

Virginia Picnic Blanket

Standards of Learning

Science K.2, K.4, 1.1, 2.1

English K.2, K.11, 1.2, 1.12, 2.3, 2.11

Objective

The student will be able to:

- determine questions required to make an accurate classification and prediction
- make predictions based on the categorization and description of an object
- utilize descriptive vocabulary in writing

Materials

- Artificial or real fruits, vegetables, and animals
Use Virginia products such as apples, pumpkins, potatoes, corn, grapes, green beans, wheat, peanuts, eggs, chickens, cows, hogs, turkeys
- A thin fabric such as a fabric table cloth

Background Knowledge

Many favorite picnic foods are made with items that are grown or raised in Virginia. In fact, the chicken in your chicken salad ranks as Virginia's top agricultural commodity (product). Many poultry farms are found in the Piedmont region of Virginia. Additionally, Virginia farmers produce apples; the wheat for your pasta salad; vegetables such as peppers, tomatoes, and potatoes; dairy products; pork for ham biscuits; even the cotton for your picnic blanket.

Procedure

1. Before students enter the classroom place 6-8 fruits and vegetables on a tabletop and cover with a thin cloth. Hint: It helps to number each item with a post-it on top of the cloth.
2. Divide the class into 4-5 groups. Then ask for 6-8 volunteers (one per object under the blanket).
3. The volunteers will take turns peeking under the blanket at their object. The rest of the class cannot see what is underneath.
4. Each group is allowed to ask 4-5 yes-or-no questions to try and determine the object under the blanket. Groups will take turns asking questions. The group that can accurately name the object wins.
 - Sample questions: Is it red? Can it be eaten? Does it grow under the ground? Is it a vegetable?
5. After all items have been accurately determined, place them on top of the blanket and explain that each of these items are grown or raised in Virginia.
6. Writing Activity
 - Option One: Have students choose one of the items to draw on their paper and then write adjectives to describe it.
 - Option Two: Have students write a descriptive paragraph about a picnic and their favorite picnic foods.

Extension

Have your own Virginia picnic in class – bring in real food items like the ones that were under the blanket and have a tasting party.



Possible Virginia picnic items:

- apple slices
- pasta salad with veggies and sliced chicken
- veggies with dip
- milk
- tortilla roll-ups with lunch meat and cheese
- potato salad



©

Agriculture in the Classroom
Achieve ♦ Inspire ♦ Teach ♦ Create
www.agintheclass.org