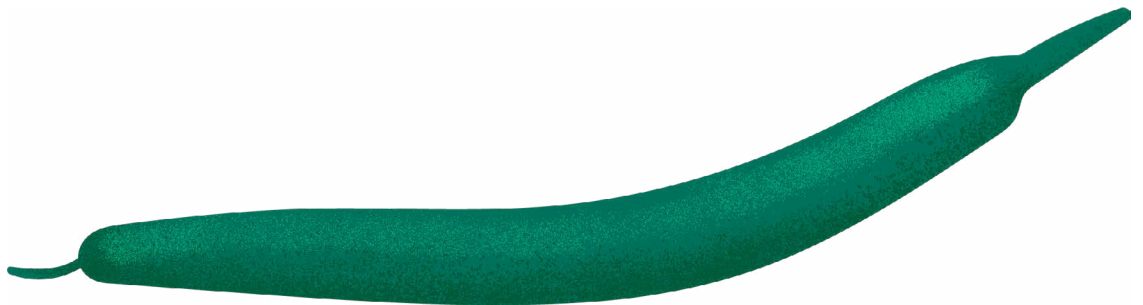


Taste the Land

Year 5 – Humanities and Social Sciences

Year 6 – Technologies



(HASS; Yr 5, ACHASSK112)

The influence of people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, on the environmental characteristics of Australian places

(HASS; Yr 5, ACHASSK113)

The environmental and human influences on the location and characteristics of a place and the management of spaces within them

(Design Technologies; Yr 5&6, ACTDEK021)

Investigate how and why food and fibre are produced in managed environments and prepared to enable people to grow and be healthy

Cross-curriculum priority

Sustainability

Taste the Land

When we think of agriculture we tend to envisage large-scale wheat or dairy farms. But farms come in many shapes and sizes. This lesson aims to help students learn about the wide variety of farms that feed the world, and culminates in their own future farm design project.

Equipment:

An interactive whiteboard with access to the internet for research

Duration:

30 minutes, plus time in additional sessions for their design projects as needed

Location:

The classroom

Notes:

Defining Farms

- Ask students to tell you what a farm looks like. Record all of their ideas.
- Here is a photo gallery of family farms from around the world:
 - ◇ Food and Agriculture Organisation (of the United Nations) Family Farming photo gallery: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/resources/photos/en/#c251731>

Watch the slideshow with students and ask:

- ? What kinds of foods did you see being produced?
- ? What do students think defines a 'family farm'?
- ? Do students think there are lots of kinds of farms in the world?
- With students directing the key word searches, explore Google Images, Google Earth or similar search sites as a class, looking at farms.

What is a farm?

Watch **The One with the Tractor**



- Does this farm look like you'd expect? What is surprising/interesting about the farm, or the people who work there? (e.g. Harry the farmer used to work in a big inner-city high-rise office.)

? Explore the question: what is a farm?

- Read these definitions together:
 - ◇ United States Department of Agriculture: "A farm is defined as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the year." <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-household-well-being/glossary/>
 - ◇ Australian Bureau of Statistics: "Farmers and farm managers plan, organise, control, coordinate and perform farming operations in agricultural establishments. Tasks performed typically include planning and coordinating the operation of hatcheries and crop production; breeding and raising livestock; monitoring and maintaining the health of stock; identifying and controlling environmental toxins, weeds, pests and diseases; organising and conducting farming operations such as maintaining buildings, water supply and equipment; managing business capital, monitoring market activity and planning production to meet contract requirements and market demand." <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Main+Features10Dec+2012>
- ? Do students agree or disagree with these definitions?

All kinds of farms, from fishery to forestry

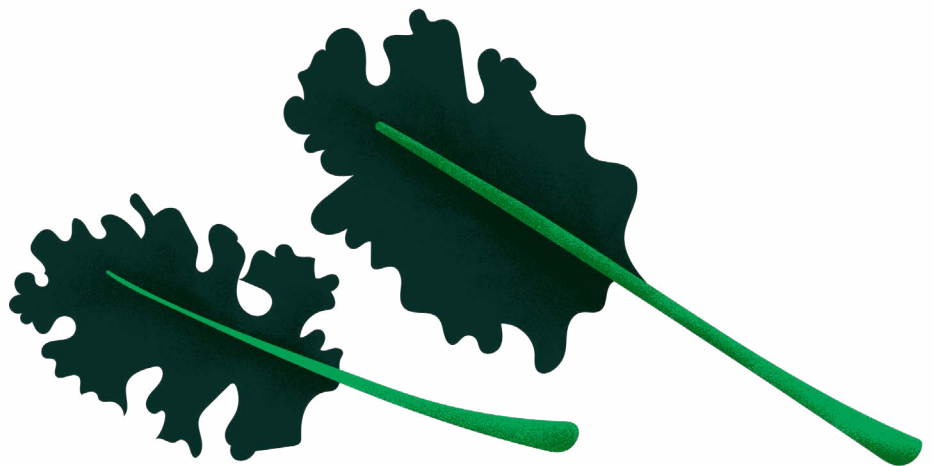
- What products could a farm grow and sell? Make a list together, then have a look at this list from the Australian Bureau of Statistics that defines all the agricultural businesses (over 120,000 of them!) in Australia:
- ◇ Australian Bureau of Statistics – Number of Businesses with Agricultural Activity by Industry 2011-2:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/7106.0Main%20Features%202013?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=7106.0&issue=2013&num=&view=>

Farms in our area

- Students research the farming activity taking place in the local area. They may decide to research:
 - ◇ Pioneering stations/large farms from the area's past.
 - ◇ A product they like (E.g. eggs, honey) and where this product comes from in your region.
 - ◇ Agricultural service businesses, such as tractor engineering and irrigation businesses.
 - ◇ Ocean farming businesses in the area.

For their report, students must answer these questions:

- ? What features of the landscape or place make this particular farming business viable? (E.g. fish farms need a quiet backwater where the sea is not rough; irrigation businesses exist near farming towns and a major roads.)
- ? How does climate of the area affect what is produced there? (Use the Bureau of Meteorology website to get historical weather data. www.bom.gov.au – data section.)
- ? Who were the key group who helped establish this type of business in our area, and when did this type of agriculture begin here? (E.g. citrus growing in Mildura began after WWII and was pioneered by Italian migrants.)



Yam Gardens

👁 Watch **The One on a Log** and discuss what a yam garden might've looked like. How would it have been similar/different to the farms of today?



Tips

- When students are selecting their topic, don't forget to include the following options in the mix: fibre (cotton, linen), forestry, fish and livestock farming as well as food (vegetables, grains).
- To find out about local agriculture, try searching for 'agriculture in XXX region'.
- If you are in a metropolitan school, look for the regions nearest your city that provide market gardens and farms feeding your city. Find them on a map and point out to students the roads and railways that link these areas to the city. (Optional link to history: a major agricultural area often has a railway running near it. Rail used to be the way produce was transported to ports, rivers or city markets. Some of these railways are gone but their routes can often be seen on Google Earth.)

Resources

- ◇ Australian Bureau of Statistics – Farming in Brief, 2013: <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Latestproducts/7106.0Main%20Features12013?opendocument&tabname=Summary&prodno=7106.0&issue=2013&num=&view=>
- ◇ Australian Bureau of Statistics – Australian Social Trends 2012 – Australian Farming and Farmers: <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Main+Features10Dec+2012>
- ◇ Bureau of Meteorology – Climate Data Online: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/>
- ◇ FAO International Year of Family Farming: <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-2014/en/>