

# Ag in My Classroom

**Skills:** Language Arts, Social Studies, Math

**Objective:** The student will consider all the things in the classroom that come from agriculture.

## Background

“Ag” is short for agriculture. When you think of what we get from agriculture you probably think of food, but agriculture is much more. Look around your classroom and you will see many things made from products grown on farms.

The wood on your pencil may be made from cedar grown on a tree farm. You may also have a ruler made from wood. Your paper is probably from the pulp of trees like the loblolly pine, which grows on tree farms in southeastern Oklahoma. Cotton is used to make high quality paper for some documents and in money. Feathers and eggshells from the poultry industry and peanut shells are used to make some kinds of paper too. Poultry and eggs were Oklahoma’s second most valuable agricultural commodity in 2006. Cotton ranked number eight. Peanuts ranked number 13.

The covers of hard back books may be made from cotton. Cotton fibers are also used to make cellophane tape.

The ink in your textbooks could be soy ink, made from the oil of soybeans that grow in Oklahoma. Soybeans were Oklahoma’s 10th most valuable agricultural commodity in 2006. Ink may also be made from the oil of cottonseed, corn and sunflower seeds or from the fat of beef and cows—all Oklahoma agricultural commodities. Your crayons may be made from soybean oil or from the fat of a pig or cow grown on an Oklahoma farm. Cattle and calves ranked number one among Oklahoma’s most valuable agricultural commodities in 2006. Hogs and pigs ranked number three.

The chalk your teacher uses may be from the bones of cows or pigs. Paint brushes may be made from the hair of a pig or from the hair in a cow’s tail. Glue and other adhesives are made from other parts of cows and pigs.

The concrete on your playground could be reinforced with wheat, Oklahoma’s third most valuable agricultural commodity in 2006.

Many agricultural products can be used to make plastic. These include corn, soybeans, cotton, peanut shells and chicken feathers. Plastic made from agricultural products is biodegradable, which means it is better for the environment than plastics made from petroleum products.

Oklahoma corn is used mostly as a feed for the livestock raised in our state, but corn has many nonfood uses. Cornstarch serves as an electrical conductor in batteries. Corn is also used in some paper and as an adhesive

## P.A.S.S.

### GRADE 3

**Reading**—3.2,3; 4.1cd,2ac;  
6.1d

**Writing**—1.1; 2.1

**Oral Language**—1.1

**Visual Literacy**—3

### GRADE 4

**Reading**—3.1b,2d,4a; 5.1a

**Writing**—1.1

**Oral Language**—1.1,2,3;  
3.1,2

**Visual Literacy**—3

### GRADE 5

**Reading**—3.1b,2ae; 5.1a

**Writing**—2.1

**Oral Language**—1.2; 3.1,2

**Visual Literacy**—3

## Materials Needed

assorted classroom items—  
pencils, paper, tape, glue,  
books, chalk, paint brushes,  
paint, etc.

## Vocabulary

**adhesive**—a substance that sticks (as glue or cement)

**agriculture**—the science or occupation of cultivating the soil, producing crops, and raising livestock

**bristle**—a short stiff coarse hair or filament

**cellophane**—a thin transparent material made from cellulose

**cellulose**—a white stringy substance from the cell wall of plants which is used in making various products such as paper

**commodity**—a product of agriculture or mining

**farm**—a piece of land used for growing crops or raising livestock

**fiber**—a slender and very long natural or synthetic unit of material (as wool, cotton, asbestos, gold, glass, or rayon) usually able to be spun into yarn

**insulation**—material used to prevent transfer of electricity, heat, or sound

**plastic**—any of numerous synthetic or processed materials that can be formed into objects, films, or fibers

**poultry**—domesticated birds kept for eggs or meat

**pulp**—a material prepared chiefly from wood but also from other materials (as rags) and used in making paper products

**varnish**—a liquid that when spread and allowed to dry on a surface forms a hard shiny typically transparent coating

for wallpaper.

Agricultural products can even be found on the walls and floor of your classroom. Beef products are used in the production of linoleum flooring, insulation and wallpaper. Soybean products can be found in caulking compounds, electrical insulation, plywood and wallboard. Peanut shells are used in wallboard. Cotton and wool is used to make curtains, rugs and carpets. Peanut oil is used to make paints and varnishes. Wheat is used in roofing tiles, insulation and soundproofing materials. Beef, soybeans, peanut oil and cottonseed products also help keep your classroom clean with detergents and other cleaning products.

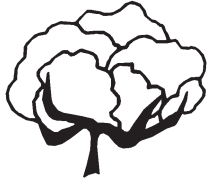
## Activities

1. Discuss the meaning of the word “agriculture.”
  - Walk around the classroom and pick up different items while asking students if they are **MADE FROM AGRICULTURE** or **NOT MADE FROM AGRICULTURE**.
  - Ask students to place the items in separate piles based on the two categories.
2. Read and discuss background.
  - After students have discussed the background read it again.
  - As you mention any item in the classroom, students will take turns placing the named item in the correct pile (**MADE FROM AGRICULTURE/NOT MADE FROM AGRICULTURE**).
3. Hand out student worksheets.
  - On a separate sheet of paper, students will make a list of all the items in their classroom that could have been made from agricultural commodities.
  - Students will use the worksheet to place the items under the picture of the agricultural commodity from which it could have been made.
4. If they could talk, what would the items in your classroom say to each other about how they were made?
  - Based on discussion of the background, students will draw pictures of items in the classroom and use idea bubbles to develop dialogue.
5. Students will create posters based on the theme, “Agriculture in My Classroom.”
6. Hand out the “Table of Contents” page included with this page.
  - Students will answer questions based on the table of contents.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Ag in My Classroom

Write the names of items from your classroom under the agricultural commodity from which it could have been made.



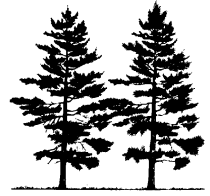
cotton



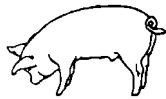
peanut



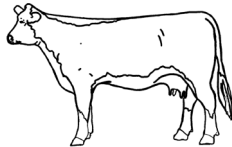
corn



trees



pig



cow



chicken



soybean

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Ag in My Classroom

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This is the table of contents for a book called Ag in My Classroom. Use this table to answer the following questions.

## Ag in My Classroom Table of Contents

1.	Cotton Products in my Class	p.3
2.	Soy Crayons?	p. 7
3.	Where Did this Pencil Come From?	p. 11
4.	Paintbrushes or Pig's Hair?	p. 15
5.	Uses for Corn	p. 19
6.	Floors and Walls Say "Moo"	p. 22

How many chapters does this book have? \_\_\_\_\_

What chapter will tell you about ways to use cornstarch? \_\_\_\_\_

On what page will you find out about pencils ? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the title of Chapter 2? \_\_\_\_\_

Which chapter will tell you about beef products being used for flooring and wall paper?

\_\_\_\_\_

On what page does Chapter 1 begin? \_\_\_\_\_