

How to Use This Guide

The guide is organized into four sections with a total of 29 activities prepared for classroom or field trip use. The sections are developed around four major topics:

- I. **DISCOVERING AGRICULTURE**
Activities that encourage students to gain awareness of agriculture in their community and appreciate the role it plays in their lives.
- II. **EXPLORING THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE**
Activities that explore the rich historical and cultural heritage of Marin’s past and how it relates to students’ lives today.
- III. **UNDERSTANDING THE MANAGEMENT AND ECONOMICS OF AGRICULTURE**
Activities that develop a better understanding of the processes, economics and skills needed in agriculture on a local and global level.
- IV. **RELATING AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT—INTERDEPENDENCE**
Activities that highlight the dependence of sustainable agricultural systems on a healthy ecosystem.

Within each section activities build their concepts from the student’s **personal and family experience** to **community** and the student’s role within the family and community context. The next level of exploration is the **world view** of agriculture, its effects on us and ours on it. Lastly, we hope to get students thinking and incorporating their own views and learning through **personal action** in their community.

Other materials included in this guide are:

- English and Spanish student handouts
- An index cross-referencing activities
- Glossary in English and Spanish

Other Resources:

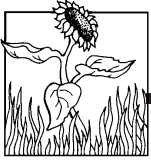
A companion booklet that complements this guide is “Food For Thought: Agricultural Resources Directory for Teachers” (Marin edition).

A companion video that complements the activities is: “Food For Thought: A Visual Introduction to Marin Agriculture.”

Write to the University of California, Cooperative Extension office in Marin for further information: 1682 Novato Blvd., Suite 150B, Novato, CA 94947 or call 415-499-4204.

Each of the activities is presented in a similar format.





Title of the Activity

Objective: What we designed the activity to teach.

Summary: A brief description of how the objective is obtained.

Time: An approximation of time needed to complete the activity.

Student Grouping: Most are designed to be done in cooperative learning groups, but often

variations are possible for adapting to special classroom needs.

Materials: Almost everything called for is inexpensive and easy to obtain.

Background Information: General information that relates to the activity is given here. When

the concept is quite involved, the background information will be more extensive and may refer you to other sources to clarify any questions you may have.

Marin Ag. Facts: The Marin County agriculture community has provided us with a wealth of information that brings these concepts and lessons alive and close to home. The history, cultural diversity, political outlook and current status of agriculture in our beautiful home are covered in this section.

Preparation:

These are notes to teachers that will help the activity go smoothly in the classroom and in the field. Here you

will find out where to locate materials and get suggestions on how to divide the students into optimal learning groups.

Procedure:

Step-by-step instructions are delineated here for the day of the activity. What comes next and how to do it is laid out in plain fashion so the already too-busy teacher doesn't have to figure it out on the run.

Questions for Discussion:

- These can be used for assessment after each activity. Questions are designed to allow success for varied-level learners as well as to challenge the more proficient students.

Extensions:

- When you're on a roll and the students are enjoying a topic, you can turn here for ways to extend an activity and further the learning already begun.

Pertinent Diagram
or Drawing

