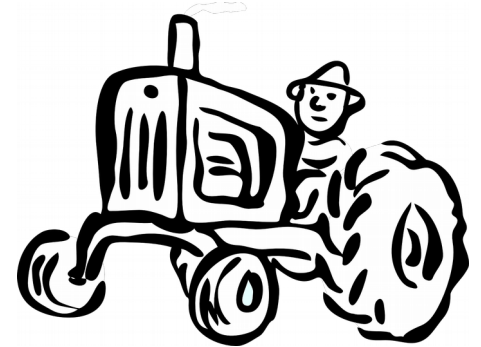


Teaching Social Studies in the Garden

*Lesson ideas from the New Jersey Agricultural Society
Learning Through Gardening program*



- 1) Read *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischman and discuss how civilizations grew up around the plants that are available in an area. Create your own civilization and the plants it relies on for food, shelter, and clothing
- 2) Read *City Green* by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan and compare and contrast how gardens can be built in the city and the suburbs.
- 3) Ask students to bring in recipes that use herbs from their ethnic backgrounds. Research the history of the herbs and the part of the world where they originated. Plant some of these herbs in the garden.
- 4) Make maps of the real garden and imaginary gardens the students create. Plot a compass course through the garden. Calculate latitude and longitude of the garden.
- 5) Examine a school lunch, research where the food came from and calculate how many miles it traveled to get to your school.
- 6) Research what foods are grown locally today and in the past. Discuss why eating locally grown foods is better for the environment.
- 7) Research and report on harvest rituals from different countries and create your own harvest festival for your school.
- 8) Trace the history of familiar plants – where did they originate, who brought them to this country, the impact they have on our diets.
- 9) Read about how the inventions of Eli Whitney, Cyrus McCormick, and John Deere changed farming.
- 10) Read *How To Make An Apple Pie and See The World* by Marjorie Priceman. Pick a simple recipe and map the origins of its ingredients. Make your own “See the World” class book about your recipe.