



Introduction to Agricultural Science

Grown in the USA

Name _____ Period _____ Date _____

Purpose

American agriculture provides you with much of the food, fiber, and fuel you use everyday. Petroleum-based fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, may come to mind, but you should also consider fuels produced from wood, corn, soybeans, and other agricultural sources.

Agricultural products are often referred to as commodities. The word, commodity, typically refers to a raw product that is derived or grown from a resource. From where do these products come? Why are commodities focused in specific regions? You will answer these questions and more as you complete this activity.

In this activity, you will work with a partner to research products grown in the United States of America.

Part One – Commodities

1. Your teacher will assign you and your partner a region to research.
2. Use the computer to access the USDA State Fact Sheets found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/StateFacts/>
3. Find and record in Table 1 the top five commodities for each of the states you are assigned.

State					
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					

4. Record your results on the dry erase United States wall map.
5. What are the top five commodities nationally? Use the same website as above (click on Enter the App).

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6. Use the same page to answer the following questions.

- What were the total farm receipts?

Part Three – Impacts

Use <http://www.beagsmart.org/food-costs> book to answer the following questions.

- What percentage of their income do people in the United States spend on food?
- How does that compare to other countries?
- How many days does it take the average American to earn enough money to purchase food for a year?
- Of each dollar a consumer spends on food, how much does the farmer receive?

Conclusion

1. What region of the United States is corn production prevalent (using the map)?
2. What region of the United States is beef and hog production prevalent?
3. Why do you suppose this is so?
4. Compared to the world, is food expensive or inexpensive? Explain your reasoning.