Corn in the Classroom

Did You Know?
The Basics

Sweet Corn

- Corn you eat
- Corn-on-the-cob, canned corn or frozen corn
- Less than 1% of corn grown in the U.S.
The Basics

- Popcorn
  - Stores water
  - When heated, the water builds up pressure
  - Explodes into the fluffy white snack we all love
The Basics

Field Corn (dent corn)

- Hard outer portion - about the thickness of your fingernail
- Inner portion is soft and floury
- 99% of corn grown in the U.S.
The Basics

- Most corn farms are owned by families like these.
The Basics

- Missouri grows over 435 million bushels of corn every year on average
- One bushel equals 56 lbs.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agriculture Statistics Service
The Basics

- Can you guess how many kernels are on one ear of corn?
The Basics

Answer:

There are 800 kernels on an average ear of corn!
Many Uses of Corn

- Feed: 39%
- Ethanol & Coproducts: 27%
- Export: 12%
- Other: 9%
- Surplus: 12%

Source: National Corn Growers Association
Many Uses of Corn

- Livestock Feed
Many Uses of Corn

- Ethanol
Many Uses of Corn

- Exports

  *Top U.S. Corn Importers*

  - Japan
  - Mexico
  - China
  - Venezuela
  - Taiwan
  - Canada
  - South Korea
Many Uses of Corn

- High Fructose Corn Syrup
Many Uses of Corn

- Other
Science of Corn

- Corn needs water to grow
  - Rain
  - Irrigation
- Corn also releases water in the air
  - Transpiration
Science of Corn

- Sun is important to corn
  - Helps make energy
  - Helps it to grow big and strong
Today farmers grow 5 times as much corn as they did in the 1930s on 20% less land.
For More Information

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