

Lesson Plan Outline:

Title:

Different Types of Corn and Their Uses

Purpose of Activity and 3 Learning Objectives:

Students will learn about various types of corn and what each type is used for.

1. The students will learn about different types of corn, and be able to name 3 different kinds.
2. Discover the difference between popcorn, sweet corn and field corn; be able to explain the what each kind is used for.
3. Be able to draw each type of corn and explain differences between each one.

Materials needed:

PowerPoint

Video access for "**Where, oh Where, Does the Yellow Corn Grow?**" YouTube Video

Construction paper

Crayons

Ear of field corn

Ear of sweet corn

Can of sweet corn

Bag of popcorn

Scissors

Pictures of field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn

Time/Duration:

15 - 30 minutes

Describe specifically what the teacher should do and what the students should do?

Begin by explaining to students that we are about to watch a YouTube Video of April Patterson reading "**Where, oh Where, Does the Yellow Corn Grow?**"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxBhCkJNmRo>

Ask students what sort of questions they have about "**Where, oh Where, Does the Yellow Corn Grow?**" before moving on to the main part of the lesson.

Show students the sweet corn and field corn ears. Ask which they would prefer to eat and why. Allow them to touch both ears and ask them to explain why they would or wouldn't want to eat one of each type. Explain that the sweet corn is what they would buy from the store to eat. Sometimes it comes in can form or in the produce section in ears.

Segway - Today we will learn the difference between the sweet juicy corn we eat and other types that are grown for different uses. Present PowerPoint showing different types of corn. Be sure to tell students that the number one crop in the U.S. is field corn.

Sweet corn: "Sweet corn is the kind of corn you buy at the grocery store to eat. You can eat it off the ear (corn-on-the-cob). You can also buy it in cans or in the frozen food aisle. Fresh sweet corn is found most often during the summer and is sweet and juicy."

Popcorn: What does popcorn look like? Before popping? After popping? Compare it to the sweet corn. Kernels are generally darker in color and have a rounder shape than other types of corn. Explain that popcorn is different than other kinds of corn because of its composition. Water is stored inside an area of starch within the kernel. " As the popcorn kernel is heated,

the water heats, builds up pressure and takes up any available room until the outer surface gives way and the water explodes into the fluffy white snack we know and love.”

Field corn: The most grown type of corn in the US is field corn. Field corn has a hard thick coating around it while the inside is soft and floury. Field corn is used to make food products like cornmeal, corn chips and corn syrup, but it's primarily grown for animal feed. In fact, field corn makes up 95 percent of the grain in animal feed. Field corn is referred to as dent corn because of the indentations or “dents” on the top of each kernel.

Introduction of Activity:

Tell students that we are about to do a drawing activity to showcase the differences between sweet corn, popcorn and field corn. Have images up on the PowerPoint for students to use as guides for their drawings.

Body of Activity:

Students will then be given construction paper and crayons. Students will be asked to draw each of the 3 types of corn they have learned about today.

Have students write the names of one type of corn at the top of the page, they will have 3 pages at the end of the activity.

Starting with sweet corn ask students to draw what the sweet corn looks like. Write out beside the corn phrases that explain what's so unique about sweet corn. Students should draw the kernel, and the ear of sweet corn. Ask students to draw sweet corn the way they like to eat it.

This can be corn on the cob, cream corn, corn in a can, etc.

Move on to popcorn. Ask students to draw what the popcorn looks like before its cooked and after its cooked. Have students write phrases explaining what's different about popcorn compared to field and sweet corn.

Lastly have students draw field corn

Ask if they remember what each different type of corn is used for.

Closure of Activity/Processing Questions (What questions will you ask to discern what the students learned from the lesson? How will you conclude the lesson?)

What kind of corn do we buy at the grocery store? A: Sweet

What is the number one crop in the U.S.? A: Field corn

What kind of corn is used mostly as livestock feed. A: Field corn

Describe how popcorn kernels are different than other types of corn kernels. A: They are generally darker in color and have a rounder shape than other types.

What other name is field corn known as? A: Dent corn

Why is field corn known as dent corn? A: The indentations or “dents” on the top of each kernel.

References:

<https://mocom.org/resources/education/corn-in-the-classroom/>

<https://mocom.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Corn-in-the-Classroom-The-Basics.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxBhCkJNmRo>