

Title: I Wonder...

Grades: 2-3

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.1 Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.2.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 2 topic or subject area.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.1 Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.4 Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area.
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.7 Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).

Objectives: In this lesson, students will:

- Identify questions they may have about ranching in the Midwest and use the information in the text to answer their questions.
- Identify key vocabulary words as they relate to the text and use those words appropriately.

Vocabulary: rancher, farmer, orphaned, heifer, drought, supplement, grazing, environmentalists, aerate, habitat, branding, cake truck, distillers grain

Materials:

Our Star Goes West by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney

Vocabulary Cards (can be enlarged)

Chart Paper (to take notes or record I Wonder statements)

"I Wonder" Worksheet

"Life on a Ranch" Worksheet

Introduction:

1. Show students the vocabulary cards and ask them to think about what some of the agricultural words mean. Ask them if they ever wonder about life on a farm or ranch.
2. Using the "I Wonder" chart and the vocabulary words, lead students into creating some "I Wonder" statements. For example, I wonder what farmers and ranchers do when there is a drought.
3. Explain that as students read the text they will use the text to answer some of their questions about farming and ranching. If students need additional questions, assist them in developing some.

Procedures:

1. Preview the book, Our Star Goes West with the students by showing them the front and back cover. Read the first page to students and the back cover with information about the Chaney's. Ask students to share some of the things they know about the authors from the preview.
2. As a class, do a picture walk and point out some of the things happening in the pictures.
3. Have students identify 2-3 of their "I Wonder" statements that can be answered in the text.
4. As you read the text, record information on the organizer that answers some of their questions.

Assessment/Closure:

Have students complete the questions on the worksheet "Life on a Ranch." They can discuss answers with other students and share with the class. Review the "I Wonder" chart and discuss how the text answered some of their questions. If there are still things students are wondering about, visit the local library or some websites and have students continue to find additional information about agriculture.

Extension Activities:

- Read the other books written by The Chaney's: Little Star...Raising Our First Calf, Mini Milk Maids on the Moove, Star Becomes a Mother, and Cowgirl Up! Let's Go Ranching. Have students compare Star's life on a farm in Maryland to Star's life in the Midwest using a Venn Diagram.

- In the book, Rianna and Sheridan describe some of the interesting activities they are able to do in 4-H. Have students spend time using <http://www.4-h.org/default.aspx> to gather information about the 4-H program. Have students create a poster to promote 4-H.
- In the book, The Chaney's describe life raising beef cattle. Have students spend time researching how beef is used for food, medicines, and other products. Have them create a web or mind map to share what they have learned. Information can be found at:
 - www.pabeef.org
 - www.explorebeef.org
 - www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com
 - www.beefnutrition.org