

GRICULTURE in the Classrooms

2022-2023 CALENDAR

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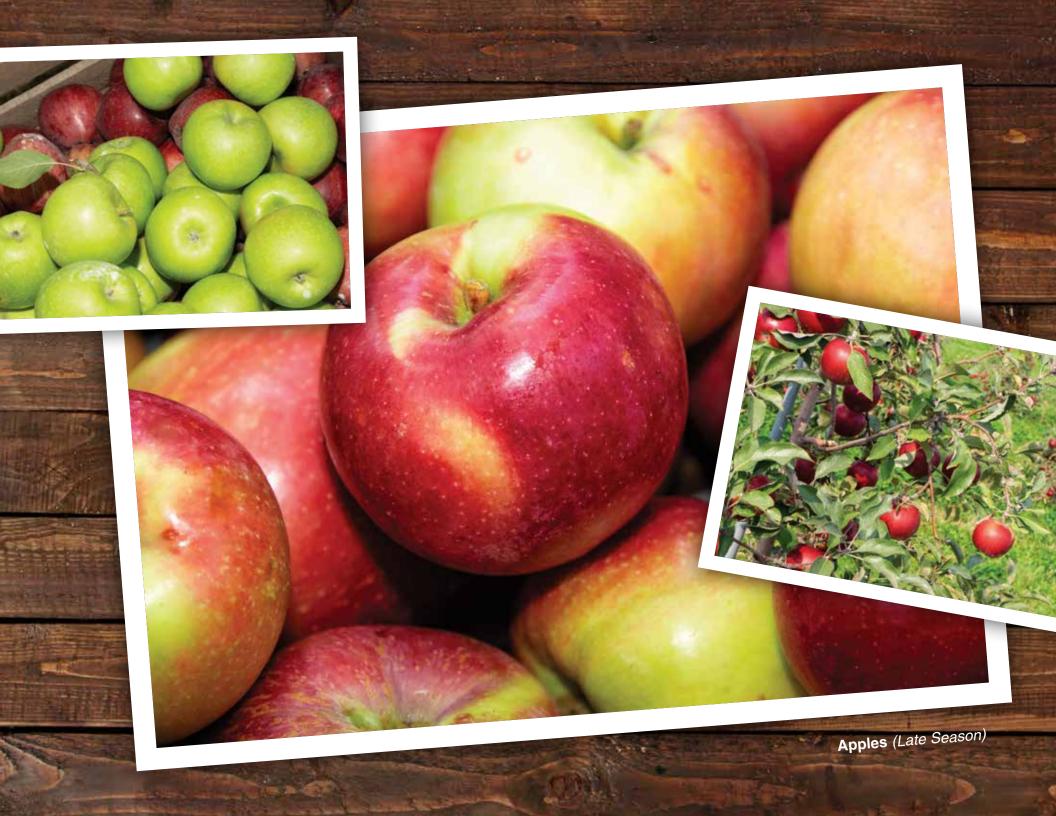
August 2022

silage, ruminant, grazing, aerate, cloven, gestation, by-product, cowhide Amazing Grazing by Cris Peterson
The Beef Princess of Practical County
by Michelle Houts
Thunder Rose by Kadir Nelson

Words & Terms to Learn

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Beef is the meat that comes from cattle. Hamburger, steak, and brisket are examples of beef.	Cattle are a part of the Bovidae family, which also includes sheep, goats, bison, and antelopes.	Cattle can eat up to 40 pounds of food a day which includes grass, hay, corn, and silage!	Silage is fermented corn, wheat, or hay with the stalks and leaves, that is chopped and fed to cattle.	Cattle are ruminants. They have four-compartment stomachs that help them digest very tough food like grass.	6
7	After chewing and swallowing grass, ruminants regurgitate and re-chew the partially digested food. This is called "chewing the cud."	9 Cows can see in color, just like us!	While they are out grazing, cattle help scatter seeds, trim wild grass, and aerate the soil with their hooves.	11 Beef cattle have cloven, or split, hooves.	There are 50 breeds of cattle in the U.S. Angus is the most popular breed in the U.S. while Brahman is most popular breed in the world.	13
14	Male cattle used for breeding are called bulls and male cattle used for meat are called steers.	The gestation (pregnancy) period for cows is 9 months. Depending on the breed, a calf can weigh 60-100 pounds at birth!	17 Ear tags help farmers mark and track their cattle for easy recognition.	18 In 2020, there were close to 1.4 million cattle and calves on Illinois farms.	The top 2 leading counties in Illinois for beef production are Adams and JoDaviess.	20
21	The U.S. contributes 25% of the world's beef supply with only 10% of the world's cattle.	Ground beef, roast, sirloin, steaks, ribs, and chuck are different cuts of beef. The names of the meats vary regionally.	24 Beef is a good source of "ZIP": zinc, iron, and protein!	Helping your body maintain a healthy immune system, convert food into energy, and build muscle are a few benefits of eating beef.	26 Every part of a steer is used after harvest. While 40% of the average weight of a steer is edible meat, the rest is used for by-products.	27
28	By-products are all products, except for beef, that come from beef cattle. Paints, plastics, soaps, insulation, and medicines are some examples.	30 Stearic acid, used to make automobile tires hold their shape, comes from cattle.	31 11 basketballs, 144 baseballs, or 20 footballs can be made from one cowhide.			





September 2022

archeologist, native, gravity, produce, ripen, atmosphere, antioxidant, variety

Words & Terms to Learn

Apples to Oregon
by Deborah Hopkinson
Applesauce Day by Lisa Amstutz
How to Make an Apple Pie and See
the World by Marjorie Priceman

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Apples are a part of the rose family, which also includes plants like pears, plums, almonds, and roses.	Archeologists have found evidence that humans have enjoyed apples since at least 6500 B.C.	3
4	The apple tree originated from central Asia, near the Caspian and Black Seas. In 1620, the pilgrims brought apples to the United States.	The crabapple tree is the only apple tree native to North America.	7 The science of growing apples is called "pomology."	8 Apple trees can live for more than 100 years.	9 In 1666, Sir Isaac Newton saw an apple fall from a tree. This made him think about gravity and in 1687, he published the Universal Law of Gravity.	10
11	There are around 75,000 apple growers managing orchards that cover 346,000 acres in the United States!	Mashington, New York, and Michigan are a few of the top apple producing states.	Apple trees produce blossoms in the spring which will mature into fruit by autumn. They are harvested in the fall by hand picking.	Sunlight causes a chemical reaction in the sugars of apples, which is why they change colors.	Apples will ripen six to ten times faster at room temperature than if they are refrigerated.	17
18	After apples are harvested, they are stored in controlled atmospheric storage units that regulate temperature, oxygen, carbon dioxide, and humidity levels.	20 Controlled atmospheric storage, or CAS, slows down the ripening process so we can enjoy apples all year round.	Apples have five seed pockets that each contain a seed. When you cut an apple horizontally, you can observe the star-shaped pattern of the seeds!	Apples contain Vitamins A, C, B6, and B12, along with thiamin and niacin. These are vitamins and nutrients that help our bodies function.	Two-thirds of the fiber and many antioxidants are found in the peel. Antioxidants help reduce cell damage, so don't peel your apple!	24
25	26 A medium sized apple has 5 grams of fiber, which is 20% of the recommended daily allowance.	The largest apple ever picked from a tree was grown by Chisato Iwasaki in Hirosaki City, Japan. It weighed 4 pounds, 1 ounce!	28 The Red Delicious apple is the most widely grown apple variety in the United States.	29 On August 21, 2007, the GoldRush apple was officially made Illinois' State Fruit.	30 It takes 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider.	





October 2022

fossil, sow, farrow, piglet, litter, weaned, product, industry

Pigology by Daisy Bird
The Pig War by Emma Bland Smith
Pig 05049 by Christien Meindertsma

Words & Terms to Learn

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	The pig dates back 40 million years. Fossils indicate that wild pig-like animals roamed forests and swamps in Europe and Asia.	There are currently about 2 billion pigs on Earth that live on every continent except Antarctica.	5 In Illinois, there are around 2,153 pig farms that raise more than 5.25 million pigs.	Most pigs are raised indoors to keep them safe from extreme weather conditions, predators, and harmful diseases.	A female pig used for breeding is called a sow. Sows are pregnant for about 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days before giving birth.	8
9	10 In pig production, farrowing means giving birth.	A sow will farrow a litter of baby pigs called piglets. There are usually between 8 - 12 piglets in a litter.	Most sows farrow 2 - 3 litters of piglets each year.	A sow is put in a special area called a farrowing stall that has adjustable rails to separate her from her piglets so they can nurse without getting hurt.	14 At birth, a piglet weighs around 2 ½ pounds. They will weigh about 280 pounds by the time they are four to six months old!	15
16	After piglets reach a certain age and weight, they are weaned and moved to the nursery.	Pigs start in the nursery weighing around 15 pounds and leave the nursery when they weigh 50 - 60 pounds.	Pigs are given a nutritionally balanced diet consisting of corn, soybean, vitamins, and minerals to keep them healthy and help them grow.	20 As pigs grow, they can eat up to nine pounds of feed per day.	21 A pig is one of the few animals that will not overeat.	22
23	24 Bacon is one of the oldest meats consumed in history.	Pork is packed full of nutrients like iron, thiamin, niacin, zinc,	Pork is the food product that comes from pigs. Some	27 Illinois ranks fourth in pork production in the	28 Illinois pig farmers produce nearly 2 billion pounds of	29
30	31 The pork industry supplies over 57,000 jobs in Illinois!	and B-vitamins that all help our bodies function and stay healthy.	examples are bacon, ham, ribs, and pork chops.	United States.	pork each year. That's more than 6 billion pork chops!	





November 2022

grain, maize, starch, expand, reaper, thresher, winnower, barge, export

Words & Terms to Learn

Corn Belt Harvest by Raymond Bial Let's Pop, Pop, Popcorn by Cynthia Schumerth The Boy Who Changed the World by Andy Andrews

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		Field corn is a grain, not a vegetable, and is part of the grass family.	Corn is called maize by most countries, which comes from the Spanish word 'maiz.'	Native Americans taught the settlers of Jamestown how to grow their own corn.	In the days of the early European settlers in North America, corn was so valuable it was used as money and traded for other products.	5
6	Over half of all the corn grown in the United States is grown in just four states: Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska, which are all part of the "corn belt."	There are several types of corn. The most common types are field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn.	9 Dent corn, or field corn, is higher in starch and lower in sugar than sweet corn. Sweet corn is the type of corn bought from the market and eaten straight off the cob.	Sweet corn is sweeter because the starch turns into sugar.	Each popcorn kernel has a small amount of water trapped inside. When the kernels are heated, the water expands and pops the kernel inside out.	12
13	Popcorn is the official Illinois state snack food.	Field corn plants grow brace roots above ground for support and can grow up to 15 feet tall in just 2 - 3 months!	The corn plants are made up of stalks, tassels, husks, ears, leaves, roots, and kernels.	17 A kernel is the seed of the corn plant.	18 After about 120 days of growth, the corn plant dies and is harvested with a machine called a combine.	19
20	21 Each corn plant usually produces just one ear of corn!	The combine machine combines the work of three essential harvesting tools – the reaper, thresher, and winnower.	After the corn is harvested, it is taken to a storage facility called an elevator where it is dried, stored in a grain bin, and later prepared for sale.	Once the corn is sold, it is loaded into semi-trucks, and eventually freight trains and barges, and transported all over the U.S. and the world.	25 Each corn kernel contains four major components: starch, protein, oil, and fiber.	26
27	Processed corn is soaked and milled (ground) so the germ oil, starch, gluten, and hulls can be separated.	29 Of the corn grown in Illinois, 54% is exported, 25% is used to make ethanol, 15% is processed, and 7% is used for animal feed.	America's corn farmers are the most productive in the world, growing 20% more corn per acre than any other nation!			





December 2022

translucent, climate, ventilation, ideal, acre, hydroponic, botany, germination, botanical

Words & Terms to Learn

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table by Jacqueline Briggs Martin Sleep Tight Farm by Eugenie Doyle My Louisiana Sky by Kimberly Willis Holt

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				A greenhouse is a building made with glass or translucent plastic where plants, like flowers and vegetables, are grown.	Greenhouses create a micro-climate with specific conditions for plants to grow when conditions outside are not ideal for plant growth.	3
4	Temperature, lighting, ventilation, air quality, humidity, and soil moisture can all be controlled to provide the most ideal growing conditions.	Because the translucent exterior allows the sun rays inside and holds the heat, greenhouse workers must be careful it doesn't get too hot.	The first greenhouse built was by the Romans in 30AD for Emperor Tiberius Caesar who was instructed to eat a cucumber a day for his health.	Some greenhouses are used for businesses to grow and sell flowers, vegetables, and other plants, while others are used for scientific research.	There are 350 farms in Illinois that grow over 13 million acres of bedding and garden plants and cut flowers in greenhouses.	10
11	In Illinois there are 232 farms with over 2 million acres of food crops, around half being tomatoes, grown in various types of greenhouses.	Inside greenhouses, plants may be planted directly in the ground, in raised garden beds, in individual pots, or even grown hydroponically.	The first greenhouse in America was built by Andrew Faneuil in 1737 for George Washington, who wanted to grow pineapple at his home to serve his guests.	15 Botany is the study of plants.	Germination is the term used for the stages of a sprouting seed. Seeds require warmth, moisture, and oxygen to grow.	17
18	A cloche, invented in 1623, is a bell-shaped glass cover that is used like a mini greenhouse for small plants or seedlings trying to develop root systems.	The first "modern" greenhouses were indoor botanical gardens in Italy that were used to grow exotic plants brought back by explorers.	A hoop house is a type of greenhouse that is made from bending tubes and sticking the ends into the ground to form a long archway and covering them with a sheet of plastic or film.	A walipini greenhouse is a type of greenhouse built underground, framed in cement. This is beneficial for keeping temperatures cool in southern states where heat can be extreme.	A lean-to greenhouse attaches directly to the side of a house or building. You will find these mostly in backyards of hobby growers!	24
25	26 Many flowers and vegetables are grown in greenhouses in early spring and then are replanted outside when the weather warms.	Many greenhouse workers introduce bumblebee hives inside to help promote natural pollination.	Bumblebees have better sight orientation and can see refracted light, unlike honeybees who can become confused in that light.	The Lyman Estate Greenhouses in Waltham, Massachusetts, has one of the oldest surviving greenhouses in the United States, which was built in 1798.	Willcox, Arizona holds the largest greenhouse complex in the world at 262 acres and grows cucumbers and tomatoes.	31





January 2023

dairy, nutrient, pasteurization, breeds, gallon, silage, ruminant

Words & Terms to Learn

Clarabelle by Cris Peterson
Tales of the Dairy Godmother: Chuck's
Ice Cream Wish by Viola Butler
Extra Cheese, Please! by Cris Peterson

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	Dairy refers to the food group containing milk and milk products including ice cream, sour cream, butter, yogurt, cheese, buttermilk, and cream cheese.	Bach year, U.S. dairy farmers provide milk to make more than 1 billion gallons of ice cream and 7 billion pounds of cheese!	Milk has every nutrient your body needs to live and is the best recovery drink after a workout.	Louis Pasteur discovered a process of heating and cooling the milk to kill bacteria and protect the purity and flavors. This process is called pasteurization.	Dairy cows drink 30 - 50 gallons of water per day. That is about an entire bathtub full of water!	7
8	9 There are 7 common dairy cow breeds in the United States. The most common breed is Holstein, which are black and white.	Depending on the breed, one dairy cow can produce 6.5 - 10 gallons of milk per day. That is more than 2,300 gallons each year!	11 National Milk Day is January 11 th and June is National Dairy month!	The udder is the part of a dairy cow that produces and stores milk.	Female dairy cattle are called heifers. A heifer is called a cow after she gives birth to her first calf.	14
15	16 All female cows must have a calf to produce milk.	17 For the first six months, calves drink their mother's milk and eat grass.	18 Dairy cows eat hay, silage, and grain. Silage is fermented corn, wheat, or hay with the stalks and leaves.	19 Dairy cattle are called ruminants because they have four compartments in their stomach. This allows them to digest tough food.	20 A cow turns grass into milk within 2 - 3 days of digestion!	21
22	23 The greatest amount of milk produced in 1 year was in 1993 by a Holstein cow named Robthom Suzet Paddy who produced over 59,000 lbs. of milk.	24 Milk is measured in pounds, instead of volumetric measurements like gallons, for more accuracy.	25 Illinois has about 81,000 dairy cows that produce close to 2 billion pounds of milk a year.	26 The dairy industry supplies jobs to over 11,600 Illinois residents.	27 Most dairy cows are milked 2 - 3 times per day.	28
29	Before modern milking machines, a farmer could milk about 6 cows by hand in one hour. Now, farmers can milk over 100 cows in an hour.	31 95% of all U.S. dairy farms are family-owned and operated.				





February 2023

domesticate, equus, thoroughbred, horsepower, gait, ungulate, tack, hippology

Words & Terms to Learn

Horse Power: The Wonder of Draft Horses by Cris Peterson Barn at Night by Michelle Houts Off Like the Wind!: The First Ride of the Pony Express by Michael P. Spradlin

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Horses have lived on Earth for more than 50 million years, evolving from much smaller creatures. They were first domesticated between 4000 and 3000 BC.	Horses and mules were the only means of power on a farm until the tractor was developed in the early 1900s.	From 1860-1861 the Pony Express was a fast method for mail delivery. It closed in October 1861 with the development of the transcontinental telegraph.	4
5	Today, horses are used on cattle ranches for rounding up herds of cattle. They are also used for police officers in larger cities, competitions and racing, and therapy and recreational riding.	7 Horses belong to the Equus family. The term Equus comes from the ancient Greek word meaning quickness.	8 A thoroughbred horse can run a mile in 90 seconds!	9 The term "horsepower," coined by engineer James Watt, compares the amount of work done by an engine to the work of 1 horse in 8 hours.	10 The four natural gaits, or speeds, of a horse are walk, trot, canter, and gallop.	11
12	The height of a horse is measured from the ground to their withers, which is the high point between a horse's shoulder blades.	14 A hand is a unit of measurement when measuring the height of a horse. A hand is equal to four inches.	15 Horses are ungulates – mammals with hooves.	Horses' hooves need to be trimmed every 6 - 8 weeks and are trimmed by professionals called farriers.	17 Tack is the name given to brushes, saddles, and other equipment used to ride and care for horses.	18
19	20 Over 25,000 people work in careers directly connected to the horses raised and cared for in Illinois.	21 In Illinois, 645,000 acres of land are used for horse-related purposes.	Although most horses are a shade of brown or gray, there are several other varieties of colors including palomino, pinto, dapple gray, bay, and chestnut or sorrel.	23 A horse has larger eyes than any other land animal except the ostrich!	24 Horses only breathe through their noses and not through their mouths like humans.	25
26	27 The average lifespan of a horse is 20 - 25 years, although they can live for up to 30 years.	28 The scientific name for the study of horses is called "hippology."				





March 2023

poultry, secrete, preen, grit, fertilize, embryo, coop, omnivore, appendage, dominance

Words & Terms to Learn

Chicks and Chickens by Gail Gibbons The Scarecrow's Hat by Ken Brown The Chicken-Chasing Queen of Lamar County by Janice N. Harrington

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			The term poultry refers to chickens, turkeys, ducks, ostriches, emus, quail, pheasants, geese, or pigeons raised for meat or eggs.	Poultry feathers are used to stuff pillows and insulate clothing.	Feathers are not naturally waterproof. Birds secrete an oil that they spread through their feathers in a process called "preening."	4
5	All poultry are oviparous which means their young hatch out of an egg.	The outer covering of the egg is called the shell and is composed mostly of calcium carbonate and protects the rest of the egg.	8 In order to produce eggs, hens need grit in their diet, which is a mixture of angular, hard crushed rock.	As a chicken embryo develops in a fertilized egg, the yolk provides nourishment, and the albumen cushions the embryo.	10 Turkeys have roamed North and South America for 10 million years!	11
12	Handle Box 13 By 3000 BC, Egyptians had domesticated fowl that were laying eggs for humans to eat.	14 In 1620, settlers brought turkeys along on their ships. Although there were wild turkeys in the forests, they wanted domesticated birds for their barnyards.	More than 300 breeds of chickens exist but only a few are used for meat-type production.	16 Illinois has over 5 million chickens that produce nearly 128 million dozen eggs each year!	17 A single hen can produce 250 - 300 eggs per year.	18
19	20 Chicken is the #1 protein consumed in the United States.	21 The house or cage in which a chicken lives is called a "coop."	22 Chickens are omnivores. They eat seeds and insects but will also eat larger prey like small mice and lizards.	Pemale chickens and turkeys are called hens, male chickens are called roosters, and male turkeys are called toms.	24 Baby chickens, quails, and pheasants are called chicks, baby turkeys are called poults, and baby ducks are called ducklings.	25
26	Programmer 27 For short periods of time, chickens can run up to 9 miles per hour and domestic turkeys can run up to 20 miles per hour!	28 The wattle is the bright red appendage at the neck of a turkey and chicken.	One way to determine the sex of a turkey is by the shape of its poop! Hens leave spiral-shaped droppings while toms leave elongated "J"-shaped droppings.	30 Chicken and turkey flocks establish a pecking order, an order of dominance or importance. Higher pecking orders get priority to food and nesting location.	31 Benjamin Franklin praised turkeys as respectable birds and stated that the turkey was a more noble candidate for the U.S. National Bird.	





April 2023

archeologist, grafting, budding, blossom, ripen, variety

Words & Terms to Learn

The Super Soybean by Raymond Bial Auntie Yang's Soybean Picnic by Ginnie Lo Full of Beans: Henry Ford Grows a Car by Peggy Thomas

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	More soybeans are grown in the United States than anywhere else in the world.	The soybean plant is a type of legume. These bushy, green plants grow 2 - 4 feet tall.	Soybean plants sprout small flowers which, when pollinated, will grow into small pods of soybeans.	In the spring, farmers use tractors to pull a planter that plants soybean seeds in the soil.	Farmers use mechanical settings on the planter and computers in the tractor to plant the soybean seeds at the right depth and spacing.	8
9	During germination, a soybean seed grows a little tail-like root called a radical. This becomes the plant's main root.	Soybean plants grow fast in the summer heat and can grow an inch a day!	12 Each soybean plant grows 60 - 80 pods, and each pod has two to four beans inside.	Soybeans are small round seeds, each with a tiny, brown spot called a hilum. This is where the seed is connected to the pod and gets nutrients from the plant.	14 In the fall, the soybean plant dies and turns brown and the leaves drop off before they are harvested.	15
16	Soybeans are good for crop rotation because they leave nitrogen in the soil for the next crop.	Farmers in China began growing soybeans more than 5,000 years ago.	Many cultures use soybeans as a protein source rather than meat, eggs, or cheese. Soybeans are the highest natural source of dietary fiber.	20 Illinois plants enough soybeans to cover nine million football fields!	21 Decatur, Illinois is known as the Soybean Capital of the World.	22
23	24 In 2020, Illinois farmers raised around 590 million	25 The soybean is used for animal and human	26 One acre of soybeans can produce 82,368 crayons.	Henry Ford experimented with soy-based plastics in	28 George Washington Carver invented a process for making	29
30	bushels of soybeans on just over 10 million acres!	consumption, as well as consumer and industrial use.		the production of his cars. In 1940, he swung an axe at a car trunk to demonstrate the durability of soy plastics.	paints and stains from soybeans!	





May 2023

edible, kernel, variety, versatile, cotyledon, monocotyledon, baler, mill, export, gluten

Words & Terms to Learn

Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story by Kevin Noble Maillard Who Made My Lunch?: From Wheat to Bread by Bridget Heos The Thing About Luck by Cynthia Kadohata

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Wheat is a member of the grass family and produces a dry, edible seed known as a kernel which is used mostly for human consumption.	Swiss lake dwellers ground the wheat kernels, mixed the flour with water, and baked the first flatbreads as early as 7000 - 6000 BC.	Thousands of varieties of wheat fall into six classes: hard red winter, hard red spring, soft red winter, hard white, soft white, and durum.	Most of the wheat grown in Illinois is soft red winter wheat, which is used to make cereals, cakes, cookies, and pretzels.	Because wheat is such a versatile plant, it is being harvested somewhere in the world every month of the year.	6
7	8 Wheat is planted by a drill that digs tiny furrows just deep enough to plant the wheat seed.	9 A kernel of wheat, sometimes called the wheat berry, is the seed from which the wheat plants grows.	10 A wheat plant grows to be 2 - 4 feet tall.	Wheat produces only one cotyledon, or embryonic leaf, so it is classified as a monocotyledon.	Wheat plants grow many leaves and send up 3 - 12 stems called tillers. A spike develops at the top of each tiller and matures into a wheat head.	13
14	A spike is the head of a wheat plant and contains between 50 and 75 kernels.	Depending on the variety of wheat, the kernels can be white, yellow, red, or purple.	The wheat plant below the spiked head is called straw after harvest. Farmers use a baler to bundle the straw together to use for animal bedding.	18 After being harvested, wheat kernels are taken to grain elevators for storage and then shipped to flour mills.	19 Millers grind wheat kernels into fine powder to make wheat flour.	20
21	Nearly 50% of the U.S. wheat crop is sold and exported to about 60 nations around the world.	About 83% of the wheat produced in Illinois is grown in the southern half of the state, where there is a longer growing season.	24 In 2020, Illinois harvested over 500,000 acres of wheat!	Wheat contains a lot of protein, which is good for you!	You could make 5,000 four- inch cookies or fill 53 boxes of cereal with one bushel of wheat!	27
28	The starch found in wheat makes it suitable to be used as a versatile adhesive. The sticky stuff on the back of stamps contains wheat!	Wheat flour contains a protein substance called gluten. Wheat flour is great for baking since the gluten makes the dough elastic.	A new variety of wheat can take up to 17 years to develop before it is available for farmers to plant.			





June/July 2023

gourd, native, angiosperm, processing, antioxidant, vine, taproot, ornamental

Words & Terms to Learn

Pick a Pumpkin by Patricia Toht Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubbell Pumpkinheads by Rainbow Rowell

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Pumpkins are members of the gourd family, which includes cucumber, honeydew melons, cantaloupe, watermelons, and zucchini.	2	3
4	5 Pumpkins are native to Central America and Mexico but now grow on all continents except Antarctica.	6	7 Pumpkins are angiosperms, which is the scientific name for plants with flowers.	8	9 Most pumpkins are grown for processing into canned pumpkin and canned pie mix.	10
11	12	13 Processing pumpkins are more elongated and have a peachtoned color.	14	15 Morton, Illinois, where 80% of the world's canned pumpkin is processed, is considered the Pumpkin Capital of the World.	16	17
18	19 Pumpkins grown to be used as jack-o'-lanterns are much bigger and a darker color than processing pumpkins.	20	21 The tradition of carving jack-o'-lanterns came from the Irish tradition of carving turnips to scare away the evil ghost "Jack of the Lantern".	22	Most pumpkin varieties are orange in color. The orange color is a clue that they are full of the antioxidant beta-carotene.	24
25	26	27 Depending on the variety, pumpkins can range in size from less than one pound to more than 2,000 pounds!	28	29 The heaviest pumpkin on record in the United States was 2,528 pounds and the heaviest pumpkin on record in the world was 2,624 pounds!	30	
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 Pumpkins are classified as a fruit because they are a part of the plant that contains seeds.	5	6 Another name for pumpkin seeds is "pepitas." They contain protein and iron and can be roasted as a snack.	7	8
9	10 The name pumpkin originated form "pepon," the Greek word for "large melon."	11	12 Pumpkins are good for your body. The filling is rich in vitamin A and potassium.	13	14 Pumpkins were a staple of Native American diets centuries before the Pilgrims landed.	15
16	17	18 In early colonies, pumpkin shells were used as templates for haircuts to ensure a round and uniform finished cut.	19	20 Native Americans taught the Pilgrims their method of planting corn, beans, and pumpkins together, which they called the "Three Sisters."	21	22
23	24 Pumpkins grow on vines that can grow upto 30 feet long!	25	26 The taproot of a pumpkin grows 2 - 3 feet deep.	27	28 Ornamental pumpkins (pumpkins used for jack-o'-lanterns	29
30	31				and decorations) are picked by hand to avoid bruising and damage.	



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AGMAGS

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