

## **Build a Burger...See Your State**

### **Fourth Grade**

With 86% of America's population ordering them in the last year, hamburgers are our favorite sandwiches! So what can we learn from this tasty entrée? It's amazing!

### **Purpose**

To help students understand that all food has an agricultural source which has a particular geographic and climatological origin.

### **Competency**

Grade 4: Goal 6: The learner will evaluate how North Carolinians apply basic economic principles within the community, state, and nation.

### **Vocabulary**

beef      cattle      nutrition      geography      condiments      lettuce  
tomato      ketchup      catsup      mustard      cucumber      pickle

### **Materials Provided**

North Carolina map

Ingredient symbols

Build a Burger Patterns and Directions

### **Materials Needed**

"North Carolina Highlights; Something to Crow About" (Available from NCDA)How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World, Marjorie Priceman, 1994, ISBN 0-679-88083-6

## Teaching Strategies

Read orally to the class, Marjorie Priceman's , How to Make an Apple Pie and see the World.

Once the class has enjoyed listening to the story, Make an Apple Pie, See the World, lead a discussion of the ingredients used to build one's favorite hamburger. Note that North Carolina farmers raise all of the plants and animals needed to prepare a burger with all the trimmings.

Distribute copies of the document entitled, " North Carolina Highlights; Something to Crow About". Spread a large map of North Carolina on the classroom floor. Assign student groups to reference the Highlights brochure and find out which North Carolina counties produce the most beef, lettuce, cucumbers, tomatoes, wheat, etc.

When student groups know which counties are responsible for producing the most of each burger ingredient, they should place symbols on the large NC map to show where travelers should go to get each ingredient.

A follow up writing assignment would be to parody the "Apple Pie" text to create a "Burger Book" for classmates to read and enjoy.

## Background Information

"North Carolina Highlights; Something to Crow About" can be ordered, free of charge from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture at [www.ncagr.com/stats](http://www.ncagr.com/stats). The email address is: [ncagstat@ncmail.net](mailto:ncagstat@ncmail.net). The phone number is: 1-800-437-8451

## Build a Burger Fact Sheet

Burger Ingredient

Top producing US state for this ingredient

Geographic region(s) in which this product is produced

Steps involved in growing/ processing/ transporting/ marketing this item

Ways to prepare and enjoy this ingredient other than on a burger

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### Build a Burger Survey Sheet

List the name of each classmate below.

Beside each name record wheter or not each person likes to add your ingrredient to their favorite hamburger.

Compile a total of "yes" responses.

Record your findings on a class bar graph.

### **Story: Have a Hamburger and See the USA**

Making a delicious hamburger is really very easy. First, get all the ingredients at the market, prepare them safely, pile on your favorite condiments, and enjoy!

Unless, of course, the market is closed.

In that case, go home and pack a bag. Take your shopping list and some walking shoes. Then catch an Amtrak train bound for Texas. Use your time on board to familiarize yourself with all the breeds of beef cattle raised there and brush up on your branding and roping skills.

If you time it right, you'll arrive in Kansas at harvest time. Kansas is the top wheat growing state in the US. Find a large field out in the countryside. Gather up several armloads of wheat. It must be ground into flour for the bun for your burger. Do you like whole-wheat buns? With seeds or without?

Next, take a bike ride to Florida. Here's where you will find the largest fields of tomatoes growing in the good old USA. Tomatoes add a nutritious zest to America's favorite sandwich and provide the primary ingredient for everyone's favorite condiment, ketchup. Or is that catsup??

A long, brisk walk will take you across Florida, America's number one cucumber state. Do you put cucumbers on your burger? You do if you like to add a pickle for an added tangy flavor.

Hop a jet for Wisconsin for some cheese. That is, if you like for your burger to be a cheeseburger.

Head west to California for the crisp, cool lettuce that will complete your burger masterpiece. While in California make a new friend who will host a barbecue for your beautiful burger creation. Invite a few folks to enjoy with you.

- Ride the Rainbow Activity Challenge

#### Burger Bunny Relay

Who says that the Bunny only hops at Easter Time? And, who says he only brings eggs? Add to the benefits of MyPyramid with burger building

relay. Have students form teams of 4,5,or 6 members. Mark a running track, which represents an appropriate distance for a relay race. Teams line up at the start line. Across the finish line, scatter plastic Easter eggs filled with slips of paper containing the names of commonly used burger components. ( beef, bun, ketchup, pickle, lettuce, tomato, mustard). The race begins with the starting signal. The first member of each team must run iover thew "egg Line" Pick up an egg, place it in a basket and hop back to the starting line. Team members open the egg and note, which component is contained within. The second team members runs to the egg line, collects and egg, and hops back to the team. Team members reveal the new component. The race progresses until the first team has built a complete burger. If a team member hops over with a duplicate burger component, he/she must run it back to the egg line and get anther egg. This process continues until one team has a complete burger with no duplicates.