



MYSTERY #2

THE HISTORY OF CORN

K-1 Teacher Guide

KANSAS CORN STEM

This teacher's guide is broken into the different sections with suggestions of how to use the reader in the classroom and provide ideas on how to extend the learning of your students. A PDF version of this teacher guide with active links can be found at kansascornstem.com under Mystery Corn Reader.

Reader QR Code Links

If your students are unable to use QR codes in the classroom here are the links to share the videos in alternative ways.

- Types of Corn: <https://bit.ly/3UZNT1>

Grades K-1

This reader can be used in small groups or a whole group for reading or science. Depending on your readers, this magazine would be more appropriate to be read aloud to your students.

Outcome

- Students will have knowledge of the targeted vocabulary words.
- Students will be able to identify the four different types of corn.
- Students will have knowledge about what the different types of corn is used for.

Vocabulary Words

- Observe: to watch or listen to someone or something carefully
- Kernels: the fruit of the corn- the part of the corn that is eaten
- Ear: part of a corn plant that contains kernels.
- Fuel: a substance, gas or oil, that can be burned to produce power, or make a machine run

Activity

Introduce these words before you begin reading. Ask students if they have heard or recognize the words. Then, read the definitions and talk about them as a class. Do more of the students recognize the words now? See if students can use the vocabulary words in sentences. Pictures from the reader or a Google search, can be used to help explain these words as well.

Front Cover

The History of Corn: ask the students what they notice about the difference between the teosinte plants thousand of years ago compared to today's cornstalk.

- Question: How do you think the corn plant has changed?
- Inference: After reading the bottom right and before turning to the inside of the reader, have students share what kind of corn they already know. Do they know what the different types of corn are used for?

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resources at kansascornstem.com



Inside

- When you come to a vocabulary word, take the time to stop and redefine the words.
- After reading the content, revisit what students brainstormed from the front cover. Were any of their ideas mentioned in the reading?

Observe and Share

- On butcher paper or the board, make a chart representing the four types of corn.
- Have students share what they observe from the pictures.
- Go over the following: shape of the corn, color of the corn, texture and size.
- For each type of corn, have students share what they think the corn is used for.

Types of Corn

Now you can add the name of the corn to the chart that was just made. Read through the different types of corn and see if students' observations were the same or different than what is in the text. Really make a point to talk about the uses of these different types of corn.

Back Cover

Do You Remember: Match the Corn

Draw a line from the type of corn to the picture of how that corn is used. Use the inside of the reader or the chart that was made in class to help if students get stuck.

What is your favorite?

What is your favorite type of corn? Have students write it on the line. Students can then draw a picture of their favorite type of corn. Students can expand this activity by verbally stating why they chose the corn they did.

Farmer Bill Video

If time allows, this is a great video by Farmer Bill that explains the four types of corn that students just learned about.

Additional Kansas Corn STEM Resources

This reader can be used as a stand-alone activity, or you can pair it with other Kansas Corn STEM offerings.

- ***Free Education Kit and Lesson*** – The best resource to pair with this reader is one of our corn lessons that comes with a free education kit. The kit contains all the supplies needed to conduct a series of lessons that meet NGSS, are inquiry-based and hands-on. No training or prior knowledge about corn is needed to teach these lessons. Request your free kits at <https://kscorn.com/request-materials/>
- ***Lesson Library*** - With a lesson library of over 90 lessons and labs, you can find numerous resources to use. Make sure to check out our TEACH-FLEX lessons that use easy to find classroom materials. <https://kscorn.com/lesson-library/>
- ***Breakout Box Challenge*** - Challenge your students to learn more about corn using a breakout box. A breakout box challenge is available for each grade level, K-5 and is a great way to also assess learning. Challenges are available online or for physical breakout boxes. Check out the challenges at <https://kscorn.com/topic/breakout-box/>
- ***Guest Speaker*** - Request a guest speaker to visit the classroom and expand learning about ethanol and corn. <https://kscorn.com/guestspeaker/>