TASTE TESTING IN THE CLASS
- Ask students about the shape, texture, size and color of the strawberries!
- Notice how the seeds are located on the outside of the fruit and how this differs from other fruits.
- Take pictures and share in your school newsletter to enhance later discussion on nutritional benefits of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Visit Florida Farm to School online about produce safety in the class!

GARDEN IN CLASS
BRINGING THE FARM INTO THE CLASSROOM!
Want to show your students how a strawberry is grown or a strawberry U-pick farm in their area? Use our provided garden activities as resources to use for your own school garden outside or visit the Fresh from Florida website to find a U-pick farm in your area! Visit www.FreshFromFlorida.com to find a local U-Pick to take your classroom on a field trip!

Florida Strawberries

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Adam H. Putnam, Commissioner
Math

Vocabulary: percent, pie graph

Produce: Strawberries

Standard: MAFS.1.0A.3.5
Demonstrating fluency for addition and subtraction within 10.

Materials: pencil and paper

Teacher Background Information:
Hillsborough County produces about 15 percent of the nation’s strawberries and virtually all the berries grown during the winter. The commodity has an economic impact on our community exceeding $700 million. The 20 million flats produced each year, if placed end to end, would extend from Plant City to Seattle and back again.

Students will:
- Solve the following equation: In 1884, Henry Plant extended the South Florida Railroad into Plant City. How many years have passed since then?
- 4th and 5th grade
- If 15 % of the nation’s strawberries are grown in Hillsborough county what percent is grown elsewhere in the nation?
- 5th grade
- Draw a pie graph to illustrate this problem.

Closing: Have students write out solutions on the board

Science

Vocabulary: runner, propagation

Produce: Strawberry

Standard

Materials: Following items per student: older vine-ripened strawberry, cup of potting soil, paper plate, paper towel, Ziploc bag

Teacher will:
- Use strawberry seeds from a strawberry to germinate seeds.

Background Information:
Strawberries have over 200 seeds on the outside of a medium size strawberry. For this investigation it is better to use a strawberry that is not fresh but not mushy.

Students will:
- Scrape off seeds from strawberries. Put them on a paper plate near a window to dry for 2-3 days. Scatter the dried seeds into a Ziploc bag with a moist paper towel. Keep near lighted area. Check on seeds every 3-7 days.
- Once germinated, use a tooth pick to prepare a hole to put the germinated seeds into a cup of soil. Gently cover the sprouts with soil and place near a window. Keep the soil moist.

Closing: Students can describe the different steps to creating germinating seeds.

Social Studies

Vocabulary: capital

Produce: Strawberry


Materials: map, colored pencils, social studies worksheet

Teacher Background Information:
Plant City, Florida became the “Winter Strawberry Capital of the World” over a hundred years ago, when Henry Plant decided to build a railroad to Tampa, FL. The railroad offered unique potential for local growers to market their winter strawberries to the entire east coast.

Students:
- 20 million strawberry flats are produced in Hillsborough County each year, if placed end to end, they would extend from Plant City, FL to Seattle, WA and back again. Use the map below and draw the flats from Plant City to Seattle, Washington. How many states would this line travel through? List all of the states you would travel through from Hillsborough County to Seattle and back again and mark them on the map worksheet.

Closing: Looking at the map, students will explain how they think the location of Hillsborough County helped it to become so popular for sending strawberries throughout the U.S. and the world including all forms of transportation.

Language Arts

Vocabulary: moral, luscious

Produce: Strawberries

Standard
LAFS.3.RL.1.2, LAFS.4.RL.1.2, LAFS.4.RI.3.8, LAFS.5.RL.1.2

Materials: The First Strawberries retold by Joseph Bruchac

Teacher will:
- Read and discuss the story The First Strawberry. Make sure the students are understanding the sequence. Have the students share the feelings of the woman and express a time when they have felt angry. Then have them explain what someone did to make them feel better.

Students will:
- Students will retell the story The First Strawberry by creating a comic strip. The end frame will tell the moral of the story.

Closing: Students can create their own story showing a time they were angry and how someone made them feel better.

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