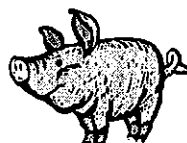


# Marvelous Mondays!

**Agricultural Activities and Lessons to Jump  
Start Your Week**

**Created by Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom**

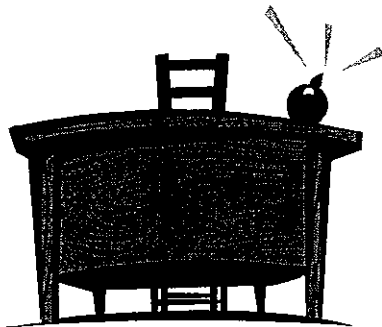


It is Monday, and you are looking for ways to engage your students in activities that will help spark interest in your existing curriculum. What do you do? Hopefully, you will reach for this lesson booklet to help jump start your week and get your students excited about learning. While these activities and lessons have an agricultural component, you will also find that the lessons and ideas have been connected to curriculum content that you are already using in your classroom. Each month you will find an agricultural theme and a curriculum theme. Obviously, you don't have to use the materials presented only during the months that are suggested. Use them however you would like, whenever you would like.

The intent of this booklet is to help provide you with ideas that maybe you have never considered before, or maybe you have thought about using an activity or idea before and you just need a way to connect it to what it is that you are already doing in your classroom. Whatever the case, this booklet is intended to be a resource to help supplement your existing curriculum.

Activities in this booklet are briefly described and teachers are highly encouraged to visit the IAIRC website ([www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org)) to gain more information about the activities listed in the IAIRC activities section and other activities that might be valuable to your classroom. Also included on our website are many of the templates for art, so there is no recreating on your part. Lastly, in an era where every activity in the classroom needs to be aligned to the State Learning Standards, you will find that all the work has been done for you; each activity on our website is aligned to the standards and the assessment frameworks.

We hope that you will find this a valuable resource, use it often and share it with others!



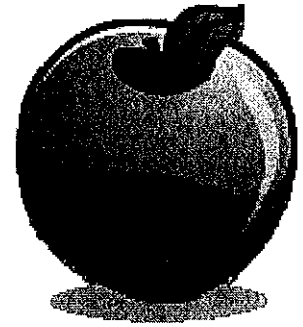
**A great teacher loves teaching  
others to love learning!**

- Anonymous

# September

**Curriculum Theme:** Acceptance of differences

**Agriculture Theme:** Apples



## Books

- *Apples* by Gail Gibbons ISBN-13: 978-0823416691
- *How Do Apples Grow* by Betsy Maestro ISBN-13: 978-0064451178
- *The Apple Pie Tree* by Zoe Hall ISBN-13: 978-0590623827
- *Different Just Like Me* by Lori Mitchell ISBN-13: 978-0881069754

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Apple Chain:** An easy to make project that allows students to learn the stages of an apple's growth. Use apple varieties and their purposes to show differences are good and needed.
- **Apple Blossom Tree:** Explore the differences between spring and fall by constructing an apple tree. Students can discuss the differences in the seasons.
- **The Apple Charm:** Create a necklace that allows students to explore all the stages of an apple's growth.
- **Johnny Apple Seed Hat:** Create a soup pot hat for your students using newspaper. Activity is found in the *Who Grew My Soup Lesson Booklet*.

## Additional Activities

- **Apple Painting:** With a little imagination and sliced apples, have your students create their own art work. Provide the students with a variety of different apples that you have sliced into different shapes and sizes. Use aluminum pie plates to hold the tempera paint.
- **A Blossoming Board:** Create an apple orchard bulletin board using the apple blossom tree activity.
- **The Colors of the Rainbow:** Sort apples by color, size, cooking use or even taste.
- **How Sweet it is! (Taste Testing)** Select several varieties of apples to taste test. Discuss the different uses to understand why some are tart and some are sweet.
- **Likes and Dislikes:** Select an apple to taste test. Investigate the apple, what size is it, what color, is it crispy, is it tart and so on. Construct a Venn Diagram as a class.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Apple Ag Mag.
- Explore the Apple SMART lesson at [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).
- <http://www.bestapples.com/index.aspx> Learn more about the different types of apples grown in the United States. This website has a great interactive student section.
- <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/apples/> Learn all about Illinois apples.

# October



**Curriculum Theme:** Emotions and Feelings

**Agriculture Theme:** Pumpkins

## Books

- *Too Many Pumpkins* by Linda White ISBN-13: 978-0823413201
- *The Legend of Spookley the Square Pumpkin* by Joe Troiano ISBN-13: 97-8435120884
- *Glad Monster, Sad Monster* by Anne Miranda ISBN-13: 978-0316573955
- *The Way I Feel* by Jannan Cain ISBN-13: 978-1884734717

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Pumpkin Glyph:** Have students design their jack-o-lantern by following the directions. Add emotions into the lesson by assigning each student an emotion to design on their pumpkin.
- **3-D Pumpkin:** Students construct a 3-D pumpkin using construction paper and brads. Assign different colors to different emotions and have students create descriptive words for each emotion to write on each slip of paper.
- **Pumpkin Chain:** Discover the steps of growth a pumpkin must go through before it can become pumpkin pie. Investigate with students how the recipe for pumpkin pie may have changed since the first Thanksgiving feast.
- **Pumpkin Charm:** Another way to investigate and learn the growth stages of a pumpkin but students make a necklace they can wear. Necklace can be used in different applications for helping students recall information.

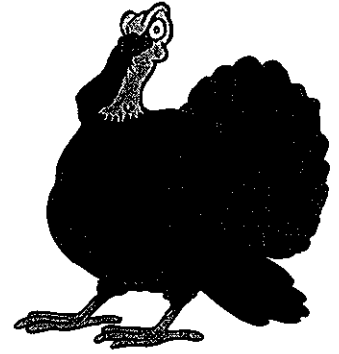
## Additional Activities

- **My Own Pumpkin Patch:** Make a pumpkin thumbprint patch using orange finger paint. Tie activity to math by having students make rows of 3, 5, or 10 to represent the number of months it takes to grow a pumpkin.
- **Field Trip:** Visit a local pumpkin patch to see a pumpkin farm first hand. Select pumpkins to take back to school. Paint the different facial expressions associated with the emotions and feeling you have discussed in class.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Pumpkin Ag Mag.
- Explore the Pumpkin SMART lesson at [www.agintheclassroom.org](http://www.agintheclassroom.org).
- <http://www.pumpkin-patch.com/> Great website for learning more information about pumpkins to share with your students.
- <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/pumpkins/> Learn all about Illinois pumpkins.
- [http://www.ehow.com/video\\_6533951\\_grow-big-pumpkin.html](http://www.ehow.com/video_6533951_grow-big-pumpkin.html) Visit the E-How video to learn how to grow a giant pumpkin.

# November



**Curriculum Theme:** Size Relationships

**Agriculture Theme:** Harvest and Thanksgiving

## Books

- *One Little, Two Little, Three Little Pilgrims* by B.G. Hennessy ISBN-13: 978-0142300060
- *Harvest Year* by Cris Peterson ISBN-13: 978-1563975714
- *Hello, Harvest Moon* by Ralph Fletcher ISBN-13: 978-1563975714
- *Thanksgiving Is....* by Gail Gibbons ISBN-13: 978-1563975714

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Harvest Season Mobile:** Create a mobile that represents the different times of year different crops are harvested. Have students sort different fruits and vegetables based on size or circumference.
- **Turkey Turkey Turkey:** Learn more about turkeys while making this crafty paper plate and popsicle stick activity. Activity can be found in the lesson booklet *Ag, Paper Plates & You*. Investigate size differences by looking at the different breeds of turkeys. Pay special attention to the Beltsville Small White Turkey!  
<http://www.avianweb.com/beltsvillesmallwhiteturkeys.html>
- **3 Sisters Tambourine:** Planting a Native American Three Sisters Garden benefits three plants: corn, beans & squash. The corn stalk serves as a pole for the beans, the beans help to add the nitrogen to the soil that the corn needs, and the squash provides a ground cover of shade that helps the soil retain moisture. Create a tambourine to celebrate their harmony and investigate Native Americans.

## Additional Activities

- **A Presidential Turkey:** Visit California Agriculture in the Classroom and learn all about the turkeys grown for the White House Thanksgiving. The site has great pictures and a downloadable teachers guide. <http://www.cfaitc.org/turkeytour/>
- **Cranberry Bounce:** Check this great video out from your local Ag Literacy coordinator and see an enactment of the first North American Thanksgiving at Plymouth. Watch children put on hip waders and go chest high into the bog during the fall cranberry harvest. *Cranberry Bounce* introduces children to the seasons on a cranberry farm.
- **Handprint Turkey:** Have students create their very own turkey by tracing their hands and decorating it to look like a turkey. Can be adapted many different ways.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Poultry Ag Mag. Available online only.
- Visit this site to learn more about Illinois turkeys and turkey recipes.  
<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/turkey>

# December

**Curriculum Theme:** Senses

**Agriculture Theme:** Christmas Trees



## Books

- *The Gingerbread Cowboy* by Janet Squires ISBN-13: 978-0060778637
- *Christmas Tree Farm* by Sandra Jordan ISBN-13: 978-0531086490
- *Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree* by Robert Barry ISBN-13: 978-0385327213
- *Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Christmas* by Joy Cowley ISBN-13: 978-0399243448
- *Smell (The Five Senses)* by Maria Rius ISBN-13: 978-0812035650

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **3-D Christmas Tree:** Learn more about the life cycle of a tree and the special care it needs with this activity. Include senses into the lesson by attaching pine scented cotton balls on the inside of the project. Download from the AITC website, activity can be found in the *Specialty Crop Lesson Booklet*.
- **The Learning Tree:** Have students place hands upside down to make their learning tree look like an evergreen tree. On the outside of the tree trunk include the phrase "The Smells of the Holiday Season." Have students cut out pictures or draw pictures of their favorite smells.
- **That Smells Like:** Investigate the aroma test in your classroom with your students using the activity from the *Cooks and Books Lesson Booklet*. Investigate how sight, smell and taste work together to form our knowledge of what something is. Activity is the last lesson in the section entitled *Who Grew My Soup?* Adapt the activity for the Holiday season by using flavors and scents of the season.

## Additional Activities

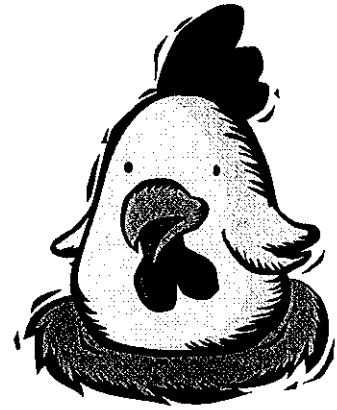
- **Here Birdy!** Have students make pinecone birdfeeders with peanut butter and bird seed. Hang around the school campus to see what visitors show up.
- **Terrific Trees:** Decorate several small trees in your classroom with farm products or with the farm theme.
- **Farmtastic Ornaments:** Make farm themed ornaments using this ornament dough recipe. (<http://allrecipes.com/Recipe/Ornament-Dough/Detail.aspx>) Use baking oils to scent the ornaments and cut the dough out with farm themed cookie cutters.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Tree Ag Mag and Specialty Crop Ag Mag.
- <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/trees/> Learn more about the tradition of Christmas Trees and where they are grown in Illinois.

# January

**Curriculum Theme:** Personal Responsibility  
**Agriculture Theme:** Farm and Farm Animals



## Books

- *All Around the Farm* by Heather Alexander ISBN-13: 978-0756629779
- *April Foolishness* by Teresa Bateman ISBN-13: 978-0807599808
- *Mrs. Wishy-Washy's Farm* by Joy Cowley ISBN-13: 978-0142402993
- *I'll Do It!: Learning About Responsibility* by Brian Moses ISBN-13: 978-0750221375
- *The Big Blue Egg* by Kath Smith ISBN-13: 978-0769275907

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Barn Book:** Pair this activity with *All Around the Farm* by Heather Alexander and your students can see first hand all the responsible tasks farmers must perform every day.
- **Beautiful Bovine:** How do animals stay warm outside when it is so cold? Use this activity to learn more about the anatomy of a cow and discuss how these body parts help them enjoy being outside.
- **Colorful Fleeces:** What could be more fun than learning the process in which wool is collected and then dyed to make clothes. Learn the benefits of shearing sheep for the sheep and for humans. You can purchase wool from the following Agriculture in the Classroom program:  
<https://utah.agclassroom.org/cart/Details.cfm?ProdID=177&category=0> .
- **Stick Horses:** Learn how much care goes into taking care of an animal by reading the IAITC's Horse Ag Mag then perform your own horse show in the classroom.

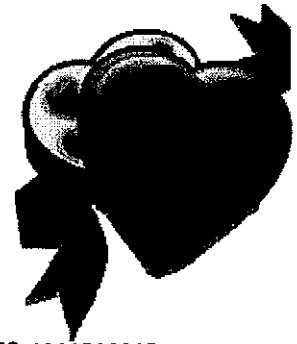
## Additional Activities

- **About Cows:** An entire series of printable booklets designed with Kindergarteners in mind. Print directly from the Utah Agriculture in the Classroom's website and learn more about all the animals grown on a farm.  
<https://utah.agclassroom.org/cart/details.cfm?ProdID=27&category=7>.
- **Little Red Hen Puppets:** Have students color the templates provided to retell the story of the Little Red Hen. The following link provides the templates for the main characters:  
<http://www.makinglearningfun.com/themepages/RedHenPopsicleStickPuppets.htm>.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Beef, Dairy, Horse and Pork Ag Mags.
- Farm Safety information. <http://www.fs4jk.org/> Great way to talk about responsibility.
- The 4-H website (<http://www.sites.ext.vt.edu/virtualfarm/main.html>) allows students to take a virtual farm tour without leaving the classroom.

# February



**Curriculum Theme:** Shapes & Patterns

**Agriculture Theme:** Candy

## Books

- *How it Happens at the Candy Company* by Jenna Anderson ISBN-13: 978-1881508915
- *Curious George Goes to a Chocolate Factory* by Margret & H.E. Rey ISBN-13: 978-0395912140
- *Pattern Fish* by Trudy Harris ISBN-13: 978-0761317128
- *Kindness is Cooler, Mrs. Ruler* by Margery Cuyler ISBN-13: 978-0689873447

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website

- **Candy Ingredients:** Help students learn about production, smell and taste of candy ingredients. Find this lesson in the *Candy, Culture and Creativity Lesson booklet*.
- **Candy and Culture:** Take a look at candy legends, candy traditions and candy lovers from around the world. Find this lesson in the *Candy, Culture and Creativity Lesson booklet*.
- **What's in a Tootsie Roll?:** A nutritional lesson about the Illinois product made from corn and soybeans. Find this lesson in the *Candy, Culture and Creativity Lesson booklet*.

## Additional Activities

- **Make your own conversation hearts:** Why not have students create conversation hearts out of paper? Reinforce shapes through their use on the hearts.
- **Tissue Paper Flowers:** Use tissue paper to create paper flowers for students to give to a loved one. There are numerous ways to make paper flowers. This website offers one: <http://crafts.kaboose.com/flower2.html>
- **Collage Flowers:** Encourage students to create collage flowers using found objects. Found objects could include rocks, scraps of paper, pieces of magazines, corn, soybeans, etc. While creating their flowers, students could also examine the shapes and patterns created by the artwork.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Dairy Ag Mag.
- <http://www.candyusa.org/> Lots of candy information, including trivia, history and recipes.
- [http://www.hungrymonster.com/FoodFacts/Food\\_Facts.cfm?Phrase\\_vch=Candy&ttl=16](http://www.hungrymonster.com/FoodFacts/Food_Facts.cfm?Phrase_vch=Candy&ttl=16) Help to dispel some of the myths about candy. This website provides some great ideas to help students understand the history of candy.
- [http://www.tootsie.com/gal\\_memories.php](http://www.tootsie.com/gal_memories.php) Find out more about the history of Tootsie products made right here in Illinois!



# March



**Curriculum Theme:** Seasons

**Agriculture Theme:** Weather

## Books

- *Nature Activities: Weather Watcher* by John Woodward ISBN: 978-1405310352
- *I Face the Wind* by Vicki Cobb ISBN-13: 978-0688178406
- *Kid's Almanac: Facts, Figures and Stats* by Pascoe, Kops, and Morse ISBN-13: 978-1417628575

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Through the Year:** The Farmers' Almanac is a great way to get students to think about the days of the week, weeks in a month, and the months in a year and how seasons impact agriculture. You can find this activity in the *Almanac Activity Booklet*.
- **Weather Wisdoms:** What do students notice about the weather in your area? Explore weather folklore in this almanac activity. This can also be found in the *Almanac Activity Booklet*.
- **The Ice Cube Challenge:** What happens to ice cubes when subjected to different variables. This activity helps students understand states of matter. Check out the *100 Days of School*, *100 Days of Agriculture Lessons* for more ideas!

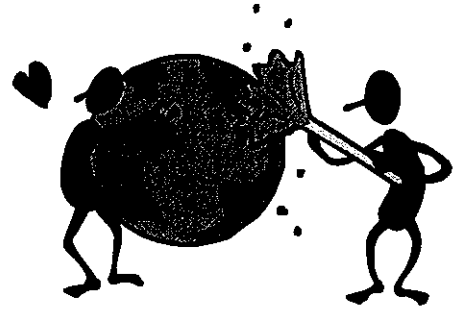
## Additional Activities

- **Weather Wear:** How does the weather impact the types of clothing that we wear? Help students to learn the appropriate types of clothing to wear during different seasons.
- **States of Matter:** Through hands-on experimentation, allow students to develop an understanding of the different states of matter using water. Create a sensory table where students can see the changes that water undergoes during different seasons.
- **Rain Stick:** Make your own rainstick using a paper towel tube, aluminum foil, and corn or soybeans! [www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/music/rainstick/](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/music/rainstick/)

## Additional Resources

- <http://www.almanac.com/> The Old Farmers' Almanac is a great resource to create interest in the how the weather impacts agriculture.
- <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/weather/> What would it be like to be a real weather person? Explore this site to find out!
- <http://www.weatherwizkids.com/> Learn about the fascinating world of weather!

# April



**Curriculum Theme:** Alike/Differences

**Agriculture Theme:** Earth Day

## Books

- *Earth Day – Hooray!* by Stuart J. Murphy ISBN-13: 978-0060001292
- *Earth Where Would We Be Without It?* by Kathleen W. Kraking ISBN-13: 978-0307131720
- *The New 50 Simple Things Kids Can Do to Save the Earth* by Sophie Javna ISBN-13: 978-0740777462
- *Michael Recycle* by Ellie Bethel ISBN-13: 978-1600102240

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Conversations in Conservation:** Using Tootsie Rolls, students will have an opportunity to learn about the way in which we use the resources in our world. By looking at consumers, students will learn to become conservationists in order to protect our world.
- **Circle of Earth Bracelet:** By examining all of the component parts of the earth, students learn the value of our resources and what they can do to help protect them.
- **Water Cycle Bracelet:** This activity uses 10 beads that represent the water cycle and shows the paths water takes through its various states – solid, liquid and vapor – as it moves throughout Earth's systems.
- **The Learning Tree:** This activity asks students to create a tree booklet using hand prints as the leaves of the tree. On each hand print, students can include ideas about how they help the environment.

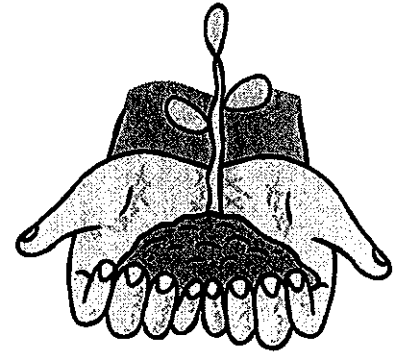
## Additional Activities

- **High Five for Recycling:** Challenge students to find five items in the classroom that can be recycled.
- **Recycling Sorting Game:** Using recyclable items, have students sort the items into plastics, paper, glass, aluminum, etc. If possible, take a field trip to a recycling center to see what happens to these items.
- **Finding New Uses:** Show students a milk carton. Ask students to brainstorm ideas for other ways to use the milk carton now that it is empty.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Tree and Renewable Energy Ag Mags.
- <http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/earth.html> Lessons and activities to encourage students to be stewards of the Earth.
- [http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalholidays/earth\\_day/](http://www.abcteach.com/directory/seasonalholidays/earth_day/) Tons of printable resources for use during your Earth Day unit!

# May



**Curriculum Theme:** Nutrition

**Agriculture Theme:** Planting and Gardening

## Books

- *Oh Say Can You Seed!* by Bonnie Worth ISBN-13: 978-0375810954
- *Lily's Garden* by Deborah Kogan Ray ISBN-13: 978-0761315933
- *Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens ISBN-13: 978-0152928513
- *My Garden* by Kevin Henkes ISBN-13: 978-0061715174

## AITC Activities

From Agriculture in the Classroom's website:

- **Beanie Baby:** Germination comes to life in this popular AITC activity. A little soil moist, a soybean and a jewelry bag and string is all you need to let students study the process of germination.
- **Soil Sam:** This activity is similar to a Chia Pet, but better because students can personalize their own Sam! Great way to include the scientific method for an extended project.
- **Garden in a Glove:** Take a clear plastic glove, five cotton balls and the seeds of your choice to create a classroom garden. Use this activity to talk about plant growth or maybe even an introduction to gardening.
- **Pizza Garden:** Use a pizza box to grow the herbs used to season most pizzas! Your class will be surprised how easy it is to grow your own pizza!

## Additional Activities

- **Seed Sizes:** Help students to investigate the size of seeds and what types of plants they grow into to. Students will be amazed at how tiny seeds can sometimes grow into very large plants and trees, while some large seeds grow plants that don't get very large.
- **What do Plants Need to Grow?:** Try experimenting with plant growth while helping students understand what it takes to help a plant grow. Experiment with soil types, heat, sunlight, and water to show the impacts our climate has on agriculture.
- **Exercise:** Use this opportunity to help students understand that not only do the things we eat impact our health, but that exercise is an important part of being healthy as well. Encourage daily exercise with family and friends.

## Additional Resources

- Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom's Horticulture and Nutrition Ag Mags.
- <http://www.kiddiegardens.com/> Creating fun gardens for children means involving the kids in the design and evolution of the garden, working together to produce something unique.
- [http://eartheasy.com/grow\\_gardening\\_children.htm](http://eartheasy.com/grow_gardening_children.htm) Gardening is a great way to teach environmental awareness by exploring the workings of nature.