

Current Events: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 1: The World of Agricultural News

Estimated Lesson Length:	50-90 minutes
Recommended Grades:	7-9th Grade
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS 41
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Identify international agricultural current events ✓ Summarize an international agricultural current event	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
Course text Computers with Internet access One sheet of copy paper 8.5x11 for each student Markers, crayons, colored pencils	

Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest Approach: Refreshing prior learning.	Prior to class, you will need to write the search process outlined in step two on the writing surface in the room for the students to follow. This will need to be left up for the entire week. <i>Students will need paper and pen/pencil for this step. After completing attendance and announcements, ask the students to quickly and quietly write a one sentence description of what they were recently studying in class.</i> Ask for a few volunteers to share their sentences. Thank them for the news update and explain that today they are going to look outside of their classroom to see if agriculture ever makes the news! The focus for today will be International Agricultural Current Events.	5-10 Minutes
2. Research global agriculture stories	Explain that they will use the Internet to find out if agriculture ever makes the global news! Their task is to follow the process on the writing surface to find a global/international agricultural current event. When they are done they will have a one paragraph synopsis and one page drawing that representation of the situation. Ask if there are any questions. If none, proceed to the computer lab. Once they have logged on to the computers, instruct them to follow the steps you put on the writing surface: 1. Go to the following websites: www.cnn.com or www.msn.com 2. Under main menu, find the search function 3. Enter agriculture in the search box 4. Select news for the area of the search 5. Click "Search" 6. Review results and select a global agriculture current event 7. Review information and write a one paragraph synopsis of the situation.	20-25 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
3. Create the collage	When the students have completed the research process and written their synopsis, ask them to use a blank sheet of copy paper and the markers, crayons, colored pencils, etc. to create an image that in their mind represents the current event they selected. As they complete their drawings, ask them to post them as a collage on one wall of the room. As time allows, ask students to share the meaning of their drawing and the issue behind it.	10-15 minutes
4. Summary, review and projects to collect	If you are not continuing on with Current Events 7-9 Lesson 2, collect the synopsis and drawing from each student. If you are continuing with Lesson 2, thank the students for their work today and ask them to bring a newspaper or agricultural publication with them for tomorrow's lesson.	5-10 minutes