

26 November 2012 -

Feeding a nation, Christmas harvests and farmers work over Christmas

Discovering Our Countryside provides a clear, interesting and informative picture of the important role of agriculture and rural affairs in the lives of pupils from an early age, the films and commentaries have been developed specifically to enhance the work that you are doing in your own classrooms.

These are the scripts and associated teaching links and notes for the program of 26 November 2012.

Teaching links.

Below are this program's specific links to:

- National Curriculum
- The 9 Eco School topics.
- National Government initiatives:
 - Healthy Schools
 - Sustainable Schools
 - Every Child Matters
 - Learning Outside the Classroom
- Thinking Skills.

Note on National Curriculum links

The National Curriculum subjects and the units from the QCA schemes of work. (Rather than list each specific National Curriculum objective we have simply listed the QCA Units as these are already linked to the National Curriculum and are generally what schools reference when planning work.)

These will allow you to easily link each program into your existing work.

The programs can also be used to promote interaction by children in pairs and groups, circle time or class discussion, encouraging learning through discussion and interaction

Discovering Our Countryside is a modular approach to rural affairs - we hope you and your pupils will look forward to each new episode as it paints the picture of the rural environment and it's seasonality.

Specific links for this weeks program sections:

26 November 2012 - Feeding a nation, Christmas harvests and farmers work over Christmas

Details of this program

This program looks at how cycles and re-cycling is an important part of farming.

- **Yorkshire Wolds from WWII to the future** - Looks at how the nation was still short of food even after World War 2 had ended and as a result farmers were encouraged to grow as much food as possible. The program then looks how the Wolds are still changing today and will in the future - highlighting some of the choices your pupils may have to make in the future.
- **Special Harvests** The wet Autumn has meant farmers are still trying to harvest some crops and some special harvests have started, Christmas Trees and Sprouts
- **Livestock at Christmas** – Shows sheep mating now also how farmers will be looking after Livestock over Christmas even on Christmas day.

These sections can also be found on the relevant topic page, which over the weeks will build up the seasonality picture for each of the main themes: Crops / Arable; Livestock; Wolds Heritage

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBJECTS LINKS.

Design and Technology KS 1 + 2

Looks how farmers use modern technology to grow crops and provide fresh 5-a-day produce

Give examples of different vehicles and also how the wheat is grown which is milled to make flour to bake bread and biscuits.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1c Eat More Fruit and Vegetables

Unit 2A. Vehicles

Unit 5B. Bread

Unit 5D. Biscuits

Geography KS 1+2

Give examples of what the countryside around your schools 'local' area will contain.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1. Around our school - the local area

Unit 6. Investigating our local area

History KS 1+2

Unit 2. What were homes like a long time ago?

Unit 11. What was it like for children living in Victorian Britain?

Unit 12. How did life change in our locality in Victorian times?

Unit 18. What was it like to live here in the past?

Discovering Our Countryside - Teachers Notes

Science KS 1 + 2

The videos have lots of science links to the units listed below for example:

Shows the start of plants life cycles and what parts of a plant we use and harvest.

Looks at how we can help bees so important to many of the plant food crops we rely on

Some of machinery could be used to discuss pushes and pulls.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1B. Growing plants.

Unit 1E Pushes and Pulls.

Unit 2A Health and Grow.

Unit 2B Plants and Animals.

Unit 3B. Helping plants grow well.

Unit 5B. Life cycles.

These are just the links we thought of – please let us know if you make any more!

Citizenship KS 1 + 2

E.g. Shows how farmers look after animals.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 3 Animals and Us

ECO SCHOOL TOPIC LINKS

With apologies if we are ‘teaching grandma to suck eggs’ here are some of our thoughts on how our videos link to the Eco School Topics

Showing pupils just which of their food products are grown in this country will give them important background knowledge when discussing transport, energy and global perspective of food production and the healthy living choices they make when they go to the shops.

- Energy
 - Growing food and the associated energy costs of buying home grown food or imported food
- Water
 - Use of water to grow plants
- Biodiversity
 - How growing studying local habitats and where pest are found can help local biodiversity
- School grounds
 - How the simple act of hunting for mini-beasts can help build up a picture of the school grounds in preparation for the design and creation of new features in your school grounds
- Healthy living
 - How growing your own produce can promote healthy living by promoting a healthy diet and also promoting exercise in the act of growing that produce. The improvement of school ground can also aid mental well being.
- Transport

- Reduce transport costs of food by growing your own local produce.
- Litter
 - When carrying out gardening tasks introduce children to tidy habits – pick up all packaging and dispose of ‘thoughtfully’ – see waste
 - When outside be it school, garden or countryside “Take only photos Leave only footprints!”
- Waste
 - Explain that gardening and farming is and always has been synonymous with recycling. Re-use seed trays, compost is made from last years ‘recycled’ plants. Think twice about where to put litter – bin or recycle?
- Global citizenship
 - Explain how even the little things we do – where how food comes from, how much we recycle, our biodiversity, can affect the whole world be it good or bad!

PRESERVING - MEMORIES, FOOD AND WOOL: SCRIPT

INTRO

“Man with food has many problems.... Man without food has only one.... ” (Chinese saying).

FARMERS FEEDING THE VICTORIOUS

Having played their part in 'Dig for Victory' farmers then had to 'Feed the Victorious' or Dig for

Having spent all it's money on the war Britain was broke and could not afford to pay for imported food

The 1947 Agricultural act was designed to encourage farmers to grow as much food as possible

The factories which had produce the machines of war started to produce the machines for farms like tractors and ploughs etc

Farmers like Robert Stephenson worked with machinery companies like Ransomes to make these machines more efficient

Like here with this pick up thresher which threshed the corn in the field saving time and manpower

This idea was over taken by the first combines - Mr Stephenson remembers the first one coming from America in a box which they had to assembly

Eventually they came across already assembled and Mr Stephenson quite a few working on his farm - can you count them

The way food was produced and sold was also made more efficient by selling it all in one shop and by people serving themselves...

A SUPER-MARKET the first one opened in about 1950

We have become so good at producing lots of food that we now more concerned with how it is produce and the effect on the environment

We now like to buy food locally to reduce food miles and help the environment - like at this farmers market on the wolds at Driffield

The crops grown on the Wolds are also changing - some now being grown for energy like oilseed rape to make biodiesel or even wheat to make ethanol

Others like willow and miscanthus are being grown as a biomass to burn for fuel

This saves us using 'old' fossil fuels like oil and coal which release carbon dioxide and may contribute to climate change.

Some of the world are still short of food though so do you think it is OK for us to use wheat for fuel instead of flour?

The Yorkshire Wolds are also harvesting the wind...

Many people don't like view of wind turbines - what do you think?

These decisions will effect your future and you lots of other to make in the future - we hope this look at the past will help you do this in the future

TEACHERS NOTES:

While we know enjoy a plentiful supply of food in this country I is easy to forget that only 50 years ago this was not the case - and may not be in the future.

The quote from this programs introduction is a favourite of mine and it explains the situation in the world today. While the west generally enjoy a plentiful supply of food can have the luxury of considering how this food is produced, whilst many in the less developed world just worry where the next meal is coming from. So with this in mind your class could spend circle time debating this and other new uses to which we are increasingly putting land - biomass, biofuel, building, wind turbines

A SPECIAL HARVEST WILL BE STARTING SOON.

Due to the wet Autumn many farmers are still busy in the field...

Harvesting crops like - Sugar beet

These sugar beet roots are taken to a factory to have the sugar extracted.

Fodder beet- which is similar to sugar beet but is feed to cattle and sheep over the winter

Harvesting maize which is made into silage also for feeding to animals...

You may have seen maize if you went to a Maize Maze this year

Special Christmas harvests are also under way....

Christmas trees....

These trees have been growing for several years

This is Rob Hardcastle of Lodge Christmas trees in Newport - showing us some 1 year old Nordman Christmas trees

These Christmas trees are being dug up to sell for Christmas.

Brussel Sprouts - although we associate sprouts with Christmas they are a wonderful vegetable all year round - full of vitamin A and C minerals like potassium calcium and fibre

The sprouts are being harvested by these two men on this special machine.

They steer the machine with their feet

The stalks are cut by these blades

They feed the cut plant in here where the sprouts are stripped off

The sprouts are then taken back to the farm to be sorted, graded and packed

before being sent to the shops for you to buy and enjoy....

You have tried them haven't you!!!!

Teachers notes:

LIVESTOCK AT CHRISTMAS

Even though you may be thinking of Christmas and the end of the year, farmers are busy planning for next year

Sheep farmers have introduced the Rams to the Ewes

Sheep will only breed for a short period at this time of year

The ram must quickly find which ewes are ready for breeding – he does this by smelling the ewes scent which tells him she is ready to breed.

The ram quickly sows his seed when he finds a ewe

The farmer may put paint on the ram so when it mates with a ewe it leaves a mark on the ewes back

Can you count how many of these Ewes have been mated and will be having lambs in the spring?

Many farmers will be working on Christmas day feeding and mucking out their livestock....