

Title: Farmers and Ranchers help Consumers

Grades: 2-3

Common Core Standards:

- RI.2.6 Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to answer, explain, or describe.
- RI.3.2 Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- SL.2.2 Recount or describe key ideas or details from a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
- SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

Objectives: In this lesson, students will:

- Understand the importance of farmers and ranchers and create an infomercial to educate consumers about where food, clothing, and other products come from.
- Work collaboratively to create an infomercial describing how an animal or crop is used by consumers.

Vocabulary: Agriculture, Bushel, Product, Pasture, Lanolin, Consumer

Materials:

- Farm Life...We Live It, We Love It by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney
- Chart Paper
- Items used daily such as an empty milk carton, flour, bacon package, canned corn, lanolin cosmetic product, wool, etc.
- Video recording device such as a flip camera, I-pod, smart phone, or tablet with the Chatterbox Application (chatterbox allows students to use their voices to retell stories, information, etc.)

Introduction:

1. Show students items they use daily and ask them to describe where they come from. Brainstorm a list of items they use and where they believe the items come from. Many students are three to four generations removed from farming and believe these items come from the store. Their ideas can be recorded using chart paper or with a technological tool such as www.Padlet.com.
2. Explain to students that we are all consumers. Consumers are people who buy goods and services. Tell students that we will be reading a text and learning about the many jobs farmers and ranchers have and how the work they do every day helps us to live.

Core Lesson:

1. Preview the book, Farm Life...We Live It, We Love It by looking at the front and back cover, reading the introduction and discussing what they think the text will tell us. Add new ideas or edit existing ones to the chart or padlet wall.
2. As you read the text to the students, use post it notes to mark parts of the text where it describes particular crops or animals (Examples: Beef Cattle, Goats, Sheep, Pigs, Corn, and Soybeans). While you are reading the text, stop to discuss products that come from each of these.
3. After reading the text, have students work in groups of 3-4 to use additional informational books and web resources to gather information about one of the animals or crops from the sticky notes (In the back of the book, there are several agricultural web resources that could be linked for students).
4. Students should use a familiar graphic organizer to organize ideas about how the crop or animal they are researching is used to provide us with food, clothing, cosmetics and/or other products.

Assessment/Closure:

Have students use the information gathered to create an infomercial about their animal. They can use a device with a video camera to record a short infomercial or an application such as Video Chatterbox to enhance the information provided. Encourage children to be creative but to provide accurate information. This activity may take a few days to complete. Students can use props to share their information. After students are finished creating videos, they can be shared with one another and with another class.

Extension Activities:

- Use screen flow software such as Movie Maker to have students edit video clips to make a longer infomercial. This may take some additional time.
- Read the other books written by The Chaney's: Little Star...Raising Our First Calf, Star Becomes a Mother, and Our Star Goes West and gather information about how Star has grown up. Create a timeline that shows how Star has grown up over the years.
- Contact your local FFA chapter (www.ffa.org) to invite guest speakers to come and speak to students and share pictures about the importance of agriculture.

