

Corn Prints

Content Areas

Language Arts: Vocabulary
Gross and Fine Motor Skills

Objective

The student will be able to:

- Create an ear of corn using hand prints
- Use gross and fine motor skills for painting

Materials

- Yellow construction paper
- Green construction paper
- Finger paint
- Glue
- Scissors

Background Knowledge

Called “maize” by the Native Americans, corn was a completely new food for the colonists, as it is native only to the Americas. In fact, in the early 1600s the Native Americans introduced the settlers to this crop and taught them how to grow and prepare it. Similar to today, the colonists ate corn both as a vegetable as well as ground it up into a grain. Thus, corn was a very important crop and appeared in multiple ways on many colonial tables. Benjamin Franklin even called it “one of the most agreeable and wholesome grains in the world.”

Today, corn for grain or silage (a mixture of grains that is fed to animals) is raised in nearly every Virginia county. Virginia farmers harvest about 340,000 acres of corn for grain each year! This type of corn, called field or dent corn, is different from what you buy at the grocery store, which is sweet corn. Field corn is grown for animal feed and harvested by large combines. The corn is ground into feed which is fed to cows, chickens, and other animals. Some field corn is also chopped up into silage for cows. Sweet corn is grown for people. There is more sugar in this corn which makes it tasty to eat. This is the type of corn grown in gardens, sold at vegetable stands, or in the market.

While we often think of corn kernels as being white or yellow, the Native Americans grew several different types. Colors included red, white, blue, and black. There are many varieties of corn. Some are better suited for people to eat while others are best for animals. Discuss the types children are familiar with.

Procedure

1. Trace students’ hands (fingers closed) once on a piece of yellow construction paper and twice on a piece of green construction paper. Cut out.
2. Arrange the two green leaves at the base of the yellow corn to form the husk and glue together.
3. Add the “kernels” by dipping your fingers into the paint and stamping onto the cob. *You may also use Q-tips to dab and paint the kernels.*

Extension

Glue real Indian corn seeds to the “corn cob.”



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit AgInTheClass.org.

Create several large corn stalks on the bulletin board and attach each child's ear of corn to form a display.



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