

MAY

Counting Oranges



Activity Description: Students will count the number of segments in an orange and graph their results.

MATERIALS

- Oranges (enough for one per pair of students)
- Whiteboard for class to record results
- Whiteboard markers
- Graphing worksheet

Activity Steps

Activity Prep: Peel oranges for students.

Step 1: Split students into pairs.

Step 2: Explain that students will need to count the number of segments in an orange and write their results on the board.

Step 3: Hand out the oranges and graphing worksheets.

Step 4: Once all results are recorded, have students graph the results of the class on the worksheets.

Commodity
Oranges

Featured State
Florida

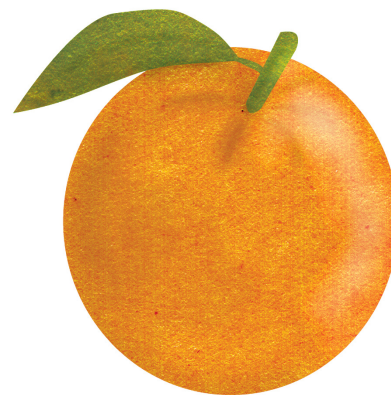
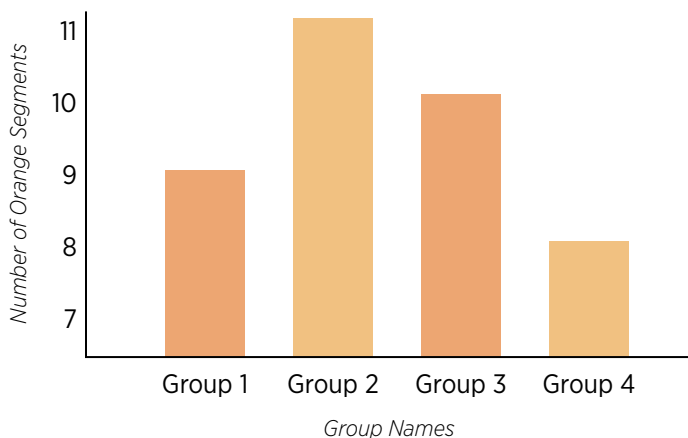
Suggested Book
Right This Very Minute by Lisl H. Detlefsen

Make a Snack!
Make orange juice smoothies for the class to enjoy as they learn about orange farming.

Processing Questions

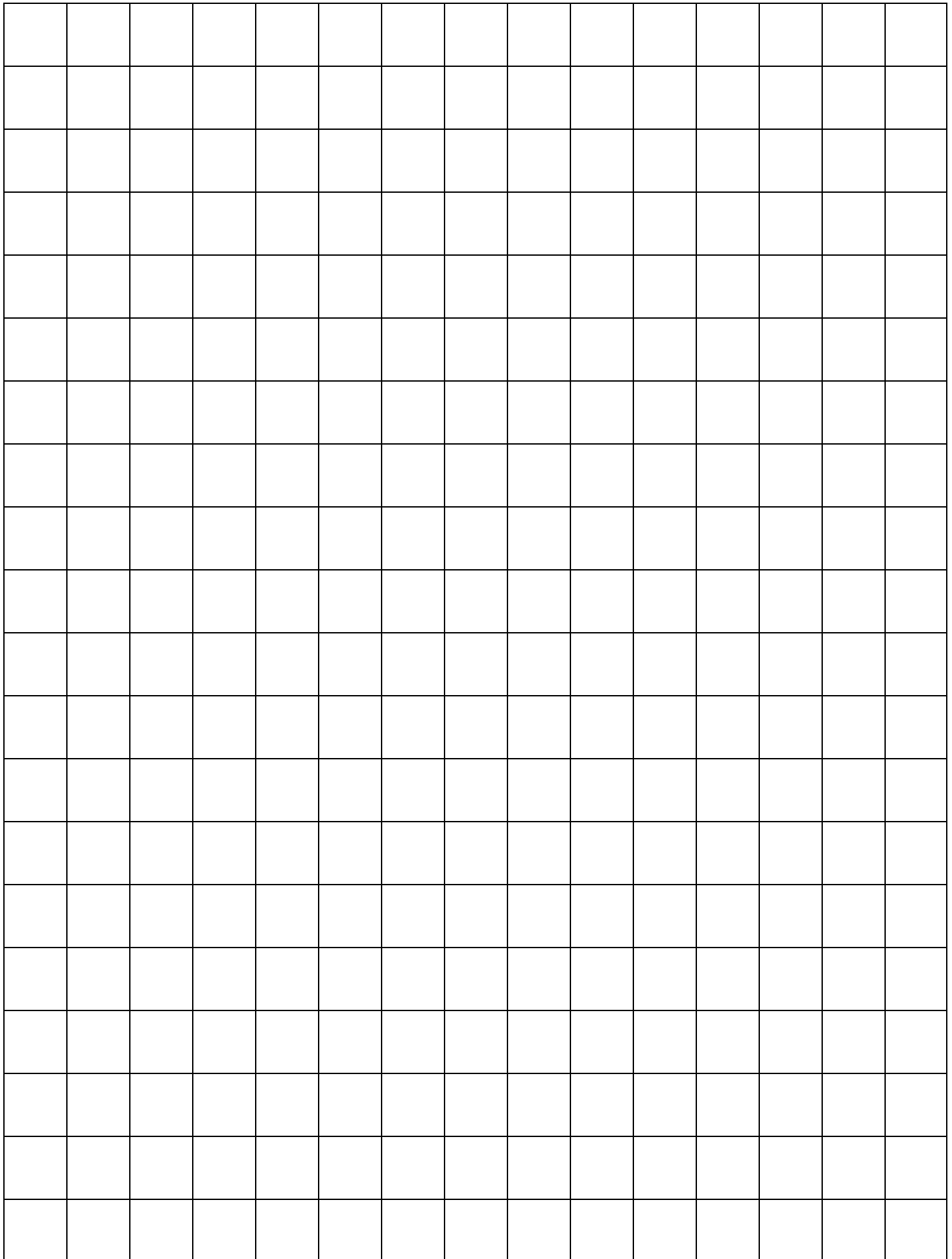
- Why are many oranges grown in Florida? Listen for students to share that oranges need warmer temperatures to grow.
- Where else might oranges be grown? Listen for students to identify “Florida,” “California,” “Texas” and “Arizona” as the top producing states.
- How do oranges get to us? Listen for students to share that farmers grow them, they are taken to a grocery store/farmers’ market/restaurant and we purchase them.

Sample Graph



Extension Opportunity

Post a U.S. and world map on a bulletin board. Have students collect stickers from oranges they buy at a grocery store. Add stickers to states/countries of origin for oranges eaten in your class.



Meet a Farmer!

Justin Sorrells

Dear Students,

I'm Justin Sorrells and I am a citrus grower in Arcadia, Florida. My family started growing citrus in the 1940s. I am in charge of harvesting, selling and marketing the fruit. My family members take care of the growing and management. We own 5,550 acres of citrus.

We plant about 40,000 trees every year. Did you know our average tree is 12 years old? We grow three orange varieties: Hamlin, Pineapple and Valencia. Planting different varieties allows us to harvest oranges all year long. We rent bees to come pollinate the citrus trees. The trees rely on plenty of water. Rainwater is the cheapest and easiest source of water. During dry years or in the summer we use well or pond water. Water is used to help warm the crops from freezing during the winter too. Freezing, pests and disease can ruin the crop. Did you know our orchards benefit the environment as well? Trees are a good source of oxygen for humans and animals. The groves in the orchards are a place for wildlife to live.

We have 1,000 full-time employees on the farm. But did you know we need an extra 450 people during harvest season? We pick the oranges off of the trees and put them on a truck to go to a processing plant. All of our oranges are made into fresh squeezed orange juice. We harvest 5 million boxes of oranges every year! One box of oranges weighs 90 pounds. That equals 45 million pounds of citrus from the farm.

I enjoy that I am now able to work with my dad every day. I look up to my dad. My other favorite part of my job is that I get to work in the great outdoors. I am not confined to an office where I have to sit at a desk all day. I'm proud to grow an American product!

Sincerely,

Justin Sorrells
Orange Farmer

