



Social
Studies



Art

BASKETBALL CHARM

Grade Level

2-6

Length of Lesson

45 minutes

Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to recognize different agricultural commodities that are used to make various products in sports.

Materials Needed

- Jewelry size resealable baggies (found in craft stores)
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- Copies of student worksheet
- Materials for baggie*

Standards

IL Social Studies

Standards

SS.G.2.5; G.3.2-3; EC.2.4-5; EC.2.6-8LC; IS.4.6-8

Illinois Visual Arts

VA:Cr2.1.2-5; Cr2.3.2-6; Cr3.1.2-6; Re7.1.2-6; Cn10.1.2-6

Lesson Summary

This lesson is a fun, hands-on activity to help students become aware of how important agriculture is in the world of sports.

Feel free to adapt as necessary. Some items may have more than one object to represent them, and you could use one or the other or both.

*Materials for Baggies: Cotton balls, toothpicks, small rubber bands, cow-shaped confetti, pig-shaped confetti, basketball-shaped confetti, peach-shaped confetti, soybeans, corn and wheat kernels, peanuts, popcorn, gum pieces, ticket roll

Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Cut the yarn into 24" pieces (long enough to use as a necklace). To save time, split materials into bins for students to have at their tables.
2. Read through the IAITC Ag Mags that tie with this activity to learn more about those commodities.
3. Complete the activity following the procedures:
 - Give each student a student worksheet, baggie, piece of yarn, and all the materials that go inside the baggie.
 - Read through the student worksheet together, filling their baggies with the materials as you go through.
 - Once all the materials are in, have them seal the baggies and use the hole punch to punch a hole in the baggie, above the seal.
 - Thread the piece of yarn through the hole and tie a knot at the ends.
 - Have students put on their new basketball charms.
6. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.

TEACHER RESOURCES

Extension Ideas:

- Make this charm during your school's basketball season and encourage your students to wear their charms to a game!
- [Watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4WLF8JUuUo) our virtual field trip to the U of I Basketball Hall of Fame. Video can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4WLF8JUuUo>
- Did your students know how much agriculture impacted sports? Once the charms are made, have students choose one of the materials in their baggies that they were surprised about and share their thoughts with a classmate.
- Learn more about the wood used for basketball courts [here](https://blog.cityfloorsupply.com/why-are-sports-floors-always-made-out-of-maple-wood/): <https://blog.cityfloorsupply.com/why-are-sports-floors-always-made-out-of-maple-wood/>
- Learn more about the impact agriculture has had on the state of Illinois. Have students complete the "Ag-Venture With Illinois History" worksheet as they read through the IAITC Illinois History Ag Mag.
- Go to agintheclassroom.org to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!



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STUDENT WORKSHEET

Directions: Read through each item that can be found at a basketball game and put the materials that represents that into the baggie!

Uniforms – Many uniforms are made from cotton, so first add a small **cotton ball**.

Basketball – Most basketballs used today are covered with a leather outer shell made from cow hide. Add **confetti cows** or **confetti basketballs**. One average cow hide can be used to make 12 regulation basketballs. Inside the leather covering is a rubber bladder used to hold the air to the proper pressure. Add a small **rubber band**.

Shoes – Most basketball shoes are made from leather. Add more **confetti cows** to represent the leather.

Basket – James Naismith invented the game of basketball in 1891 by nailing peach baskets to the wall. Add **peach shaped confetti** to your bag.

Maple – Basketball is played on a hardwood maple floor. Maple flooring is very hard and resists ding and scratches. Add a **toothpick** to represent the flooring. Twelve maple trees are used from sustainably harvested forests to make each basketball court.

Tickets, Programs, and Schedules – These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans. To represent this use **soybeans** and actual **ticket stubs**.

Tape and Bandages – Corn dextrines and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents. Use **corn kernels** and **cow confetti**.

Foods eaten at the game are also connected to agriculture:

Soda – Soda is sweetened with corn syrup. Add **corn kernels** to your bag.

Hot Dogs – Hot dogs are made from pork and beef are placed in in a wheat bun made from wheat flour and are topped with relish made from cucumbers. Add **pig confetti** to your bag.

Peanuts and Popcorn – Both grown by farmers. Popcorn is the Illinois State Snack Food! Add **peanuts and popcorn** to your bag.

Nachos and Cheese – Nacho chips are made from corn flour with cheese made from dairy cows. Here add **corn kernels and cow confetti** to your bag.

Soft Pretzels – Pretzels are made from wheat flour and vegetable oil. Add **wheat kernels** to your bag.

Chewing gum – The base of chewing gum comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners. Use an actual **piece of gum**.

In your own words, explain how agriculture plays an important role in basketball.