil and help break down organic materials. Students made observations each week and compared the outdoor and indoor bins, and after doing some research, they wrote essays using their research/observations as support. Students also were required to discuss the impact of compost bins and worms in the bins in their essays. By the end of the unit, among many other topics, students were able to identify the strengths of each type of bin and what purposes they had in gardening.

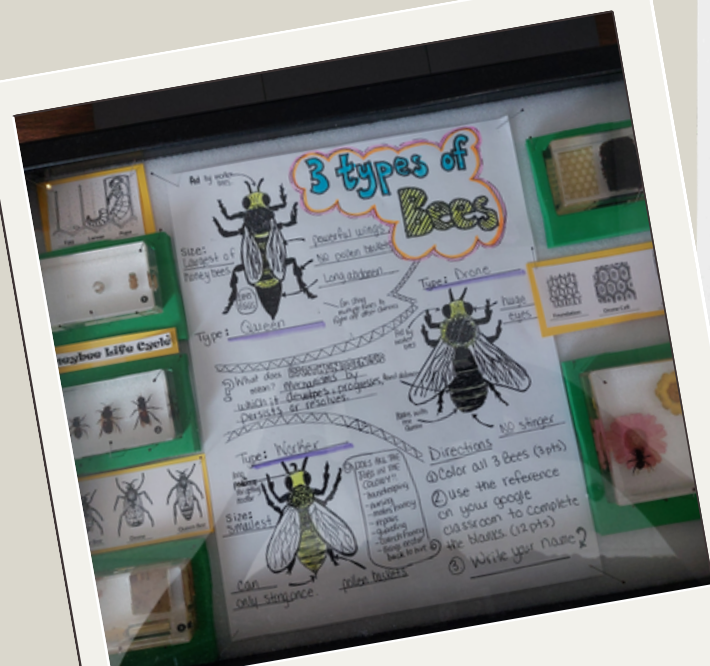


- 5th Grade
- Grant Materials: 7 microscopes with digital display
- In the fall semester, students had "planted" underwear in preparation for their soil unit. Students spent almost two weeks reading books on soil and reading through the IAITC Soil Ag Mag. Students also completed more IAITC soil activities: Mighty Macronutrients, Candy Core Sampling, Soil Sleuths, and Slice of Soil. They were able to borrow soil sifters from their local IAITC county coordinator. Students used the microscopes to observe soil composition in general and the composition of the different layers of soil where the undies were "planted". They also used the microscopes to get a closer look at the undies once they were "harvested" which allowed them to also look closer at the various materials the undies are made from. Since this was the first time doing anything like this, many things were learned from the teacher and students on how to improve the unit for future years!



4th Grade

- 5th-6th Grade
- Grant Materials: various dry specimen, insect pins and box, specimen holding fluid
- Students read through a variety of nonfiction and fiction materials to learn about pollinators and various food crop that require pollinators to help. They learned that some crop can be pollinated by other environmental factors like wind. They learned that Illinois is a major producer of various crop like corn, soybeans, pumpkins, and horseradish and the pollination process of those plants. Students focused in on bees and used the "bee box" display as a visual to help increase their understanding!



- 3rd Grade
- Materials to build a small greenhouse around their 3rd grade garden

- High School Foods Class
- Grant Materials: Kitchen scales
- Used scales to weigh different cuts of meat and then completed our "Meat of the Matter" lesson.

Examples of Previous Recipients

Grant Materials: Apple slicer, 6000k LED grow lamp, flexible cutting board set, cookie cutter, popcorn popper, fabric markers, planting cups, crop pot, immersible blender, and mixing bowls

Each club met for 10 or 14 weeks, Mondays and Fridays. Students learned about different countries and holidays from around the world. Students also learned about how food is grown and prepared. We made dishes to sample for each topic.

Session 1: 3rd grade

Week 1- Go over expectations for the club. Discuss what we will be doing. We will begin by finding out what students have experienced with food already.

Week 2- Decorate a fall apron. We will discuss how nature changes in fall. These aprons will be used each week to protect our clothing as we work with food.

Week 3- Dia de los Muertos Part 1. We will discuss the cultures that celebrate Dia de los Muertos and how they celebrate it.

Week 4- Dia de los Muertos Part 2. We will decorate their own skull cookies.

Week 5- Apple butter Part 1. We will discuss different types of apples and their importance in food. We will pre-measure the dry ingredients we will need to make the apple butter next week.

Week 6- Apple butter Part 2. We will peel and slice the apples together. Then we will mix the ingredients together in the crock pot. Students will be able to bring home a container of the apple butter at the end of the day.

Week 7/8 - Corn. We will read The Popcorn Book by Tomie dePaola and discuss the history of corn. We will make the popcorn 2 different ways with the recipes in the book.

Week 9/10 - Pumpkin. We will discuss how pumpkins grow, experiment with pumpkins and water and make No Bake Pumpkin Pie.

Session 2: 4th grade & 5th grades

Week 1- Decorate a winter apron. We will discuss how nature changes in winter. These aprons will be used each week to protect our clothing as we work with food.

Week 2- Winter Wonderland popcorn. We will read The Popcorn Book by Tomie dePaola and discuss the history of corn. We will make Winter Wonderland White Popcorn Mix.

Week 3- Chinese New Year's. We will watch a short video of a Chinese New Year's Parade and discuss how Chinese celebrate their New Year's. We will make our own Rice Krispie Dragon treats.

Week 4- Valentine's Day. We will discuss how Valentine's Day is celebrated and decorate cookies.

Week 5- Melting Snowmen. We will discuss the signs of the seasonal change between winter and spring. We will then make our own Melting Snowman cookies.

Week 6- Bunny Bait. We will discuss a bunny's habitat and needs. We will make Bunny Bait using popcorn.

Week 7- Magic Ramen. After reading "Magic Ramen", students will make their own ramen.

Week 8- Welcome Spring. We will discuss signs of springtime and the different holidays that are celebrated. We will make No Bake Birds Nests.

Week 9/10- Cinco de Mayo. We will read Let Me Fix You a Plate and discuss how different cultures have similar food. We will make Banana Pudding.

Week 11/13- Micro greens. After I attended the microgreens workshop, I decided to use it in our club. Students learned how nutritious microgreens are. We followed the directions to plant and grow them. Two weeks later, we taste tested the microgreens.

Week 12- Rice Krispie Treats. We will talk about how rice is grown and used in different types of cuisine. We will make rice krispie treats.

Week 14- We discussed what we learned, played a game and completed a survey.

Questions???

Book Grant Application:

iaitc.co/bookgrants

Project Grant Application:

iaitc.co/projectgrants

Workshop Resources:

iaitc.co/grant26

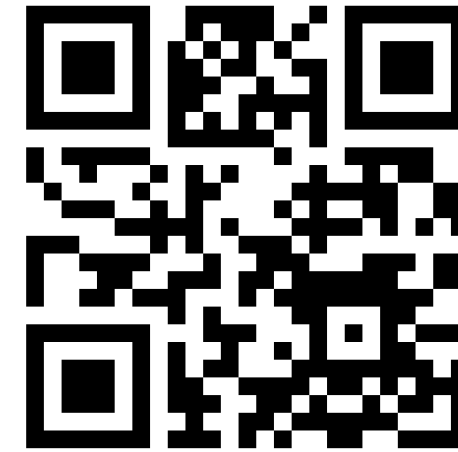


More FREE Resources



www.agintheclassroom.org

Newsletter Signup



iaite.co/fieldwork

Follow Us!



FACEBOOK

Illinois Agriculture in
the Classroom



INSTAGRAM

@ilaite