

Title: Farmers and Ranchers are Important

Grades: K-1

Common Core Standards:

- RI.K.5 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
- RI.K.8 With prompting and support, identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.
- RI.1.6 Distinguish between information provided by pictures or other illustrations and information provided by the words in a text.
- RI.1.8 Identify the reasons an author gives to support points in a text.

Objectives: In this lesson, students will:

- Understand the importance of farmers and ranchers in providing food and clothing, protecting the land and the environment, helping wildlife, and for fuel and pharmaceuticals by reading a text and correctly sorting cards into categories of how farmers and ranchers help us.
- Use evidence from the text to discuss and support the information provided by the author through class discussion.

Vocabulary: Agriculture, Combine, Diabetic, Graze, Lanolin, Pasture

Materials:

- Farm Life...We Live It, We Love It by Twins Rianna and Sheridan Chaney
- Chart Paper
- Category Cards for sorting activity (Providing food and clothing, Protecting the Land and Environment, Helping Wildlife, For Fuel, and For Pharmaceuticals)
- Farm Life sorting cards (available in PowerPoint Slides to be displayed electronically or printed out)

Introduction:

1. Show students pictures of farmers and ranchers. Ask them to brainstorm a list of jobs they believe farmers or ranchers do every day. This can be done using chart paper or with a technological tool such as www.Padlet.com.
2. 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 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 other jobs of farmers or ranchers. While you are reading the text, stop to discuss how things farmers and ranchers do help us to live.
3. After reading the text, use the power point slides to show some key ideas. Have children sort them into categories of ways farmers and ranchers help us to live. This activity provides a great opportunity for discussion of how farmers and ranchers help to supply us with things we use every day.

Assessment/Closure:

Have students choose one of the products or ideas discussed to write a thank you note to a farmer or rancher. Younger students can include pictures with labels that show how farmers and ranchers help them. Contact one of the agricultural organizations listed in the back of the book or your local Grange or Farm Bureau to deliver the thank you notes.

Extension Activities:

- 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 picture timeline that shows how Star has grown up over the years.
- Have students use other informational books about agriculture to add additional ideas to each category for how farmers and ranchers help us to live.
- 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.

References:

Images for this lesson were used from Google images for educational purposes.

