

January 2015 Book of the Month

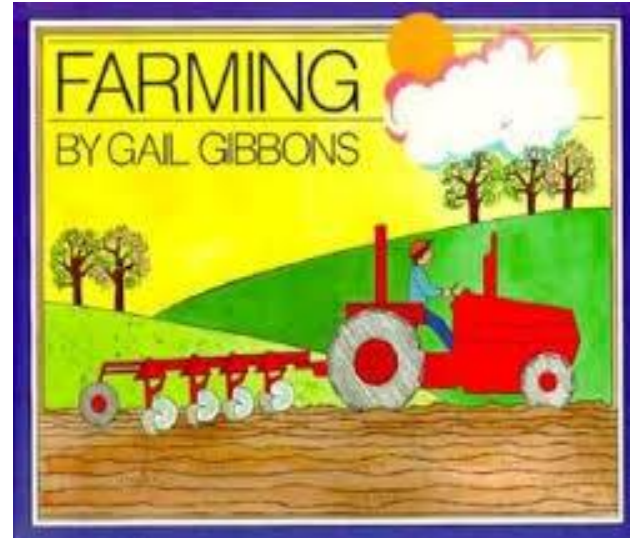
Farming

Written by: Gail Gibbons

This is a picture book that describes real-life activities and familiar functions. Life on the farm is a manner of existence most people take for granted. Gibbons depicts aspects of that life with her characteristic bright colors and stylized forms in a conceptual space that is intended to portray not one particular farm but a universal one.

Every season brings its own specific chores, Indoors and out, its own crops and its own food. There are the forces of nature, and the ways the farmer harnesses or copes with the elements using mechanical devices. This book provides basic

information on farms and has colorful illustrations. The book shows what farms look like during the four seasons and describes the necessary chores for each season. It also discusses different types of farms and different farm animals.



Vocabulary

Farms– A place where vegetables, fruits and grains are grown and farm animals are raised.

Chores– jobs that need to be done on a farm.

Dairy Farms – raise dairy cows for their milk. The milk is sold to dairies where it is processed and packaged.

Egg and Poultry Farms – Egg farms raise chickens to lay eggs. Poultry farms raise chickens for their meat.

Grain Farms – grow grain for making bread, cereals and other foods. Some grains are grown for animals as their livestock feed, too.

Fruit Farms- grow apples, peaches, oranges, and other fruits for people to eat.

January 2015 Book of the Month

Farming

Written by: Gail Gibbons

NC Farming Quick Facts

Crops North Carolina ranks number one nationally in the production of flue-cured tobacco and sweetpotatoes; second in the production of Christmas trees; third in the production of cucumber and strawberries; and, fourth in the production of cucumbers and upland cotton. The greenhouse and nursery industry is the number one crop producer in North Carolina, followed by tobacco, soybeans, corn, cotton, sweet potatoes, wheat, peanuts, blueberries, potatoes, tomatoes, cucumbers, and a wide variety of other crops.

Livestock Broilers, hogs and pigs, turkeys, and cattle and calves are the main animals raised by North Carolina farmers. North Carolina's number one commodity (plant or animal) is broilers – chickens raised for their meat. North Carolina ranks second in the nation in the production of hogs and pigs, trout and turkeys; and, fifth, in the production of broilers.

Farming Activities

Types of Farms- After reading and discussing types of farms in the book, have students break into groups. Each group chooses one of the different types of farms from the book and creates a poster, flyer, PowerPoint or other type of media explaining the farm. When complete, have each group share information about their farm.

Farming in Your County- Have students research the different types of farms in their county and surrounding counties. Have students find out why that county is good for that kind of farm, what it produces and how the farm runs on a daily basis. Also have students research why different types of farms are not represented in their county. (Ex. Climate, region, etc.)

Then and Now – How have things changed over time? What are similarities and differences in farming now as compared to farming in the past. Students can create a timeline of changes in farming history over the years.

If I Ran a Farm – Take a class poll: If you had to work on one of the farms listed in the book, what type of farm would you like to work? Create a bar graph representing the data collected. Have students write why they chose that specific farm.

January 2015 Book of the Month

Farming

Written by: Gail Gibbons

Seasons on a Farm – Discuss the different seasons and changes that happen on a farm in each season of the year. Research what type of seasons is easiest and most difficult for farmers. Ex. Poultry farms vs. Vegetables Farms.

Chores: We All Have a Job to Do! Have students work in groups to create a list of chores that are done on each type of farm. Hold an “in class debate” on why your farm chores are harder than the other farm chores. Integrate this into your social studies class for class debates.

For detailed lesson plans and complete activity sheets visit *Ag in the Classroom* here:

Language Arts: http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/Portals/1/pdf/curricula/g1_lesson15.pdf

Science: http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/Portals/1/pdf/curricula/g1_lesson16.pdf

Social Studies: http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/Portals/1/pdf/curricula/g1_lesson18.pdf

Math: http://www.ncagintheclassroom.com/Portals/1/pdf/curricula/g1_lesson17.pdf

Sources: http://www.agclassroom.org/kids/ag_facts.htm