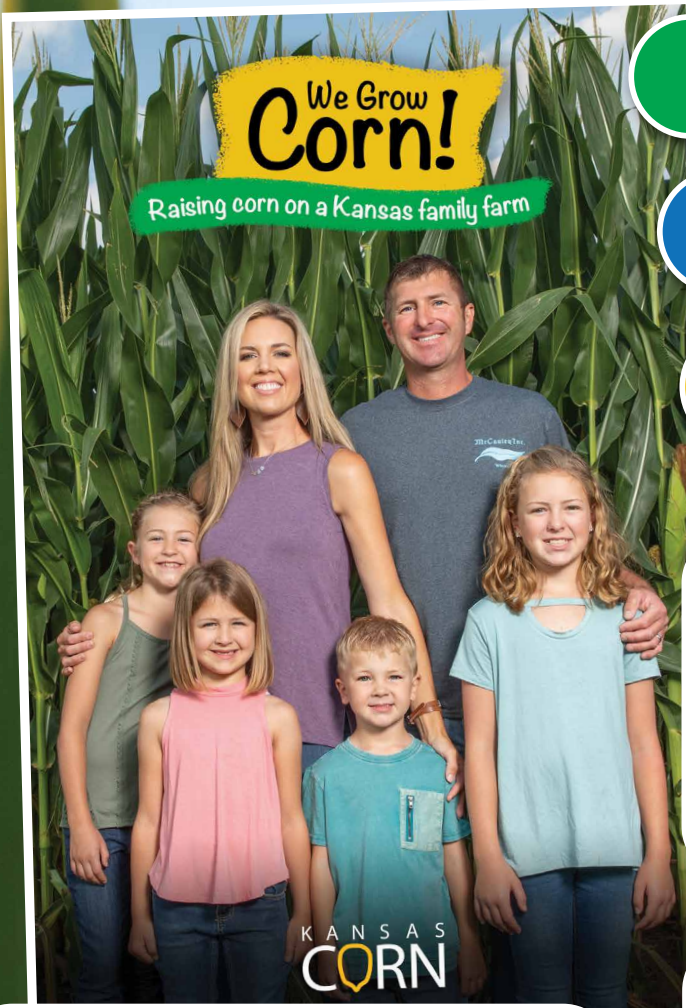


# We Grow Corn!

## Activity Guide



Enhance the Book Experience!

Online Resources and Activities!

Fun, Hands-On Activities!

"We Grow Corn! Raising Corn on a Kansas Family Farm" takes readers through the yearlong process of growing corn and highlights agriculture's important role in our lives. This activity guide was created to expand learning about agriculture through activities and resources that go along with the book. Materials for the activities are easy to find in your home or classroom. Enjoy teaching children about corn!

### Do you accept the Breakout Box Challenge?

A fun way to challenge children is to make it a game. There is an online breakout box challenge for each activity. Done as a group, individually or at home, it is fun to see if the children can find the clues to unlock the box.

### How to use this Guide

To access all resources, visit [wegrowcorn.com](http://wegrowcorn.com) to find links to the videos, challenges and additional resources referenced in this document. The online guide also provides additional activities such as "What is a Bushel" and "Can You Define the Word?" Visit the online Activity Guide at [wegrowcorn.com](http://wegrowcorn.com).





# Types of Corn

99% of the corn grown in Kansas and the U.S. is dent corn (field corn). Many people think sweet corn is the main type of corn. After this activity, children will learn there are many types of corn, and they will specifically be able to name the differences between dent corn and sweet corn.



Materials: Paper and markers

## Activity

- 1 Read page 16 aloud and have students look at the picture of the sweet corn and dent corn.
- 2 Watch Farmer Bill's "Types of Corn" video.
- 3 As a group, create a Venn Diagram to compare and contrast the two types of corn. (what it looks like, what it is used for, when it is harvested) In small groups or individually, have children create their own Venn Diagram OR draw a picture of the two different types of corn.

Sweet Corn

Dent Corn



## Dent Corn

- Feed for livestock
- The most-grown corn in Kansas
- Can grow as tall as a basketball goal
- Used to make many food products
- Used to make many things that are not food
- Harvested when it's hard and dry
- Harvested by removing kernels
  - Sold to other countries
  - The kernel has a dent on top of it
  - Most plants have one ear

## Sweet Corn

- Food for humans
- A little is grown in Kansas
- Grows as tall as an adult
- Only used for food
- Harvested when it's tender and juicy
- Harvested with the kernels on the cob
- Most plants have two or more ears

## Out the Door:

On the way out the door, have children tell you one thing about either dent or sweet corn.





# Space It Out

Do farmers plant their seeds by hand like we do in our garden? After this activity, children will be able to tell how far apart corn kernels are planted in the field and how farmers use equipment to plant thousands of seeds in a short amount of time.



6 inches apart

**Materials:** • Scotch/Painters tape or sidewalk chalk  
• 6-inch marker options: Rulers / (6) 1-inch squares / (6) linking cubes / six inch strips of paper



## Activity

- 1 Read pages 6-7 aloud.
- 2 Watch the video link provided on page 7.
- 3 Each child will need tape (if inside) or sidewalk chalk and a 6-inch marker. Show the diagram on page 7. Show how farmers, using planters, plant their corn kernels six inches apart.

Set boundaries for the children so they know where to "plant" their kernels. Children will draw corn kernels with chalk using their 6-inch marker.

- 4 Discussion: How many kernels did you plant? How do you think farmers feel about having a machine to help them plant? What if they had to plant all those kernels by hand?



6 inches apart

## Out the Door:

On the way out the door, ask children how many kernels they were able to plant and if they had to plant 10,000 seeds would they want to do this by hand or with a planter?

# Farm to Plate



What role does corn play in our food? It is important for children to know where their food comes from. After completing this activity, children will be able to identify food that was made with corn.



**Materials:** • Food packages from today's lunch  
• Grocery store ads  
• Paper, scissors, markers, glue

## Activity

- 1 Read pages 16-19 aloud.
- 2 Watch Farmer Bill's "Farm to Plate" video.
- 3 Talk about today's lunch. What items in your lunch contained corn? How do you know?
- 4 Encourage children to read the back of the packages.
- 5 Review pages 18-19 to learn how dent corn is used to feed our livestock. Was anything in today's lunch fed corn?
- 6 Using grocery store ads, have students cut out items that contain corn. Glue to paper and present to others.

## Out the Door:

On the way out the door, have children tell you one thing they know is made of corn. Also encourage them to find items at home that contain corn.



# Parts of a Corn Plant

How many of the children have seen a corn plant? Help them identify and learn about each part of the plant and its function.



**Materials:** Materials to make the plant such a yarn, tissue paper, construction paper, etc. Paper and pencil or crayons.

## Take the Quiz

Watch the "Quiz on Corn Plant Parts" video. Pause it throughout so children can answer.

## Activity

- 1 Before you watch the video ask questions like: Has anyone seen a corn field? What does a corn plant look like? Can you name the parts of the plant?
- 2 Watch video "Parts of the Corn Plant".
- 3 Ask: What words do you remember from the video? What parts of the plant did you already know about? Does this corn plant have any of the same parts as other plants?
- 4 Have children draw their own corn plant or break into groups to create a 3D corn plant model. Examples in the online guide.
- 5 Review parts of the plant one at a time to help them label their plant.



## Out the Door:

On the way out the door, children will need to tell you one part of the corn plant, using the correct terms discussed today.

