

Walla Walla School Garden Lesson

Title: 4th Grade Common Crops to Washington – Planting Wheat and Potatoes

Standards addressed: Social Studies EALR 2 ECONOMY

- 2.2.1 Understands the basic elements of Washington State's [economic system](#), including [agriculture](#), businesses, industry, [natural resources](#), and [labor](#).

Unit connections: Social Studies Washington State Economy Unit

Description: The students will analyze a map of Washington's common crops. They will then plant winter wheat and potatoes to be harvested in the fall.

Objective:

- 1) The students will discuss and analyze a map of Washington state with a partner.
- 2) The students will compare the common crops of wheat and potatoes and will plant them in the school garden.

Time Required: Pre-garden time: 30-35 min/Garden time: 1 hour

Date: May

Materials:

- laminated WA crop map (1 for each pair of students)
- Wheat production ppt (or any background information to teach students about wheat – a book, pictures, etc.)
- Potato ppt (Amity's – or any other resource to teach about potatoes)
- Garden plot and tools
- Winter wheat seed
- Seed potatoes
- Parent volunteers
- Journal Observation Sheet (copies for the class)

Preparation: This activity would be best to do with a parent volunteer or two since two different plants will be planted. Make sure the volunteers know how to help the students work in the garden. Make sure the garden plot is ready. Talk with the classroom teacher to ask if you can have access to a projector or smart board to show the Power Points if you need to. Ask the teacher to help pair up the students and provide clipboards

Class Discussion: (5 min)

- 1) ***What is a crop?*** A cultivated plant that is grown as food.

Walla Walla School Garden Lesson

- 2) ***Which crops grow around Walla Walla?*** Wheat, asparagus, sweet onions
- 3) ***Does anyone know a farmer or someone who works with crops?*** Allow students some time to share.
- 4) ***We're going to learn about and plant two important crops that grow in Washington – wheat and potatoes!***

Action:

1) Agriculture Maps: (5-10 min)

- a. Pass out the laminated maps. Give the students a few minutes to look at it and discuss with their partner.
- b. Ask: ***What do you notice about this map?*** Allow a few students to share out.
- c. Ask: ***Before you saw this map, did you think that Washington produced so many different crops?*** Allow a few students to share.
- d. Ask: ***What are some of the crops in Walla Walla County?*** Take a few student responses and guide them to discover that both wheat and potatoes are produced in our county.

2) Background information on wheat and potatoes: (20 min)

- a. Show the Wheat Production PowerPoint. Use the images and some of the information to guide your discussion. Tell the students they will be planting winter wheat that will be harvested when they are in 5th grade.
- b. Show the Potatoes PowerPoint. Again, use it to guide your discussion.

3) Plant! (+/- 1 hour)

- a. Split the students into 4 groups (ask the teacher for help)
- b. Send one group of students to plant potatoes and the other to plant wheat seed. The other two can be working on a journal observation.
- c. Rotate the groups every 15 minutes.

Wrap Up: While planting or after planting, discuss the types of foods students like to eat that are made from wheat or potatoes. Encourage them to return to the garden periodically to observe the progress of their wheat and potatoes!

Vocabulary Words:

- crop
- cultivate
- agriculture

Additional Activities:

- Ag in Washington ppt - If there is time; this is a great resource on Washington regions and the crops that grow in each region. It would be great to give to classroom teachers as they study Washington state geography.
- Have the students use the map to create a list of all the products from Walla Walla County. Give them a time limit to make it like a game. They can compare their list with yours.

Walla Walla School Garden Lesson

Teacher's List of Walla Walla County Products

dry beans
wheat
grapes
cattle
bees - We sell bees so apiarists (beekeepers) can harvest honey!
grain corn
barley
sweet corn
sheep
green peas
timber
dry peas
strawberries
eggs
nursery – flowers, plant starts
hay
honey
apples
milk
cherries
potatoes
grass seed
Christmas trees
canola
asparagus
onions