

Let's Visit an American Farm | Lesson Plan

How does the journey from seed to table illustrate the importance of agriculture in our lives?

By exploring Otto and Smidge's adventure on a farm, students will grasp the fundamentals of agriculture, including the cycle of planting, growing, and harvesting, and recognize the significance of farming in providing for our communities.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will recount the steps involved in planting and caring for a seed, as seen in Otto and Smidge's adventure.
- Define and use key vocabulary related to the story and farming concepts.
- Reflect on the importance of agriculture in community sustenance and environmental stewardship.
- Identify the sequence of events in a story.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Agriculture:** The science of farming, including the cultivation of soil for crops and the raising of livestock for food, wool, and other products.
- **Crops:** Plants that are grown and harvested to be used as food or livestock feed.
- **Harvest:** The time or season when the crops are ripe enough to gather and be used for food or livestock feed.
- **Fertilize:** The process of providing crops or soil with nutrients to grow.
- **Distributors:** The distributors act as middlemen between farmers and consumers. The distributors provide the grocery stores with the final product.
- **Planter:** A farm machine that attaches to a tractor and is used to sow seeds in a field.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.R.4

Academic Subject Areas: America, Hard Work, American Values

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm* (Click [Here](#))
- Small pots, soil, seeds (beans or sunflowers), water.

Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (5-7 mins.)



1. Ask students if they've ever visited a farm or grown their own plants. Briefly introduce *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm*, highlighting the characters Otto and Smidge and their farm adventure for this lesson about farming in America.
2. Introduce the key vocabulary with simple definitions and ask students to guess what role each might play in Otto and Smidge's adventure.

Watch and Discuss: (15-20 mins.)

1. Show the students the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm*.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding of key vocabulary words and their meaning.
3. After the video, discuss the following with the students:
 - Identify the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
 - Why did Smidge want to plant her own corn? What does this tell us about food sources?
 - What challenges did Otto and Smidge face on the farm, and how did they overcome them?
 - How do the wind turbines in the story affect the farm and its surroundings?

Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

Activity: Seed Planting Mini-Activity

1. Activity Setup: Distribute materials to each student. Guide them through filling their pot with soil, planting their seed by making a small hole in the center of the soil, dropping in the seed, covering it gently, and watering it lightly.
2. Relate each step of the planting activity to Otto and Smidge's experiences on the farm. For example, when planting the seed, remind students of the patience and care Smidge needed for her corn to grow, just as they will need to care for their plant. Discuss the following:
 - What do plants need to grow?
 - Why is it important to plant seeds carefully?
 - How do farmers help feed our community?
3. As a formative assessment, allow students to complete the *Let's Visit an American Farm Worksheet*.
4. Conclude by highlighting the lesson's enduring question and understanding objective, asking students to share one new thing they appreciate about farming or a farmer's role in their community.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit an American Farm* [coloring page](#) and allow students to discuss their favorite character or part of the story.