



Science



Literacy

BASKETBALL CHARM

Have students make a basketball charm to show how agriculture is a part of the sport of basketball. The charm will contain little representations of the many different parts of agriculture that are in basketball. This charm could be made during your local high school's basketball season and your students could wear them to the games.

To start, use small zipper style “jewelry” bags. Then, include the following items. Feel free to adapt as necessary. Some items may have more than one object to represent them, and you could use one or the other or both.

Uniforms – Many uniforms are made from cotton, so first add a small **cotton ball**.

Basketball – Most basketballs used today are covered with a leather outer shell made from cow hide. Use **confetti cows** or **confetti basketballs**. One average cow hide can be used to make 12 regulation basketballs. Inside the leather covering is a rubber bladder used to hold the air to the proper pressure. Add a small **rubber band**.

Shoes – Most basketball shoes are made from leather. Add more **confetti cows** to represent the leather.

Basket – James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891 by nailing peach baskets to the wall. Add **peach shaped confetti**.

Maple – Basketball is played on a hardwood maple floor. Maple flooring is very hard and resists ding and scratches. Add a **toothpick** to represent the flooring. Twelve maple trees are used from sustainably harvested forests to make each basketball court.

Tickets, Programs, and Schedules – These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans. To represent this use **soybeans** and actual **ticket stubs**.

Tape and Bandages – Corn dextrines and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents. Use **corn kernels** and **cow confetti**.

Foods eaten at the game are also connected to agriculture:

Soda – Sweetened with corn syrup. Use **corn kernels**.

Hot Dogs – Pork and beef in a wheat bun with relish made from cucumbers. Use **pig confetti**.

Peanuts and Popcorn – Both grown by farmers. Popcorn is the Illinois State Snack Food! Use actual **peanuts and popcorn**.

Nachos and Cheese – Corn flour with cheese made from dairy cows. Here use **corn kernels and cow confetti**.

Soft Pretzels – Wheat flour and vegetable oil. Use **whole-wheat flour** or **wheat kernels**.

Chewing gum – The base comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners. Use an actual **piece of gum**.

After everything is in the bag, use a hole puncher to punch a hole in the top of the bag above the seal and then use yarn to make a necklace.