

Science Story Adventures



Corn

Learning outcomes

- » Describe the ways in which local producers have used and are using natural resources, to produce goods in the past and the present. (Grade 3)
- » Understand how people lived in earlier times and how their lives would be different today. (Kindergarten)
- » Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1)

From: California's Social Studies & History and Science Content Standards

Books we read

The Popcorn Book by Tomie de Paola
Raccoons and Ripe Corn by Jim Arnosky

Activities we did

- » We examined specimens of the different varieties of corn: sweet corn, flint or Indian corn and popcorn.
- » We looked at the different parts of the corn plant.
- » We talked about the different things we eat made from corn.

Today's craft: Indian Corn Decoration

You will need:

- » Corn cob template
- » Yellow and green construction paper
- » Pencil
- » Scissors
- » Red, yellow and orange tissue paper
- » Glue
- » Craft stick
- » Tape



Directions:

1. Cut out the template pieces.
2. Trace the corn cob from the template on yellow construction paper and cut it out.
2. Trace the corn husks from the template on green paper and cut them out.
3. Glue the corn husks to either side of the corn cob.
4. Glue or tape the craft stick to the back of the corn cob.
5. Crumple the small pieces of tissue paper and glue them on the corn cob, completely covering it.

Adapted from <http://www.thebestkidsbooksite.com/craftdetails>.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

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Books

Corn Belt Harvest by Raymond Bial. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SB191.M2 B49 1991

Color photos help show how corn is grown and harvested in the Midwest.

Corn is Maize: The Gift of the Indians by Aliko. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SB191.M2 A584 1976

Describes how corn is farmed today, and how it was cultivated by early Native Americans.

People of Corn: A Mayan Story by Mary-Joan Gerson.

With vibrant illustrations this book explores how corn has been, and still is, intertwined with the lives of the Mayan people.

Why Corn is Golden: Stories about Plants by Susana Martínez-Ostos and Vivien Blackmore. Nat. Ctr. Juv. PZ8.1.B582 Wh 1984

Mexican folktales about plants and food.

DVDs

King Corn. Nat. Ctr. Media SB191.M2 K56 2008

Older children may enjoy this documentary about two college friends who buy a cornfield and explore the politics of corn.

Websites

Corn Cam

Want to watch the corn grow? (It may take a few months.)

http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/corn_cam/

The Great Corn Adventure

An interactive cartoon, describing where corn comes from and how it grows.

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/corn/index.html>

History of Corn for Kids

Hyperlinked encyclopedia-style entry about the history of corn.

<http://www.historyforkids.org/learn/food/corn.htm>

Native American Three Sisters Garden

A webquest about the traditional Native American garden of corn, beans, and squash.

http://ddl.nmsu.edu/kids/webquests/wqthreesisters_k.html

Popcorn for Kids

Games, coloring, books, and worksheets about popcorn. Don't forget to celebrate National Popcorn Day on January 19th!

<http://www.popcorn.org/ForKids/tabid/54/Default.aspx>

