

Science Story Adventures



El Mercado (The Market)

Learning outcomes

» Looks at the beliefs, customs, ceremonies, traditions, and social practices of varied cultures, drawing from folklore. (Grade 1)

Adapted from California History-Social Science Content Standards

Books we read

Yum! Mmmm! ¡Qué rico! by Pat Mora

Día de Mercado by Lois Ehlert

Activities we did

We played 'In Grandmother's Basket...', a game to help us learn the Spanish names of some fruits and vegetables that originated in Central and Southern America.

Everybody sits in a circle and the first kid holds the basket and puts in an item of food (see list below). He or she says "In grandmother's basket there is(food item).

The next kid picks up another item and puts it in the basket, saying "In grandmother's basket there is ...(first food item) y ...(second food item).

Go around the circle until everyone has had a turn. Here are some Spanish names for foods:

Chocolate - Chocolate	Vanilla - Vainilla
Peanuts - Cacahuates	Sweet potato - Camote
Pineapple - Piña	Red pepper - Chiles
Potato - Papa	Papaya - Papaya
Avocado - Aguacate	Tapioca - Tapioca
Bell peppers - Pimientos morrones	

Today's craft: Mini Carreta



In Costa Rica there is a tradition of going to market in an ox cart called a *carreta*. People have been decorating these *carretas* for over a hundred years. The decoration shows which family the cart belongs to, and they are now part of any fiesta or parade.

You will need:

- » Cart template (see attached)
- » Crayons
- » White cardstock
- » 2 butterfly clips
- » 2 yogurt pot lids
- » Sticky tape

Directions:

1. Print or draw the template onto cardstock and cut out sections marked with large 'x's'.
2. Color the sides of the cart and the wheels (lids) - you can copy the pattern from a real *carreta* (see website on next page) or make up your own.
3. Crease along the sides of the cart, fold and tape.
4. Push the butterfly clips through the center of the wheels and through the small 'x' on the side of the cart.
5. Spread the clips out so that they are flat against the inside of the cart.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

The Biography of Chocolate by Adrianna Morganelli. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SB267 .M67 2006

All about chocolate: where it comes from, how it's made, how it gets to the store. Provides a history of the popular cacao-derived food, describing the evolution of chocolate's production and usage from Mayan times to the present day.

From Cocoa Bean to Chocolate by Robin Nelson. Nat. Ctr. Juv. TX792 .N45 2003

An introduction to the process of making chocolate, from the time the farmer plants a cocoa tree to the time someone eats a piece of candy.

Hoy Toca Chocolate by Trinitat Gilbert. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SB267 .G55 2006

Takes a look at chocolate as a crop. Provides information about cultivation, harvesting and processing of the cacao nut into the final product known as chocolate.

Potatoes by Sylvia A. Johnson. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SB211 .P8 J63 1984

Describes the development of the potato, including information on planting seed potatoes, sprouting, the growth of the plant and its underground tubers, and the role played by tubers in the life of the potato plant.

What the World Eats by Faith D'Aluisio. Nat. Ctr. Juv. TX353 .M438 2008

A photographic collection exploring what the world eats featuring portraits of twenty-five families from twenty-one countries surrounded by a week's worth of food.

Websites

All About Chocolate: Just for Kids

Explore and you'll get a chance to "make" chocolate online! Also includes fun facts, recipes and games.

<http://www.fmnh.org/chocolate/kids.html>

California Avocado History

Avocadoes originated in Mexico and are now grown all over the world. Check out the 'fun facts' page as well.

<http://www.avocado.org/california-avocado-history/>

Facts and Fiction About Sweet Potatoes

Just what is the relationship between sweet potatoes, potatoes and yams? Find this out, along with much other interesting information.

<http://www.ncsweetpotatoes.com/kids-stuff/54.html>

Peanut Circus Club: A history of peanuts.

Find out how peanuts came to be one of America's favorite foods.

<http://www.peanutcircusclub.com/history.htm>

Pineapple History

Pineapple originate from what is now called Brazil and Paraguay. Find out how the pineapple got its name and learn some of its history.

<http://www.pineappleindia.com/Fruit-History.html>

Potatoes

Did you know that Thomas Jefferson introduced french fries to the U.S.A when he served them at the White House during his presidency of 1801-1809. Learn more about potatoes here.

<http://www.lovepotatoes.co.uk/the-potato/history-of-potatoes/>

Tomato: Fruit or vegetable?

Top ten facts about tomatoes.

http://www.kidsarus.org/kids_go4it/growit/plantit/tomatoes.htm

Vanilla

Find out the origins and history of one of our favorite spices.

<http://www.aihd.ku.edu/foods/vanilla.html>

Carretas

Images of many beautiful *carretas*. Click on 'enlarge' to check out the amazing details.

<http://www.ddbstock.com/largeimage/sarchi.html>

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