

Take Your Class to an Agri-Food Adventure

Ideas For Teachers

Pre-Agri Event Ideas:

1. Motivate your students by telling them that you have a surprise for them. Tell them that you are thinking about planning a trip and that you will give them hints. See if they can guess. Once you tell them about the trip, collectively chart what the kids know about farming and animals. Now you have something to refer to as a reflective practice. Refer to this chart throughout the unit so that the kids will clearly see how much more they know each day. Keep that chart posted throughout the unit. Refer to it often. Tell them that they will be learning about farming and actually be touching, smelling and seeing animals, food, machinery and tools related to farming on their field trip. Let them know that the unit will be divided into themes. (e.g. **Junior : Animal Basics, Environmental Stewardship, Animal Care and Farm Life, Habitats and Communities**)
2. Post the expectations for the unit of study and discuss what it is you expect your students to learn. Examine the rubric with them. You will find many examples of assessment in Ontario Agri-Food Education resources.
3. Put the children on teams of 4 or 5. Decide on their roles and what it is they will be researching. Each team could be given a different aspect of agriculture to examine to report back to the group (using the themes mentioned above or the ones you design). Be sure to encourage students to write down questions they could ask the farmers at the event.
4. Allow some time for the children to examine books and resources from Ontario Pork. Ontario Agri-Food Education resources can be ordered from the flyer enclosed in the teacher package or by visiting www.oafe.org. Movies can be

ordered as well. There are links at this website to many agriculture related organizations.

5. If there is a teacher workshop planned before the event, be sure to attend. You will get valuable ideas and resources to assist you in planning.
6. Be sure to take a camera or a video camera for the outing. Get your film developed right away or ask for copies on a disk so students can see the pictures right away. Pictures are also great additions to student projects.
7. Enjoy your outing knowing that you have provided the best learning experience possible for your students. Real life hands-on experiences maximize learning. Well done!

Post Agri-Event Ideas:

1. Talk about the experience first thing the next day. Reflecting immediately makes for a more lasting experience so take the time to enjoy it even if you have to re-arrange a schedule.
2. Mark down the highlights from the outing. Compare this list to the original chart that was posted at the beginning of the unit. The children should be able to realize how much they have learned. Congratulate them on a job well done. Pat yourself on the back too!
3. Spend some time looking at the pictures or video. You will get spontaneous feedback. Discuss the idea of sensory experiences and how they help us to retain better. Take this into consideration for your next unit of study. Maybe you could put it to music or have different children write a running commentary.
4. What questions did the farmers themselves answer? What do the children still need to do to complete their work in teams? Discuss. Has their image of a farmer changed? How so?
5. Give out any handouts and expand on the information so that the students can incorporate it into their project work.
6. Have a showcase of your presentations. Invite another class to your Agri-Fair. Each team could present to groups of kids from the other class. Stage it similar

to the agriculture event you attended. Small groups of children could rotate from one presentation to the next. Everyone learns best by doing.

7. Culminate the presentations with a popcorn or pizza party (featuring great farm fresh products!). Invite the other class to stay and see your video or pictures.
8. Mark the presentations based on the rubric assessment established at the beginning of the unit of study. Keep the expectations, rubrics and assessment charts you designed for next years event!