Lesson Plans: Social Studies

Report Topics
Grade Level: 3-4
Activity Type: Social Studies
Activity Size: Large

Objective: The students will report on a specific topic related to fruits and vegetables.

Description:

Rationale: Through this activity, students explore history, geography, and politics of fruits and vegetables while incorporating both writing and research skills.

Materials:
Report topics, reference materials

Introduction:
Have the students choose a research topic. Then discuss the nature of a research activity with the students. Point out possible sources of information available to them for research. Appropriate books, magazines, web sites and encyclopedias may be placed in the classroom. Depending on how experienced the students are with activities of this nature, it may be necessary to model the process of writing a report.

Individual/Group Activity:
Students may work alone or in groups on the various research topics. Either way, it may be helpful for them to brainstorm the questions,
"What do we already know?" and "What do we want to know?" Have the students write down their ideas.
After the students have thoroughly researched their topic, they may use a webbing technique to organize their ideas and findings. They should then be able to answer the question, "What have we learned?"
The students can then begin by forming a topic sentence, then a paragraph or paragraphs, and so on at the discretion of the teacher.
Related Activities:
• Reports may be put together in a booklet, displayed in the classroom, or shared orally by the students.
• Students may interview nutritionists, dietitians, farmers, county extension agents, and produce managers, or others who deal with nutrition in their jobs.
• Invite any of the people mentioned above into the classroom as a guest speaker.
• Projects may be done along with any of the reports.
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Report Topics
- Fruits and vegetables brought by Christopher Columbus to the New World
- Countries from which we import fruits or vegetables
- Irrigation techniques
- Fruits and vegetables brought by Benjamin Franklin to the New World
- Fruits and vegetables grown or commercially grown in your state
- How to preserve fruits and vegetables
- Harvesting techniques for various fruits and vegetables
- Most popular fruits and vegetables in other countries
- Career: Farmer (choose specific fruit or vegetable)

- Career: County agricultural agent
- Career: Produce manager
- Agricultural pest control
- How fruit and vegetable plants use nutrients from the soil
- United States Department of Agriculture
- Vegetarian diets
- Any fruit or vegetable

Students' Reactions: