

activities



The Wheat Plant



Collect some stalks of wheat and make into flower arrangements, add other flowers and greenery you may find.



Using wheat stalks, paint with the spike like a paint brush. See the strange patterns you get.



Collect some wheat grains and crush a grain between two stones (or with adult supervision slice a grain in half with a scalpel). Can you name the different parts of the wheat grain? What is each part used for? Use a dough or clay recipe from the 'Wheat and Flour Use' Activity Sheet to model a halved wheat grain. Use different food colouring to show each layer or colour using felt pens before varnishing.



You can use wheat grains to make an interesting picture. Draw a picture and add texture to it by carefully spreading glue on the areas you want the wheat to stick to. Sprinkle wheat grains over the area. Leave in a warm place to dry.



Display a large map of New Zealand on your wall. Find out where wheat is grown in New Zealand and the different types of wheat cultivated in each area. Make up small pictures for each type of wheat and stick on the ends of drawing pins. Add a Key to your map which explains the pictures. Pin your pictures to the appropriate area on the map.



What are the worst enemies of wheat? Are they the same for in the field and in the silos?

Potty over Wheat



Grow wheat plants in decorative pots for your classroom. Name your plant and give it the best care possible. Chart its daily growth and compare your results with other potted wheat plants. Can you tell who is giving their wheat plant the right amount of water, air, sunlight and the nutrients it needs?



How does the farmer decide when the wheat is ready for harvesting? What are the best weather conditions for harvesting?



Make a musical instrument

Put some wheat grains in a plastic bottle. Screw on the lid. Decorate however you like. Now you have your very own percussion instrument. What other instruments can you make?



Wheat Weaving Napkin Rings

Wheat weaving is an inexpensive craft to learn and the finished product looks delightful. Ask a farmer if you could have a handful of wheat stalks. Try plaiting three or four stalks. Leave the wheat heads attached. When you have finished your plait, wind it around a cardboard tube, taping both ends to the tube. Using a cotton thread of the same wheat colour and a needle, carefully stitch the plaits together. Make sure you start and finish with a strong knot. Undo tape and slide off the tube. Roll up a napkin and pull through the ring.

If, after making the napkin rings, you feel adventurous look for pictures of corn dollies, fans and cornucopias to try.



Sprouted Wheat

Grow some wheat plants outside your classroom window or in a rectangular tub. An ideal place is one where the plants will get lots of sun and rain water. Before planting work the soil over and give it a healthy dose of fertiliser such as superphosphate (if needed). If using a tub buy a potting mix that has fertilisers already added. Plant your wheat grain 2 centimetres apart and 3 centimetres deep. Don't forget to water regularly. Watch the plants grow and keep a diary. When summer comes around and your wheat plants have turned golden brown and the grain is ripe, do not harvest them. The wheat grains will drop to the soil and germinate into new plants.



Mr Wheaty

You will need:

A piece of Mesh material like muslin

(or stockings are good for this).

1 tablespoon Wheat

1/2 cup of Sawdust

A jar

String

What to do:

Mix wheat with sawdust. Place the mixture in the middle of the cloth and tie string tightly around it to form a "head".

Draw a face with waterproof pens or stitch a face with embroidery thread (you could use buttons for eyes).

Fill the jar 3/4 full with water and then place the completed "person" in the jar (with the head resting on the rim).

If the cloth is not very absorbent you may need to water the head occasionally.

Leave the jar in a warm place. It should only take a week for the first "hair" to sprout.

