

Science of Soy; Rigors of Reading

Students can use publications like the Illinois Ag in the Classroom “Ag Mags” as vehicles to help them learn conventions of print. In the Soybean Ag Mag, students can be challenged to identify titles, subtitles, graphs, maps, references, and contact information. They can also be on the look out for punctuation that helps give meaning to text. For example, this one edition has periods, question marks, and parentheses, commas in a series, hyphens, and number notation.

Several literary genres are contained in this one publication. Readers can find narrative reports, a bulleted list, a Q and A reading activity, a diagram, and two recipes.

Follow-Up Lesson Suggestions:

- As a class, choose other agricultural commodities and develop Ag Mags about them. Include map activities showing where each commodity is grown, information about food and non-food uses for each commodity, a list of facts about each commodity, a reading comprehension activity featuring each commodity, a career corner, and a recipe using the commodity. Study the lay out of the Soybean Ag Mag and develop your own creative lay outs and illustrations using hand drawn illustrations, photos, and clip art from the internet.
- Visit the Ag in the Classroom website to see other valuable activities offered by Ag in the Classroom educational program across the US. The address is www.agintheclassroom.org.
- Make your own Beanie Baby pouches and observe the seeds as they germinate and begin to grow. Develop hypotheses regarding what is needed for a plant to germinate and how those needs might differ from the needs of a growing plant. Discuss the possibility of using another growing medium besides the crystal soil. Try using several other media. (paper towels, cotton balls, fabric scraps). Try transplanting germinated seeds to the soil so that the young plants can grow in the bean producers. Record observations as you work through this process.
- Plan and host a Soy Smorgasbord. Visit the WISHH website to learn about soy dishes you can serve and other soy products about which you can share information. Invite parents and other classes to enjoy the spread!