



CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Early Childhood and Lower Elementary: What's in a Name?

Connections to Standards:

**Science K.3S.2; 1.1P.1; 1.1L.1;
1.3S.2; 2.3S.1, 3**

**English Language Arts K.L.6; K.SL.1; 1.L.6;
1.SL.1; 2.W.7; 2.L.6; 2.SL.1**

Use the Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners and Vegetable Varieties Investigations resources from Cornell Garden-Based Learning to explore the diversity of beets people grow and eat and how they are named.

Start by doing a 5 senses exploration of a variety of beets--be sure to include red, yellow, and striped so students see the diversity of fresh beets available. Make a chart to record observations and descriptive words about taste, color, size, smell, texture, and sound when cutting or breaking a slice in half. Use the Beet Poster and Family Newsletter to share more information about how and where beets grow in Oregon, as well as preparation ideas.

Explain that there are many different vegetable species we eat, such as tomatoes, turnips, and squash. Within each species, there are many varieties. For example, Chiogga and Detroit Dark Red are varieties of beets, and Sungold and Brandywine are varieties of tomato. While varieties of a particular crop species share many characteristics, each has slightly different features that influence taste, appearance, adaptability to environmental conditions, and more.

Using the Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners website or seed catalogs, share photos of different varieties of beets, along with their descriptions, and their name. Discuss what may go into selecting a name for a vegetable variety. As a class or in small groups, name the beets you have tasted and draft a description that could be used in a seed catalog to tell

people why they may want to grow this variety of beet based on the 5 senses exploration.

Vegetable Varieties Investigations: blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/vvi/
Vegetable Varieties for Gardeners (search for beets to see variety names, descriptions, and reviews, no login needed): vegvariety.cce.cornell.edu/main/login.php

Matching Game and Catalog Writers Lesson Plan
blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/vvi/toolkit/orienting-youth/



Upper Elementary: By the Pound

Connections to Standards:
Math 3.MD.2, 3; 3.G.2; 4.NBT.2; 4.MD.1, 2;
5.MD.1
Social Sciences 3.16; 6.19

Consumers and farmers need ways to measure the food they are buying and selling. Most of what we buy at the market is by the pound, but farmers use bushels, quarts, pints, and other standards of measurement as well. Adapt this activity from Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom to include Oregon grown beets. Students conduct measurement activities using fruits and vegetables and a variety of measurement tools that help them explore standard and nonstandard measurement.

Lesson: By the Pound from Oklahoma Agriculture in the Classroom oklahoma4h.okstate.edu/aitc/lessons/intermed/bypound.pdf

Middle School: Oregon Beet: A Farm to Table Narrative

Connections to Standards:
English Language Arts 6.W.3, 4, 7; 6.L.3, 6;
7.W.3, 4, 7; 7.L.3, 6; 8.W.3, 4, 7; 8.L.6

As a class or in small groups, research beet production in Oregon. Use the Beet Poster and Newsletter to get started. What kinds of beets are grown? What do they look like? How and where do they grow? What do they need to thrive? In what forms are they prepared and eaten? Invite students to write a narrative from the perspective of an Oregon beet. Do they find themselves at a farmers market, pickled, or perhaps in a school cafeteria? Who do they meet along the way?

Resources/literacy connection: Buried Treasure: Roots and Tubers by Meredith Sayles Hughes and Tom Hughes

High School: Beets to Sweets

Connections to Standards:
Social Sciences HS.20, 22, 56
English Language Arts 9-10.SL.1; 11-12.SL.1

In this lesson, students explore the sequence of food production, including the resources necessary at each step and the variety of people who are involved in growing, transporting, processing, marketing, selling, and consuming food. Adapt this Project Food, Land and People lesson to sugar from sugar beets (instead of strawberry jam) using the facts from the accompanying Beet Poster and Family Newsletter. The lesson includes detailed background information on agricultural production and five 30-60 minute activity "sessions" that build on each other, culminating in the creation of a collaborative mural.

Lesson: Step by Step from Project Food, Land & People (www.foodlandpeople.org) www.americasheartland.org/education/teachers/008_step_by_step.pdf Resources/literacy connection: Buried Treasure: Roots and Tubers by Meredith Sayles Hughes and Tom Hughes

