



Core-iculum Connections

FREE lessons, materials & resources for K-12 teachers!

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Make Your Own Gumdrops!

10-minute Holiday Activity

Candy grows on the farm! Check out this quick and easy “Make Your Own Gumdrops” lesson that connects candy to agriculture – perfect for tying the holiday season into learning. Students can make their own candy and discover where sugar comes from.

Save the Dates:

Jan. 2, 2017 – First day for Spring AITC programs, contact Bridget to schedule

March 15, 2017 – Application Deadline: Ag Science Grants
www.mcfb.org/grants

Week of June 6th – Summer Ag Institute

Goody, Goody Gumdrops!

Looking for a sweet way to add some fun to your end of the year lessons? A quick and easy “Make Your Own Gumdrops” activity is just the ticket and only takes about 10 minutes!

Plus students can learn about the source of sugar, which most commonly comes from 2 crops: sugar beets or sugar cane.

Find “Make Your Own Gumdrops” on page 17 of Illinois Ag in the Classroom’s Candy, Culture & Creativity booklet available at: <http://bit.ly/2hpUGTO>

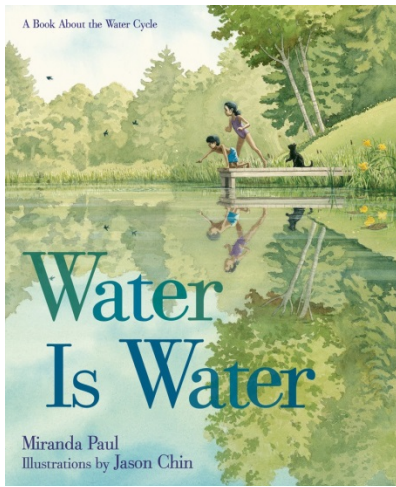
Plus check out these two videos to add more to your lesson, available on YouTube:

- *Special Episode: Sugar Beet Harvest - America’s Heartland:* <http://bit.ly/2gGJkuE>
- *Louisiana Sugarcane Farmer – America’s Heartland:* <http://bit.ly/2hbD3s5>

For gumdrop making supplies, books or other materials to connect holiday lessons to agriculture, contact Bridget Caldwell at aitctablet@gmail.com.



Featured Resources: Water Cycle



Water is Water by Miranda Paul

Age Range: 6 - 10 years
Grade Level: 1st – 5th grades

*“Drip. Sip. Pour me a cup. Water is water unless...it heats up.
Whirl. Swirl. Watch it curl by. Steam is steam unless...it cools high.”*

Explore the water cycle and the states of matter through the changing seasons with this poetic picture book. To check out a copy, contact Bridget Caldwell: aitctablet@gmail.com For a nonfiction resource, take a look at the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Water Ag Mag: <http://bit.ly/2gswjHe>

Hands-on Activity: Water Cycle Bags

Common Core State Standards: Mathematics:
CCSS.Math.Content.3.MD.A.2

Next Generation Science Standards: Earth’s Systems: 2-ESS2-3

Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, Accumulation & Flow – students can see the water cycle in action with this easy water cycle bag activity. Check out the lesson plan on page 12 of Illinois Ag in the Classroom’s Water Resource Guide: <http://bit.ly/2ggYPx4>

Contact Bridget Caldwell: aitctablet@gmail.com for supplies & materials to make Water Cycle Bags in your classroom!



Hands-on Activity: Water Cycle Bracelets

Common Core State Standards: Language Arts: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.3.3; RI.3.7; SL.3.1; W.3.2

Next Generation Science Standards: Earth’s Systems: 2-ESS2-3

10 beads represent the paths water takes through various states – solid, liquid and vapor, as it moves throughout Earth’s systems – oceans, atmosphere, ground water, rain, streams, etc. See the lesson plan on page 9 of Illinois Ag in the Classroom’s Water Resource Guide:

<http://bit.ly/2ggYPx4> Contact Bridget Caldwell: aitctablet@gmail.com for supplies & materials to make Water Cycle Bracelets in your classroom!

Teacher Feature: Grant Winners

Seven McLean County teachers received up to \$250 each to purchase books for their classrooms as Illinois Ag in the Classroom book grant winners.

Congratulations to the winning teachers:

- **Maureen Svob**, Special Ed. – Irving Elementary
- **Ann Schramm**, 5th grade – LeRoy Elementary
- **Meredith Beard**, 1st grade – Lexington Elementary
- **Lucinda Kraft**, Kindergarten – Lexington Elementary
- **Amanda Juarez**, 4th grade – Sheridan Elementary
- **Adria Carter**, 4th grade – Towanda Elementary

- **Ashley DeFreese**, 3rd Grade – Towanda Elementary
 “Each year our teacher grant program is very competitive, and our judging panel is amazed at the unique programs teachers use to infuse agriculture into their curriculum,” said Kevin Daugherty, Education Director, IATC.

Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom brings accurate and authentic agricultural information to the student in grades PreK-12 across Illinois. Funding for book grants and AITC programs comes from the IAA Foundation.

Watch for our next newsletter for more grant opportunities!

Is agriculture all corporate farms?



Nope! In fact,

97%

of Illinois farms are family farms!

[independently owned & operated by individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption]

Fertilizer: A Friend in the Field, Foe in Our Water



Key term: Cover Crop

A crop grown for the protection and enrichment of the soil. Cover crops keep the soil covered during the winter months and can help reduce soil erosion, break up soil compaction, improve soil quality and hold nutrients in the soil.

Heavy rains, soil erosion and other factors can sometimes wash fertilizer out of field or off of lawns and golf courses into streams, rivers and lakes.

Essential plant nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus can cause water quality problems if they reach a high enough level.

Precision technologies, conservation practices and tools like cover crops are giving farmers new strategies to protect water quality.

Illinois’ Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy finalized in July 2015 calls on farmers and others to increase efforts to keep fertilizer in the field and out of the water.

One nnt method farmers are trying is cover crops.

A cover crop is planted primarily for the protection and enrichment of the soil by keeping the ground covered during the winter months.

The cover crop is planted in late fall into a standing crop (like corn or soybeans) with an airplane or soon after the crop is harvested. To see what Illinois Farmers are doing to protect water quality check out the Conservation Story Map:

<http://conservationstorymap.com>

For lesson plans and materials related to soil, water, erosion or conservation contact Bridget Caldwell: aitctablet@gmail.com





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 great ideas for
 your classroom!



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 mcleanaitc](http://www.pinterest.com/mcleanaitc)

Chick-It-Out: Spring 2017

Get ready to hatch some hands-on learning with the 2017 Chick It Out Program!

Designed primarily for 3rd grade classrooms, but adaptable for all grade levels preschool through high school, participating students explore the science of embryology by caring for a dozen fertilized eggs during the 21-day incubation period.

Each classroom will be provided with an incubator and one dozen fertile eggs. This year's teachers will be given the 4-H Embryology Curriculum which includes the Teachers Guide, Chick Quest 21 Day Poster and a logbook.

All materials are provided at no cost to schools. To sign-up for Chick-It-Out, please contact University of Illinois Extension office at (309) 663-8306.

More than 2,400 students participated in Chick-It-Out last year and 2017 will mark the 27th year of this program.

For additional chicken and poultry activities, books and materials, contact Bridget Caldwell at aitctablet@gmail.com.

The Chick-It-Out program is made possible through the generous support of University of Illinois Extension McLean County, Illinois Ag in the Classroom, McLean County Farm Bureau and McLean County Fair.

From Apples to Water

Ag in the Classroom has Resources for K-12!



Ag in the Classroom materials are aligned with Common Core & Next Generation Science Standards!