



NOTES

Food for America - Demonstration Plan

Unit: History and Social Development

Demonstration: Progressive Potato Relay (20-30 minutes)

Objective(s):

1. Students will be able to explain that agriculture has changed throughout history by becoming more time and labor efficient.
2. Students will be able to explain that agriculture is the foundation of every great civilization.

Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References, and Other Resources:

- 4 bags of potatoes
- Paper lunch bags
- 8 buckets
- Stopwatch

***NOTES – The main concept of this game is for students to have an experience where they have a goal to accomplish, and the goal becomes more easily accomplished as new tools are introduced. When new tools are introduced, fewer people are required to accomplish the same goal. Years ago, all people had to grow and collect their own food. As technology increased, producing food and fiber was more easily accomplished, with fewer people required to work in production agriculture. We now have access to a safe, inexpensive, and abundant food supply, thanks to technology and improvements in agriculture.

Introduction:

Connection to Students – Take a moment and think about what we need most to survive. What is most important to you? Let's capture these down on the board. Yell them out to me! (Write all answers on the board.) What a list! And do you know what? We can group a lot of these into some main areas like food, water and shelter. What do all of these have in common? They are all part of agriculture! Agriculture has been the foundation for every civilization throughout history. Jump up! (Motion for students to stand.) Agriculture is the foundation for every civilization. Agriculture is the ____ (Point to students to yell "foundation." Repeat several times with enthusiasm.) Whew! Have a seat.

Motivation – I hope you can keep that energy going, because we're heading outside for some competition today!

Overview – Agriculture has changed a lot throughout history, which is why we can go to the store now and get just about any food we want! Today we are going to *experience* how agriculture has changed through history.

Steps and Procedures for Performing the Skill/Task:

STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)
Set up	It is best to use a field or large open area. • Place 4 buckets on one side of the field, each full of potatoes • Place 4 empty buckets on the other side • Break students into 4 teams, lined up behind the full buckets



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Steps and Procedures for Performing the Skill/Task:

STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)
Round 1	- One person at a time may take 1 potato and run to the other side to drop it in the bucket - When one person returns they tag the next in line to take a potato - Teams race to see who can move all potatoes first
Round 2	- Students each receive a paper lunch bag - They can put as many potatoes as they can fit in the lunch bag to carry them to the other side.
Round 3	- Students can use the bucket. 1 (or more if the bucket is too heavy for the younger kids) can carry the bucket to the other side to dump it into the finish bucket

Plans for Learners/Participants to Practice the Skill/Task:

- Hold the 3 rounds in order
- Time rounds with a stop watch to show how teams were able to accomplish the job more quickly
- Circle students up outside and hold discussion
 - How did the first round go?
 - What happened in the 2nd round?
 - How was the 3rd round different from the 1st and 2nd?
 - Which round was the fastest?
 - Why was it the fastest?
 - Just like your team got faster each time you had a new tool to use, agriculture has improved and become more time and labor efficient as new tools have been developed. Long ago, every person had to grow or find their own food, like when you each had to carry your own potato. But today, because of how agriculture has changed over time, one person can grow enough food to feed many.

****Adaptations for Upper Elementary**

- Can include more rounds with additional "tools."
- Include facts and information about specific advancements over time. (See the teacher's lesson plan on History and Social Development for background information.)

Summary of Key Points:

- Facilitate conclusion while group is circled up

Conclusion – Think back to when we first started today. We stood up and yelled that something is the foundation for every civilization. What is the foundation for every civilization? (Agriculture) That's right! The history of agriculture is exciting, and people like you have made changes that allow us to enjoy great food, have clothes to wear, and homes to live in every day. Maybe you'll make the next advancements for agriculture which will impact people in the future!