

Seed Planting

Living History Tour at Riley's Frontier Events Spring, 2009

NOTE: The content of our school tours varies by location and season. The following information corresponds to the Spring 2009 *Seed Planting* option at *Riley's Frontier Events Living History Tour* only.

For the Seed Planting option, students will be planting corn in our kitchen garden and will be planting a pumpkin seed in a cup to take home with them.

Vocabulary:

Pollinate *Harvest* *Varieties*

Suggested follow-up activities:

1. **Make Corn Husk People**

For specific directions on how to make corn husk people, check out this site:

<http://www.teachersfirst.com/summer/cornhusk.htm>

To incorporate Native American storytelling:

<http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art21493.asp>

(An Iroquois story about why corn husk dolls do not have faces)

For other Native American oral history stories, see:

http://www.campsilos.org/mod3/students/c_history3.shtml

2. **Create A Corn Maze**

For history and pictures of mazes, see

<http://www.campsilos.org/mod3/students/mazes.shtml>

For you or your students to create their own "corn maze":

<http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/AdvMazeSetupForm.asp>

3. **Personalized Pumpkins**

When the pumpkins on the vine are about the size of a tennis ball, kids can write their initials with a sharpie pen on a pumpkin. An adult can trace the initials using an exacto knife, going deep enough to just pierce the skin. As the pumpkin grows, so do the initials!

4. **Harvest Pumpkin Poems and Songs**

Check out this resource for a selection of poems and songs:

<http://teachers.net/lessons/posts/202.htm>

Created by Riley's at Los Rios Rancho, 2009

www.losriosrancho.com

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Pumpkin Facts

1. Pumpkins are part of the Curcubita family of plants. They are related to squash, watermelon, and cucumbers.
2. Jack O' Lantern pumpkins (proper name, Connecticut Field Pumpkins) are the most common type of pumpkin in America. This variety typically grows to between 10 and 20 pounds, but they can weigh as much as 50 pounds!
3. There are over 50 varieties of pumpkins
4. Bees are needed to pollinate pumpkins.
5. A single pumpkin vine can grow up to 30 feet! Did you know you could eat the pumpkin flower?
6. Pumpkins come in different shapes, sizes, colors and patterns. Pumpkins can be white, yellow, orange, green or be striped, spotted or a solid color.
7. The record for the largest pumpkin is 1,140 pounds!

Corn Facts

1. Corn needs to be planted in rows forming a block because the plants are wind-pollinated, not bee-pollinated.
2. Corn plants were engineered by man about 7,000 years ago in the Central America region. Corn started out as a type of grass and was bred into the corn we know today by Native Americans.
3. An ear of corn averages 800 kernals in 16 rows.
4. The states of Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Michigan, Missouri, Kansas and Kentucky are known as "The Corn Belt", because most of the corn in the United States is grown there.
5. From the time you plant, it takes between 2-3 months before the corn is ready to eat.
6. After the corn is harvested, the stalks can be left up and used as a maze for kids to play in. The left over corn husks can be made into corn husk dolls. Early pioneers made the dolls as Christmas gifts for their daughters.

Living History Tour at Riley's Frontier Homestead & Heirloom Orchards Spring, 2009

NOTE: The content of our school tours varies by location and season. The following information corresponds to the Spring 2009 *Living History Tour at Riley's Frontier Homestead and Heirloom Orchards* only. If your students are taking the *Apple Tour at Los Rios Rancho*, please refer to that link.

Our Spring Tours at the Frontier allows you the flexibility of tailoring your tour to meet your students' curricular needs and interests. In addition to a visit to our hand-built log cabin, you have the option of choosing 4 additional activities.

If your students are interested in animals, think about choosing the "Horse Sense" session (appropriate for mature 2nd graders and above), the barnyard visit, and the hayride as 3 of your choices.

Following is a student hand-out for the "Horse Sense" session that you can make copies of for your students.

"Horse Sense" vocabulary words:

<i>Frontier</i>	<i>Pioneer</i>	<i>Hoof/Hooves</i>	<i>Harness</i>
<i>Vitamin</i>	<i>Minerals</i>	<i>Tack</i>	<i>Draft Horse</i>
<i>Plough</i>	<i>Hackamore</i>	<i>Saddle</i>	<i>Reins</i>
<i>Grain</i>	<i>Frog</i>	<i>Alfalfa</i>	

Concepts that will be introduced:

1. Peripheral vision
2. Body language, as a form of communication
3. Hands, as a form of measurement
4. Domesticated vs. open range
5. Predator vs. Prey animals
6. Anatomy for function

“Horse Sense”

Use and Kinds

1. What were horses primarily used for 100 years ago? _____
2. There are over _____ different kinds of horses around the world!
3. Horses have 2 names: the one they're born with and the one you give them.

What are the 2 names of the horse you are meeting today?

Language/Communication

Horses use body language to communicate. They use their ears, eyes, legs and mouths to “speak”.

4. What is a horse telling you when he:

Pulls his lips back? _____

Paws the ground with his forelegs? _____

Pins his ears back? _____

Height and Weight

5. How do you measure how tall a horse is? _____
6. How much does a horse weigh? _____

Feed and Care

Our horses eat twice a day. They get a breakfast and a dinner.

7. What does a horse eat? _____
8. How much water does a horse drink in one day? _____
9. What do horses like to eat as a special treat? _____

Horses get shoes nailed to their feet to protect them.

10. How often do horses get a new pair of shoes? _____
11. How does a horse sleep? _____

How do you compare to a horse?

12. What can you **see** that a horse can't? _____

13. What can a horse do with his **ears** that you can't? _____

14. Who's got a bigger **brain** – you or the horse? _____

15. You use your hand to chase away flies. What does a horse use? _____

Draw your own foot (without shoes!) and
label the parts:

Draw a horse's foot (hoof) and label the
parts: