



STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

My American Farm is a free, online program comprised of computer games that teach valuable concepts about American agriculture, while reinforcing core educational concepts such as reading, writing, math, science and social science. Through exciting and engaging games, My American Farm resources share the following, consistent messages:

- Agriculture is everywhere
- Farmers feed the world
- Farmers steward the land
- Farmers care for animals

The following are some of the great resources available at myamericanfarm.org:

- Interactive Games
- Standards-based Lesson Plans
- Fun Family Activities
- Activity Sheets
- E-comics
- Interactive poll questions
- Agriculturally Related Videos

Here are some strategies for how you can implement My American Farm in your community.

IN THE CLASSROOM

• Lesson Grab 'N Go

Check out "Educator Resources" on myamericanfarm.org, use the criteria in the left column to search by content area or agricultural topic. Select a lesson and go!

- **Teacher-Led Bell Work Activity** (10 minutes)
If you're short on computers, you can project your computer screen for all students to see and allow them to guide you through the activity either verbally or by calling them up to make the move for themselves. Engage students with this strategy at the start or conclusion of a class period.

• Computer Lab (30-45 minutes)

For this option, students complete the games individually or in pairs on a computer. Prior to turning students loose with the game, there are few decisions to make:

- Which activities would you like them to try? Or, will you leave it completely up to them?
- Will they need to play all of the activities in the time allotted? This is important if you want to see their final scores, as the game will not save progress from one sitting to the next. If you plan to have them return to the game later, have students record their score before closing the Web browser.



- **Activity Station** (10-15 minutes/station)
For many elementary classrooms, My American Farm may fit best by including it as an activity station for students to use during discretionary time.
- **Games as Pre/Post Test**
Give students the opportunity to play a game before a relevant lesson. After the lesson, have students play the game again to evaluate learning.
- **Early Completer Activity**
If a student finishes an assignment early, give them the opportunity to play an enriching My American Farm game online until peers have completed the task.
- **Rainy-Day Recess Activity**
If your students are stuck inside on a rain day, set up some computer stations with My American Farm.
- **Substitute Activity**
If you are creating plans for a substitute teacher, include a My American Farm game and activity sheet. Identify a game that correlates to your students' levels and interests. Next, select an activity sheet students can complete after playing the game.
- **Declare "My American Farm Month"**
Encourage students to download their passport to sustainability and play the games over a one-month period. If students complete all 12 games, they can display their completed passport on a special board in the classroom along with one thing they learned about agriculture. Consider giving out prizes to students with high scores in the class.
- **Earth Day Celebration**
Play *Keys to Stewardship* and discuss what farmers do to preserve our environment.
- **Food Day Celebration**
Read the *Finders Keepers* or *Farmers Market* e-comics with students and use the *Agriculture is Everywhere* lesson (or any other lesson) to discuss where our food comes from.

AT A FARM TOUR OR FARM DAY

- **Game Kiosk**
Are you inviting students to your farm or school for an educational experience? Set up one or two computers with the home page set to myamericanfarm.org. Allow students, parents and guests to play games while rotating through stations or waiting in between activities.
- **Activity Sheets**
Activity sheets are ready-to-go activities for students that need no further explanation or materials. Print off a few activity sheets from the My American Farm website and distribute as students arrive or leave your tour.
- **Fun Family Activities**
Peruse the fun family activities and select an easy project in which you can engage students at a learning station. "Seed Starter" is a perfect example of a simple activity that will open students' eyes to agriculture.

AT A COMMUNITY BUSINESS OR PLACE OF INTEREST

- **Game Kiosk**
Draw students and their parents into your place of business while spreading the word about agriculture. Set up a computer in a waiting room area with the home page set to myamericanfarm.org. Allow students and parents to play games while waiting for services.
- **Activity Sheets**
Print off a few activity sheets from the My American Farm website and distribute to students and parents who visit your place of work.

