



Farm Animals

Goals

Introduce students to different farm animals and what food and materials they can provide us and our community.

Curriculum Alignment

Find a list of which Common Core State Standards and NC Essential Standards this lesson plan aligns with on the lesson plan page at www.growing-minds.org.

Materials

-Farm animal matching game (one per student)

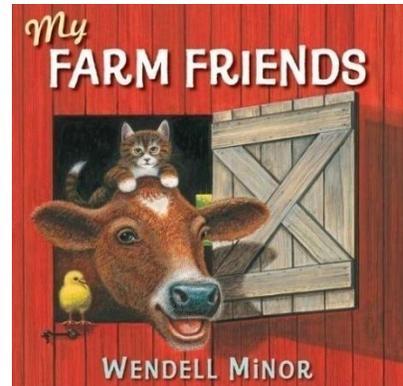
Activities

Read and Research

Read Agatha's Featherbed by Carmen Agra Deedy (*second grade*), Too Many Chickens by Paulette Bourgeois (*first grade*), or My Farm Friends by Wendell Minor (*kindergarten*). These books introduce readers to different kinds of farm animals and their purpose on the farm and in the community.

After reading the stories, ask students to choose one farm animal they want to learn more about. Count the farm animal's syllables. Are there other names for the animal? (Cat=kitty; Rabbit=Bunny; Goat=Billy or Nanny; Chicken=Hen or Rooster). Does the animal make food people eat? Or fiber that keeps us warm? Where does the farm animal live in the summer and in the winter? How does the farmer care for the animal and/or sell the products? Make a KWL chart for the class animal and ask students what they know and want to know and record the information on the chart.

Consult the book, Our Animal Friends at Maple Hill Farm by Alice and Martin Provensen to learn more about the animal students have selected. Locate the pages in the book describing the chosen animal and read them aloud to the students. After reading more information on the students' animal, guide students in finishing their KWL chart, adding what they learned. What do the animals need to live? Did the students learn anything about the shelter they need? The food they eat? Did the students hear any new words they do not know?



Books to Read

My Farm Friends

by Wendell Minor

Too Many Chickens

by Paulette Bourgeois

Agatha's Featherbed

by Carmen Agra Deedy

Our Animal Friends at Maple Hill Farm

by Alice and Martin Provensen



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As you talk with students about their animal, ask them why animals are important to our community and to farmers. Guide them in discussing animals' roles in our lives. They keep us warm, feed us, give us companionship, protect us, and much more! How are humans similar and different than farm animals?

Matching Game

Give each student a copy of the farm animal matching game (front and back). Ask the students to match the farm animal in the left column with the food or material it produces in the right column by drawing a line. Ask students to identify each animal and the corresponding product. Older students should identify and write a word or sentence as a caption for each of the pictures.

Garden Connection

Go on an animal hunt in the garden. Look for clues and signs that animals have been there. What animals might live in or visit the garden? Return to the classroom and ask students to write a short journal entry about an animal they think visits the garden. Students should describe what they think the animal does there. Encourage them to use their imaginations!