Lesson plan – Food & farming

Schemes of work links
Citizenship Key stage 3  Unit 21: People and the environment
Geography Key stage 3  Unit 14: Can the earth cope?
Science Key stage 3  Unit 7C: Environment and feeding relationships
Unit 8a: Food and digestion
Unit 8D: Ecological relationships
Unit 9D: Plants for food
Art & Design Key stage 3  Unit 7C: Recreating Landscapes
ICT

Prior learning
Students should have some knowledge of what a farm is.

Points to note
Teachers will need a good understanding of the differences between intensive and sustainable farming, and their impact on the environment. See Food and farming booklet for information.

Learning objectives
• Understanding of the processes involved, and the similarities and differences between intensive and sustainable farming.
• The impact on the environment of intensive and sustainable farming.
• To use the internet and other sources for research.
• To develop communication skills through discussion.

Lesson structure

Introduction
Children should share what they already know about intensive farming and sustainable farming.

Activity (over two lessons, one for research/one for modelling)
Use the Food and farming booklet (pages 4 and 8) and internet research to compare and contrast intensive and sustainable farming.

Points to cover include:
• How crops are grown.
• How many different types of crops are grown?
• Are pesticides used?
• What wildlife visits the farm?
• How crops are transferred to where they are sold.
In small groups use the information to create a 3D model of either an intensive or a sustainable farm

**Plenary**
Children to provide feedback to whole group on what they have researched. Discuss which type of farming has the lowest impact on the environment.

Share ideas as to how we, as individuals, can make a difference. Use pages 10-13 of *Food and farming* booklet for ideas.

**Extension Activity**
Visit a nearby farm.

**Resources**
*Food and farming* booklet [http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/food_farming.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/factsheets/food_farming.pdf)
Useful web addresses:
[www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/index.html](http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/real_food/index.html)
[www.hdra.org.uk](http://www.hdra.org.uk)

**Key words/vocabulary**
Sustainable farming
Intensive farming
Pesticides
GM (genetically modified)

**Success criteria**
Children will understand what is meant by intensive farming and sustainable farming, and what impacts farming has on the environment.