



Farm Animal Book

For older Elementary Grades

Mathematics and Language Arts

Purpose

To help students be able to identify characteristics of and distinguish differences in farm animals and to understand farm animals' usefulness to our everyday lives.

Time: 60-minute s

Level: Elementary

Materials

- Farm Animal Book (see attached)
- Book related to farm animals
 - *The Sunset of the Farmer* by Ethel Ohlin Bradford
 - *Beatrice's Goat* by Lori Lohstoeter
 - *Living on Farms* by Allan Fowler
 - *Once Upon a Farm* by Bob Artley
 - *Milk: From Cow to Carton* by Aliki
- Materials to decorate the farm book (colored pencils, crayons, straw, wool, etc.)
- For more information on farm animals, see <http://www.animalcorner.co.uk/farm/farm.html>

Standards

- Mathematics Common Core Standard 4: Model with mathematics. This lesson involves solving real-world problems using multiplication.
- **Language Arts** Common Core Writing Standard 2 and Reading Informational Text Standard 1 (across the grade levels, e.g. W.3.2-W.5.2)

Essential Questions

- What are some things we use in our everyday lives that come from farm animals?
- What is the cost of a farm animal? The profit of a farm animal?

Background

Farm animals, such as those found at Wheeler Farm, are an important part of our everyday lives. In the days when the Wheelers lived on the farm, there were no grocery stores. The Wheeler children would milk cows in the morning and evening to have milk to drink. Like the Wheelers, the milk we drink comes from cows, even though we get our milk from the grocery store. This lesson helps students understand where food products come from and improves their understanding of the characteristics of living things.

Activity Procedures

1. Start the lesson by reading a book to the class. The books relate more to the economics of a farm and how farm animals are useful. Tell students that their job is to identify characteristics of the farm animals and how they are used as you read the book aloud to them.
2. Make a list of the characteristics of farm animals with the students. Talk about the economics of having a farm animal: what does it cost to have a farm animal? What work is involved with the farm animal? What products do you get from the animal?
3. Pass out farm animal books to students. A blank book is attached. Depending on the interest/ability level of the students, you could include the following information in the booklets for the students to complete:

For example, the cow page could include questions for students to look up online:

- What does it cost to feed a cow for one year?
- How much milk does a cow produce per day? How much money does one gallon of milk cost?

You could have students draw an animal and label the parts that humans use. Additionally, you could ask summative questions for these older students such as:

- What do you think is the most useful animal to a farmer and why?

Assessment

Students are assessed on the information they include in their farm books. This includes their ability to carry out calculations and demonstrate their understanding of the characteristics of these animals and their usefulness in our everyday lives.