

CORN (AND CORN SYRUP) INQUIRY

Focus Lesson: Corn (and Corn Syrup) Inquiry

Materials:

Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians by Aiki
The Life and Times of Corn by Charles Micucci
Seed Soil Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food by Cris Peterson

White board
 Butcher paper

Time: 45-50 minutes

*Common Core Standards:

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1](#)

Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 5 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7](#)

Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

Thinking Skill: Discovering, Documenting, Questioning

Objective:

Students will construct their own inquiries concerning corn.
 Students will use informational texts to gather information regarding their inquiries.
 Students will document their information through note taking on their butcher paper.
 Students will share with the class their current findings concerning their inquiries.

Connection:

We've been discussing and exploring what is in our food is and where it comes from. It's important to question our understandings of seemingly familiar objects in our lives. Both sugar and corn can be found in soda or juices. Today, we will start with questions so that we may further investigate the ingredients of apple juice and soda.

Explicit Instruction:

What is corn? Has anyone ever tasted corn? Who helps to make corn? What happens when it is heated? Describe it. Raise your hands, and let's brainstorm words and phrases having to do with corn. This will be a word web of all the knowledge we already have concerning corn. I will write them on the board while you suggest. The word corn will go in the center and the teacher will record exactly what the students say.

Guided Practice:

Describe to me what you know about corn → sounds, texture, taste, insides, outsides, Where do you find it? What is it in? Where can you get corn? How is it made? What is corn syrup? (use these leading questions to elicit responses)

-Create a word web using student suggestions

-Now: Circle words that can be associated with one another (group the words by topic i.e: taste, recipes, types, parts of corn, crops, planting...)

-Assign student teams to a group of words and come up with a title for each category

-Ask students to create an inquiry surrounding their topic (Ask a question)

--For example: How do you make popcorn? Teacher picks one group and will do his/her own research as well!

Independent Practice:

In teams, students will use the texts provided to investigate their questions. Provide each group with butcher paper to document their inquiry as well as their findings. They may take notes on this paper. After 5-10 minutes, have the groups rotate their texts to find more information about their topic.

Emphasize that the groups will be taking notes from the texts and that they are investigating their own inquiries, so they should keep the question in mind while reading!

Reflection – Group Share:

When all texts have been reviewed, have students collect their notes and present to the class. Display inquiries on classroom walls and add to the list as curriculum progresses.

Reading list:

Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians by Aiki

The Life and Times of Corn by Charles Micucci

Seed Soil Sun: Earth's Recipe for Food by Cris Peterson

Teacher Note: