



“Why crops and plants are important to Wisconsin Agriculture...”

4-5th Grade Essay contest Lesson Plans and Activities

Lesson Plans and Activity Resource Packet

The following packet of lesson plans, activities, and presentation suggestions is to enable teachers, extension agents, home school parents and volunteers to help students learn about this year’s essay topic.

The Essay Contest Brochure can be downloaded from www.wisagclassroom.org. Entries are due to county Farm Bureau essay coordinators (see website for where your county entries should be sent) postmarked by April 1. The brochure outlines all rules, deadlines and information that must accompany the essays. For more information, please contact Wisconsin AITC Coordinator Darlene Arneson at darneson@wfbf.com or 608.828.5719. The contest is sponsored by Frontier FS, Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board, We Energies and Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation.

Possible angles students could write about

This essay topic will allow us to educate students about a variety of topics including soil, crop and plant growth, harvesting and processing. Students could consider a variety of angles to write ***including but not limited to:***

- What are the different types of agricultural crops grown in Wisconsin
- How do Wisconsin crops rank compared to other states? How do Wisconsin crops rank in the state? What crops and plants are grown in your county?
- Read the 2012 Book of the Year, *Seed Soil Sun*, and write the essay on information learned from the book with additional research into how topics covered relate to Wisconsin agriculture.
- What types of horticultural and landscaping plants are grown in Wisconsin? How do these industries connect with agriculture? Where do CSA’s, school gardens, orchards and specialty crops fit in?
- Follow a crop from field preparation, planting, germination, through the growing process, and finally to harvesting.
- What kinds of machines and equipment are related to raising crops and plants?
- What kinds of jobs, careers and expertise are needed to produce hybrid seeds, for crop protection, to raise crops or with other steps in the planting, growing, harvesting or reaching a final product?
- Science is so important in growing crops and plants. What scientific processes are involved? i.e. germination, photosynthesis
- How do farms vary in how they raise crops and market their final products to the consumer or processor? What kinds of farms are in your area? Are you from a farm?
- Take a field trip or family visit to a farm, orchard, garden, greenhouse, cranberry operation, or other production facility and share their experience
- Interview one (or more) crop farmers, nursery operators, fresh market vegetable growers, or others and/or have a panel discussion of dairy farmers to learn more about crops and plants.

Check out our sponsor’s websites to learn more about their industry resources:

- www.frontierscoop.com
- www.weenergies.com- click on agriculture on the bottom
- <http://www.wmmb.com/wdc/teachers.aspx>

Check out www.wisagclassroom.org for additional resources including:

- List of county Farm Bureau essay contest coordinators
- Full sheets of student entry form information (4 entry forms per sheet)
- Lesson plans related to this year’s topic
- Activity sheets related to this topic
- Lists of websites and educational resources (i.e. books, videos, brochures) on the topic

The 2012 Book of the Year, **Seed Soil Sun**, would be an excellent resource. Books can be ordered by downloading the order form on the Wisconsin AITC website. Some of the sheets in this booklet can be used after students read the book or as a stand alone lesson.

The lessons and activities have been correlated to Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for 4th grade students.

Seed Soil Sun Sentence Completion

Answers: 1-flower buds, 2-corn, 3- castings, 4- leaf, 5- apples, tomatoes, 6- carrots, 7- sweet corn, 8- oxygen, 9- carbon dioxide, 10- root.

Science	C.4.1	E.4.1	E.4.3	F.4.1	F.4.2	F.4.3
English	A.4.1	A.4.4	B.4.3			

Seed Soil Sun Word Search

English	A.4.4	B.4.3
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Learning about Wisconsin Crops

Social Studies	A.4.4	A.4.5	A.4.7	B.4.8	D.4.3	D.4.4	D.4.6	E.4.12	
English	A.4.1	A.4.2	A.4.4	B.4.1	B.4.2	B.4.3	C.4.1	C.4.2	C.4.3
	D.4.1	E.4.1	E.4.3	F.4.1					
Science	B.4.2	E.4.1	E.4.2	E.4.8	G.4.1	G.4.2	G.4.3	G.4.4	H.4.3

What do we grow in Wisconsin? In my county?

Social Studies	A.4.4	A.4.5	A.4.7	B.4.8	D.4.3	D.4.4	D.4.6	E.4.12	
English	A.4.1	A.4.2	A.4.4	B.4.1	B.4.2	B.4.3	C.4.1	C.4.2	C.4.3
	D.4.1	E.4.1	E.4.3	F.4.1					
Science	B.4.2	E.4.1	E.4.2	E.4.8	G.4.1	G.4.2	G.4.3	G.4.4	H.4.3

Growing a Garden- In Bags

Math	D.4.3	E.4.3	E.4.4						
Science	A.4.1	A.4.3	A.4.5	B.4.1	C.4.4	C.4.5	C.4.6	C.4.7	C.4.8
	F.4.1	F.4.2							

Soil Sammy

Science	A.4.1	A.4.3	A.4.5	B.4.1	C.4.2	C.4.3	D.4.1	D.4.4	F.4.1	F.4.2
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A Slice of Soil

Science	E.4.3	
Math	B.4.1	B.4.3

Edible Soil Profile

Science	D.4.2	D.4.4	E.4.1	E.4.2	E.4.3	F.4.4
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Painting with Soil

Science	D.4.1	D.4.2	D.4.3	D.4.4	D4.6	E.4.2
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Learning about Wisconsin Crops and Related Careers

Social Studies	A.4.9	B.4.8	D.4.3	D.4.4					
English	A.4.1	A.4.4	C.4.1	C.4.2	C.4.3	D.4.1	E.4.1	E.4.2	
Science	B.4.1	B.4.2	B.4.3	C.4.1	C.4.3	C.4.8	D.4.3	D.4.5	E.4.1
	E.4.2	E.4.7	E.4.8	F.4.1	G.4.1	G.4.2	G.4.3	G.4.4	G.4.5
	H.4.2	G.4.4							