



NEW HORIZONS

Spring/Summer 2022 TEACHING GUIDE



ARTICLE SUMMARY

SWAPPING SURPRISES

A fun project that connected chapters across the country had an even bigger impact than anyone could have predicted.

Bell Ringer

What is the best way to learn about other states across the U.S.?

Discussion Questions

1. What is an exchange box?
2. What benefits could come from doing a box exchange with another school?
3. What might others find interesting to learn about your state and school?

Activity

Part 1: Read the article "Swapping Surprises" in the spring 2022 issue of FFA New Horizons. Have students complete the activities as they read.

Part 2: Exchange boxes can be a great way to learn more about other states, students and industries. Have students plan an exchange box that will represent where they live. For the box, students will select three items to describe the agriculture in their area/state (Ex. Indiana is second in popcorn production), three items that represent their state (Ex. An Indy car to represent the Indianapolis 500) and three items that represent the student (Ex. Picture of his or her pet). Students will also create a tag for each item to include why the student selected the item and the significance.

Part 3: Students will use the space provided to develop a fun note to include with their box. Students will need to include (1) opening instructions, (2) background information about themselves and their group and (3) a kind greeting. Students should take the opportunity to get creative and decorate the note as well.

FFA Tip

Complete a box exchange with another school.

SAE Tip

Suggest ways FFA members can make connections in their local community and beyond through SAEs. Competitors for SAE-based awards have great opportunities to network with other FFA members and adult judges and sponsors.

VOCABULARY

Anticipation
Exchange
Understatement

EXIT TICKET

What could you learn from doing a box exchange with another school?

CAREER FOCUS AREA

Any

APPENDIX

Appendix 4: Swapping Surprises

STANDARDS ALIGNMENT

FFA PRECEPTS: FFA.PL-A, FFA.PL-F, FFA.CS-N, COMMON CORE – READING: INFORMATIONAL TEXT: CCSS.ELA.RI.9-10.2, COMMON CORE – WRITING: CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.4, CCSS.ELA.W.9-10.5, AFNR CAREER READY PRACTICES: CRP.02, CRP.04, CRP.06, P21 SKILLS: CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING, FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY, INITIATIVE AND SELF-DIRECTION, LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY, THINK CREATIVELY

SWAPPING Surprises

A fun project that connected chapters across the country had an even bigger impact than anyone could have predicted. – By Jessica Walker Boehm



Chapters from across the country exchanged goodie boxes filled with snacks and surprises.

To celebrate National FFA Week in 2021, Paris FFA Advisor Josh Bondy of Missouri got creative — and to call it successful would be a massive understatement.

Bondy, a Teacher Ambassador for National FFA, organized a goody box exchange with his fellow teacher ambassadors and their chapters. A total of 20 chapters across the country participated, and each was assigned another chapter to exchange with after completing an intake form.

“I matched chapters based on their preferences — whether they wanted to exchange boxes with a similar

chapter or one that was totally different, for example — and I provided a list of things for them to include, like a favorite local snack, chapter

T-shirts, and letters written to and from chapter officers,” says Bondy, an agriculture instructor at Paris R-II High School in Paris, Mo.

Upon receiving their boxes, FFA members were instructed to open only one piece of the box per day throughout National FFA Week, giving them something to look forward to.

That was certainly the case for Millie Chism’s students, who received a box from Bondy’s chapter. Chism, a Pine Grove FFA advisor from Pine Grove School in Ripley, Miss., says anticipation was high during the week as her members were excited to see what awaited them in their box.

“This exchange gave us a great opportunity to connect with another chapter, and it made National FFA Week even more special for us,” Chism says. “Many of my students made social media connections with [Paris FFA members], so the connection definitely didn’t stop after the week was over. That’s really cool to see.”

The Pine Grove FFA and Paris FFA connection doesn’t end there. Chism’s students added crayons to the box they sent, along with a letter explaining their significance and what to do with them — a seemingly small gesture that had a big impact.

“Crayons weren’t on the list of things to include, but I’m so glad they did,” Bondy says. “The letter explained that the students were supposed to break the crayons in half and put one piece in their FFA jacket pocket and give the other piece to another member to serve as a reminder that even if they’re broken, they’re still useful.”

A couple of months later, that broken crayon came in handy for one of Bondy’s members, Chris Ebbesmeyer, who was interviewing for a position as a Missouri FFA officer. During his interview, he pulled out the broken crayon and shared its meaning. Today, he is the vice president of the Missouri FFA.

“This is a perfect example of the power in building bonds with other FFA chapters and members, and it was the cherry on top of an awesome experience,” Bondy says.

Ready to plan your own National FFA Week celebration? Visit FFA.org/National-FFA-Week for resources.

Thank you, Tractor Supply Company, for sponsoring National FFA Week!



Learn more about the National Teacher Ambassadors for FFA program.



Paris FFA members in Missouri show off apparel from Pine Grove FFA in Mississippi.

Name: _____

Appendix 4: Swapping Surprises

Part 1

Directions:

Read the article “Swapping Surprises” in the spring 2022 issue of *FFA New Horizons* and complete the following activities as you read.



What state organized the box exchange during National FFA Week in 2021? Color and label the state below.



How many states participated? _____

Chapters were matched based upon their

p_____.

If you were to do an exchange box, would you want it to be with a group that is similar to what you are used to or different? Why?

Explain the broken crayons that were sent.



How could the “broken crayon” concept help you?

What role could an exchange box have on a student organization? This can be any group, club, team, etc.



Name: _____

Part 2

Directions:

Exchange boxes can be a great way to learn more about other states, students and industries. Today, you are going to put together an exchange box that will represent where you live. For your box, you will select three items to describe the agriculture in your area/state (Ex. Indiana is second in popcorn production), three items that represent your state (Ex. An Indy Car to represent the Indianapolis 500) and three items that represent you (Ex. Picture of your pet).

Agriculture	State	You
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____

  

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Create a tag to hang on each item to explain why you included the item and the significance.	Create a tag to hang on each item to explain why you included the item and the significance.	Create a tag to hang on each item to explain why you included the item and the significance.
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