

“The Bread Basket of the World”

**Julie Swango
Grove Elementary
1101 N Airport Rd
Normal IL 61761**

Promoting Geographic Knowledge Through Literature Workshop

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Introduction and Purpose

Many consider the Midwest to be the “Bread Basket of the World” yet many of our children don’t even realize it. Many children eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches daily but never stop to think about where the ingredients for the bread come from. This project will bring an awareness of the importance of grain farming to each student.

Grade Level

May be adapted for K-6

Connection to 5 Themes of Geography

Location, Place, Human/Environment Interaction, Movement, and Regions will be covered.

The National Geography Standards

#11 The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth’s surface

Objectives

The students will:

1. Locate the Midwest Region on a map.

2. Recognize the importance of grain farms.
3. List different kinds of grains grown in the Midwest.
4. Research and write an expository essay about a grain of their choice.
5. Report information learned to the class.
6. Measure ingredients used to make bread.
7. Read and follow directions.
8. Read aloud a story to another group of children.

Materials

Cook-A-Doodle-Do! By Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel (Harcourt Brace and Company ISBN 0-15-201-924-3), any other picture or reference books about grain farming and related agriculture topics, Internet access (optional), bread machine, ingredients of making bread, bread basket and liner.

Suggested Procedure

1. Read aloud Cook-A-Doodle-Do! by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel.
2. Make a class list of grains. (As students research and learn more, add to the list.)
3. Students read a variety of reference materials to learn more about grain farming.
4. Each student selects a grain to research and then writes an expository essay about their grain.
5. Students report information learned to the class.
6. Measure ingredients and make a variety of breads made from different grains. (A bread machine works nicely in the classroom.)

7. "Taste-test" and graph favorite kinds of bread.

Conclusion

Since bread is a sign of friendship, the students can Visit other classrooms to read Cook-A-Doodle-Do! (by Janet Stevens and Susan Stevens Crummel) and share samples of bread baked by the class.

Evaluation

A survey of the students' knowledge before and after the project may be conducted to use as an evaluation instrument. Expository essays may also be used as an assessment tool.