AGRICULTURE CARES FOR THE WORLD

SUBJECTS: Language Arts, Social Studies, Visual Arts

STUDENT SKILL: The student will write informational pieces that include supporting paragraphs with simple facts, details, and explanations.

OBJECTIVE: The student will learn some simple facts about agriculture and construct paragraphs using the facts as supporting statements.

BACKGROUND

How do parents care for their children? They feed them, clothe them, provide shelter, keep them clean and provide medical attention when they are sick. They also make sure they go to school and spend lots of time driving them around.

Agriculture cares for us in much the same way. It feeds us by providing the grains, vegetables and livestock used to make our pizza, hamburgers and ice cream. It clothes us by producing cotton, wool and leather to make jeans, shirts, jackets and shoes. It shelters us with timber for building houses and with soybeans, corn and other agricultural products used in construction. It keeps us clean and well-groomed with soap, toothpaste, cosmetics and detergents made from soybeans, cottonseed oil and other agricultural products. It even cares for us when we are sick or injured. Insulin for diabetics is made from a chemical produced by the pancreas in swine and beef animals, and pig skin is used in skin grafts for burn victims. Milk proteins help make bandaids stick.

Agriculture helps educate us. The glue used in book-binding is made from the hide and hair of beef cattle, and printer's ink is made from soybeans. Agriculture even helps us get around. Soybeans and cotton are used in the production of tires, and corn is used to make some car parts.

Agriculture also cares for us by protecting our precious natural resources—soil, air and water. Topsoil is easily lost if not cared for properly. Wise producers keep their fields covered so
the topsoil will not wash away, clogging streams—another valuable resource. They use chemical pesticides and fertilizers only when natural methods have failed. They protect the air, because air that is polluted can damage crops. Wise producers are good stewards. They use the resources wisely so they will continue to care for us for many generations. This kind of agriculture is called “sustainable agriculture.” Sustainable agriculture is agriculture that protects and replenishes resources rather than using them up. It is a system that produces what we need while working in harmony with the environment.

**ACTIVITY**
1. Have students list all the ways in which parents care for their children. Write the answers on the chalkboard. Then have students list products necessary for providing this care. Ask students where these products come from.
2. Introduce the word “agriculture,” and share background material.
4. Hand out student worksheets, and have students place the supporting statements under the appropriate opening statements.
5. Have students write essays on the topic “Agriculture Cares for the World,” using some of the statements on the student worksheet and their own research. Have students draw pictures to illustrate their essays.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**
1. Have students draw pictures to illustrate their essays.

**EVALUATION**
Were students able to organize the ag facts into paragraph form?
Agriculture cares for us by feeding us.

Agriculture cares for us by clothing us.

Agriculture cares for us by providing shelter.

Agriculture cares for us by keeping us well.

Agriculture cares for us by keeping us clean and well-groomed.

Agriculture cares for us by educating us.

Agriculture cares for us by helping us get where we want to go.

Agriculture cares for us by protecting our natural resources.