

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Across the USA

This lesson has been adapted from the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle and the presentation entitled "Books and Bulletin Boards" from the 2005 National AITC conference.

Objectives:

- To help students comprehend regional United States Geography
- To help students understand where foods we eat are grown
- To help students draw conclusions as to why certain foods are grown in various regions of the United States

Materials:

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Farm Facts "America the Bountiful" Map (from American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture)

State Agriculture Commodity Maps (from your State AITC Coordinator)

The Very Hungry (Midwest, Western, Southern, North Eastern) Caterpillar Books Templates

Regional Caterpillar books template & text—available at www.sdagclassroom.org

Commodity Samples from your state or region—contact your State Ag In The Classroom Coordinator for assistance

Bag Butterflies:

Snack Zip-loc Bags

Tissue Paper/Mylar Wrapping Paper

Confetti

Pipe Cleaners

Procedure:

Read Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to or with your students. Discuss the foods that the caterpillar eats and where we would find these foods.

Show "America the Bountiful Map", your state commodity map and other state commodity maps. Locate as many of the food items as possible on this map. Where all would the caterpillar have to travel to find these foods? Discuss ideas why certain foods are only produced in some areas and not all.

Locate where you live on the map. Discuss what region of the US that you live in. Have students brainstorm what foods the caterpillar might eat if he lived where you live and traveled only in the region in which you live. Follow up with a discussion of what he would find in other regions of the USA.

Have students make their own Regional Caterpillar books. This can be done with parent volunteers, school buddies, etc. You could also have your students work in groups each creating 1 of the regional books to share with the class.

TO MAKE BAG BUTTERFLIES: Place small pieces of tissue, wrapping paper and confetti in zip-loc bag. Seal and fold over top tab.

Pinch together vertically in the center. Bend pipe cleaner in half and twist around the bag. The ends of the pipe cleaners make the antennae for the butterfly.

Share/Read *The Very Hungry* (Midwest, Western, Southern, North Eastern) Caterpillar to or with your students in your school.

The Very Hungry Midwestern Caterpillar

Materials Needed:

Book Pages printed in Color on Card Stock

Cotton Balls

Green Washable Ink

Black Marker

Wheat

Popcorn

Wild Rice

Dry Edible Beans

Small Red Pom Poms

Clear Plastic Wrap

Jewelry Size Zip Top Bags

Hole Punch Book Rings

5 Medium Green Pom Poms 2 Wiggle Eyes

Activity Directions:

Page 1: Tear a small piece of cotton ball. Glue onto a leaf to represent the egg.

Page 2: Use green ink to make 6 fingerprints which will be your caterpillar.

Using a black marker, draw the face of the caterpillar along with his antennae.

Page 3: **Apples** are Michigan's largest & most valuable fruit crop. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 4: Ohio is second in the US in growing **Pumpkins**. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 5: South Dakota ranks #2 in **Sunflower** production. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 6: Iowa is the number one **Corn** producing state. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 7: Illinois is the number 2 **Soybean** producing state.. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 8: Attach the bag of **Sorghum** to the rectangle. Nebraska ranks #3 in Sorghum production.

Glue **Dry Edible Beans** in the bushel basket. North Dakota is the leader in the production of a variety of dry edible beans.

Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 9: Attach the bag of **Wheat** to the rectangle. Kansas is the number one wheat growing state.

Glue Wild Rice in the bushel basket. Wild Rice is the only native cereal grain in Minnesota, the second largest producer.

Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 10: Attach the bag of **Popcorn** to the rectangle. Indian ranks number 2 in popcorn production.

Glue Red Pom Poms in the bushel basket. **Cranberries** are Wisconsin's leading fruit crop. Add your fingerprint caterpillar.

Page 11: Missouri is the second leading Hay producer. Add your fingerprint caterpillar—upside down.

Page 12: Using green ink and your fingerprints, create a big caterpillar on this page.

Page 13: To make the chrysalis, wrap plastic wrap around a cotton ball and glue to the page.

Page 14: Attach a butterfly and any embellishments to the page.

Cover: Glue on the Pom Poms to make the Caterpillar. Add wiggle eyes, legs and antennae. Add the cover

Punch 2 holes in the left side of the cover and pages. Place all in book rings to complete.