Lesson Ideas

These curriculum-linked lesson ideas and activity sheets offer a range of learning experiences for primary and middle years students to learn about organic farming, food and products. They are copyright-free for use by Australian teachers.

Broad Learning Outcomes

Using this curriculum material will assist students in achieving the following broad learning outcomes:

- Students will learn about organic farming, food and products.
- Students will compare organic and non-organic farming, food and products.
- Students will define the benefits of organic farming, food and products.

English

- Students to find definitions for the words and terms on the ‘Organic Definitions’ activity sheet then put each into a sentence.
- Students to complete the ‘Becoming Organic’ activity sheet.
- Students to brainstorm the pros and cons of farming in an organic way.
- Students to formulate an advertising campaign to convince consumers that they should always buy organic food or products if they are available.
- Students to investigate how organic products are marketed. View print and electronic (television and web) ads. Is there a common theme in the ads? Are the products generally being marketed to a particular audience? Students to comment on their findings.
- Students to read the facts about organic farming and produce in the ‘Facts for students’ section (of the For Teachers for students website) and answer the questions on the ‘Understanding Organics’ activity sheet.
Mathematics

- Students to calculate the possible growth of Australia's organic industry over the next five years and graph the results. Students to consider that our organic industry is currently growing by up to 15 percent each year.

Science

- Students to discuss what a plant needs to grow from seed to healthy adult plant. Experiment with germination using a seed, glass jar, water and some cotton wool or create a student garden to learn about plant growth.

- Healthy soil is essential in organic farming. Students to research what constitutes healthy soil. Does it change depending on the plant being grown?

Humanities and Social Sciences (History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business)

- Students to research the history of one type of farming in Australia. Present a report to the rest of the class and include a comment on how farming has, and does, contribute to Australia's national identity.

- Students to select an organic producer or business and research how they produce and market their product/s.

The Arts (Dance, Drama, Media Arts, Music, Visual Arts)

- Students to produce a class collage using only organic materials.

Technologies (Design and Technology, Digital Technologies)

- Students to complete the ‘Organics KWL Chart' activity to sheet.

- Students to design some packaging for an organic product. The packaging must show that the product is organic.

- Students to research the role of herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers in farming. What can organic farmers use to promote growth and protect their plants from weather and/or pest damage?
Students to consider traditional and contemporary farming methods including those used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Students to discuss the term cross-contamination. How does this term relate to organic farming? Students then design or build a model of an organic farm that protects itself against cross-contamination.

Health and Physical Education

Students to brainstorm which vitamins and minerals can be found in various foods then complete the ‘Nutrients in Foods’ activity sheet.

Languages

Students to research organic farming in other countries, including which countries have a rapid growth in the organic industry.

Students to learn how to say some common organic products in another language.