



LET YOUR FINGERS DO THE WALKING

GRADE LEVEL: 4-5

SUBJECT: Language Arts

NATIONAL STANDARD(S):
(3-5) LA: 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7

THEME: Information Sources

FOOD AND FIBER TOPIC: I-C, E; II-E

LEARNER OBJECTIVES:

1. The student will recognize different information sources.
2. The student will use a telephone book as a resource for locating agricultural businesses and people with agriculture-related jobs.

VOCABULARY

agricultural loan officer—A person who works for a credit company or a bank who loans money to farmers and ranchers.

combine—A self-propelled machine for harvesting grain and other seed crops.

dealer—Someone who sells merchandise to customers for the maker of the merchandise.

economy—The management of income and expenditures of a household, business, or a government.

livestock—Domestic farm animals kept for productive purposes, including beef and dairy cattle, sheep and goats, swine and poultry.

market—A gathering of people for buying and selling things, especially livestock and crops.

mill—A factory in which textiles and cloth items are manufactured.

nutritionist—A specialist in nutrition.

operation—A process or series of acts involved in a particular form of work.

veterinarian—A doctor who takes care of animals.

BACKGROUND

Steve and Linda Allen are farmers. They like living in the country, but they know farming would be much harder without a town nearby. There are many people there who help the Allens support their operation. When they need feed for their animals or seed for planting crops, they call the feed and seed dealer. This year they needed to buy a new tractor, so Linda called the farm equipment dealer to get prices. They also plan to purchase a new computer to organize and manage their farm expenses and income records. Steve has called several computer stores to get estimates.

If they have any problems with any of their livestock, they always call their veterinarian. This spring their wheat developed a strange disease, so the Allens called their county Extension agricultural agent for help. During harvest in the fall, Steve drove the combine while Linda drove the truck to town and sold their harvested wheat at the mill. Since they made less money on the wheat than they planned, they also sold some of the cattle at the livestock market so they could make payments on the new equipment.

Their neighbors are also involved in agriculture. Bill and Theresa Raymond are dairy producers. They depend on milk truck drivers to pick up their milk twice a day and take it to the dairy processing plant. Milking equipment technicians check the milking machines every month to make sure everything is working properly. Their dairy nutritionist works with the Raymonds in preparing rations for their cattle to keep feed costs low and milk production high. The local bank loans them money to buy feed and the equipment they need. The agricultural loan officer has more confidence in their operation because they enlist the help of so many experts.

The Allens and Raymonds depend on the people who live and work in town, and the people in town need their business. All the businesses in town have employees who shop and do business with other people around town. All of these businesses add to and keep the economy running smoothly and provide jobs for people.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Discuss the purpose of the phone book, and review alphabetizing.
2. Share the background information with the students.
3. Have students complete the questionnaire, using phone books you provide, or send the questionnaires home as a home project.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

1. Make your own classroom telephone book. Have students type the information and create a cover for the book.
2. Have students design a yellow page ad for an agriculture-related business. Get ideas from a phone book.
3. Have students look through the yellow pages and find other businesses the farmer might need to call. On a piece of paper, list the names and numbers of the different businesses.

RESOURCES

Student Books

- Adams, B. J. (1992). The Go Around Dollar. Macmillan.
- Anderson, J. & Ancona G. (1989). The American Family Farm. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich.
- Baylor, B. (1983). Best Town in the World. Macmillan.
- Imershein, B. (1988). Animal Doctor. Simon and Schuster.
- Locker, T. (1988). Family Farm. Dial.
- O'Neill, C. (1997) I Want to Be a Veterinarian, Harcourt Brace
- Spier, P. (1990). To Market! To Market! Doubleday.

Teacher Resources

- White, W.C. & Collins, D.N. (1995). Opportunities in Agriculture Careers. NTC Publishing.

Related Internet Websites

“Using the World Wide Web for Careers in Agriculture”

http://www.northhome.k12mn.us/mvaia/AinA_Careers_ds.html

EVALUATION

Were the students motivated to use this common household reference? Were they able to find all the information requested in the telephone book?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Name _____

Let Your Fingers Do the Walking



Use a telephone book to find the following information.

1. Find the location and telephone number of the Cooperative Extension Service in your county.

2. What is the telephone number of the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service office in your county? _____

3. On what page would the name "Farmer" appear in the telephone book? Are there any people listed in the telephone book with that last name? How many?

4. What kinds of listings do you find in the white pages of the telephone book?

What kinds of listings do you find in the yellow pages? _____

5. Your tractor needs repair. Find the name and telephone number of a machine shop that could help. _____

6. Find the name and telephone number of a dealer that can sell you a new computer.

7. Your chickens are out of feed. Write down the name, address and telephone number of a feed store. _____

8. On what page would your name be listed in the telephone book? _____

