



Characteristics of Agriculturalists

Middle School Food and Agricultural Literacy Curriculum

Precepts

- H. Social Growth
 - H1. Acknowledge that differences exist among people.

National Standards

- CS.02.02.01.b. Compare and contrast the customs of different cultures.
- CS.02.03.01.a. Explore various career interests/ options.
- NL-ENG.K-12.4 – Communication Skills
- NL-ENG.K-12.12 – Applying Language Skills
- NS.5-8.6 – Science in Personal and Social Perspectives
- NS.5-8.7 – History and Nature of Science

Student Learning Objectives

- As a result of this **unit** the students will...
- Analyze common agriculture perceptions.
- As a result of this **lesson** students will...
- Identify three characteristics of a modern agriculturalist.

Content Outline

- I. **Definition of Agriculturalist**
 - A. **Agriculturalist** – A person who raises living organisms for food or raw materials.

Interest Approach

Show the five pictures of agriculturalists found on **MS.IAS.5.2.TM.A-E**. Have students vote on whether or not they think that person is involved in agriculture based on the picture.

Good morning! I have a small problem for us to take a look at today. You see, I can't really figure out if the people in these pictures deal with agriculture. Maybe you all can help me out.

Time

Instruction time for this lesson: 45 minutes.

Resources

- Farm Bureau. (2009). How many farms and farmers? Food and farm facts, 8.
- National FFA Organization. (2003). LifeKnowledge Precepts and Signs of Success.

Tools, Equipment and Supplies

- MS.IAS.5.2.TM.A— one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.TM.B – one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.TM.C – one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.TM.D – one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.TM.E – one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.AS.A – one per teacher
- MS.IAS.5.2.ASSESS.A – one per teacher
- Candy (one bag of tootsie rolls)
- Markers
- Post-it notes

Key Terms

The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in **bold italics**:
Agriculturalist

When you see the picture, tell us all what you think by giving thumbs up if that person is involved in agriculture or thumbs down if they are not involved in agriculture.

Show the pictures, one by one, as students vote with their thumbs.

All of the pictures display people involved with agriculture. Explain to them how we will learn some characteristics of agriculturalists today.

So at first glance, we all have a little different opinion on some of these people. What if you were told that each and every last one of these people is involved in agriculture? Agriculture has changed a lot from just the traditional farmer you saw in the first picture. Today we will talk about the characteristics of a modern ***agriculturalist***.



Characteristics of Agriculturalists

Summary of Content and Teaching Strategies

Objective 1. Identify three characteristics of a modern **agriculturalist**.

Students will conduct a Me-You-Us e-Moment®. Ask them to write their definition for agriculturalist on a post-it note. Have them share it with their neighbor. With their neighbor they will make a new definition. Have them share the new definition with the class.

Since we are talking about characteristics of an **agriculturalist**, it would be very helpful for us to define **agriculturalist**. Hold up your post-it note you just received! On this post-it, write out the best definition for **agriculturalist** that you can imagine.

Pause for 30 seconds.

Now it is time to share that definition with a neighbor nearby. Read each definition to each other, then form a new definition. Write down the new definition on the flip side of one of your post-it notes.

Pause for another 30 seconds.

Let's share our new definitions with everyone else. Who will read their definition for us?

Let a few student groups share and then reveal the definition for the word **agriculturalist**

Great job at forming those definitions! Let's put all those ideas together and simplify it. When we do that we get this definition:

I. Definition of Agriculturalist

A. **Agriculturalist** – A person who raises living organisms for food or raw materials.

Set students up for a game. The first part of the game is for them to take a survey on agriculturalists. Pass out MS.IAS.5.2.AS.A.

Now that we all know what an **agriculturalist** is, let's learn some characteristics of them. In order to do this we will take a small survey about **agriculturalists**. Let's see how many we can get right.

After students complete the survey, let them compare their answers with those of people sitting nearby. Allow them to make any changes they want. Instruct students to make a final choice to get ready for the "4-Corners" game.

Now that we completed our surveys let's take a little time and compare our answers with our neighbors. We have one minute to compare with the people sitting at our tables. Our goal is to have our final answers selected!

The second part of the game allows students to travel to the corner of the room in which they believe is the correct answer. Designate each corner either A, B, C, or D. If they pick the correct corner they receive a tootsie roll or other small candy. It may be helpful to have letter signs in each corner.

Now we are ready to play 4-Corners! In this room each corner is labeled with a letter. It can be A, B, C, or D. I will read the question from the survey we just took. After I read the question, travel to the corner of the letter you circled on the survey. If you are correct, you receive a prize! We will do this for each of the questions on your survey. So that means you could win five prizes if you get all of your questions right!

Ask these questions. The correct answers are underlined:

1. There are approximately _____ **agriculturalists in the United States today.**
 - a. 3.3 million
 - b. 5 million
 - c. 1.5 million
 - d. 2 million
2. The average age of an **agriculturalist** is _____.
 - a. 25
 - b. 75
 - c. 57
 - d. 52



Lesson Number: MS.IAS.5.2

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3. There are _____ women agriculturalists.
 - a. 150,470
 - b. 306,209
 - c. 3,000
 - d. 152
4. There was a _____ percent increase in agriculturalists from a Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino heritage in the last five years.
 - a. 5
 - b. 25
 - c. 30
 - d. 10
5. There are _____ agriculturalists that are African Americans.
 - a. 31,000
 - b. 15,000
 - c. 50,000
 - d. 100,000

Direct students back to their seats at the end of the game. Have them make any corrections to their surveys. You may have to go through the questions one last time to make sure they get the correct answers. Lead them into the review.

It is important to know that **agriculturalists** are not what we originally thought. There are many minorities, such as women and African Americans, who are involved in agriculture today.

Bring the discussion about the differences in agriculturalists to differences in people in general. Lead them in a discussion about how our differences can be a good thing.

Agriculturalists can be very different from each other. In fact, we are all different from each other. How do you think we can use our differences as an advantage? Talk to your table about this. If we are having trouble thinking of an answer, let's think about how the world would be if everyone were the same.

Give the students time to think and talk among their table groups. Then provide the opportunity to share with the whole group.

Now let's hear what you were discussing at your tables. Who will share first?

Review/Summary

Have students create a picture that represent someone in agriculture.

Utilize the Picasso e-Moment.

At the beginning of the hour we looked at several photos of **agriculturalists**. Now it is our turn to create a picture of an **agriculturalist**. On the back of your survey sheet, draw a picture of an **agriculturalist**. Take a look at the front of your survey to help remind you how diverse an **agriculturalist** can be.

Application

Extended classroom activity:

Search www.agcensus.gov for facts about agriculturalist diversity in your state or county.

FFA activity:

Set up a panel of **agriculturalists** to form a Q&A session at your next meeting.

SAE activity:

Visit and interview a female production **agriculturalist**.

Evaluation

Give evaluation MS.IAS.5.2.ASSESS.A

Answers to Evaluation

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False



Characteristics of an Agriculturalist

Directions: For each statement write true or false on the blank beside the statement.

Name _____

- _____ 1. An agriculturalist is a person who raises living organisms for food or raw materials.
- _____ 2. All agriculturalists are male.
- _____ 3. African Americans and people of Hispanic origin are agriculturalists.
- _____ 4. The average agriculturalist is 20 years old.



MS.IAS.5.2.TM.A







MS.IAS.5.2.TM.C





MS.IAS.5.2.TM.D







Agriculturalist Survey

Name _____

1. There are approximately _____ agriculturalists in the United States today.
 - a. 3.3 million
 - b. 5 million
 - c. 1.5 million
 - d. 2 million
2. The average age of an agriculturalist is _____.
 - a. 25
 - b. 75
 - c. 57
 - d. 52
3. There are _____ women agriculturalists.
 - a. 150,470
 - b. 306,209
 - c. 3,000
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4. There was a _____ percent increase in agriculturalists from a Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino heritage in the last five years.
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