

Curriculum Accompaniment:

One Kansas Farmer: A Kansas Number Book

Written by Devin & Corey Scillian

Illustrated by Doug Bowles

Curriculum Designed by Storytime Village, Inc.

Context

One Kansas Farmer: A Kansas Number Book is an educational travelogue of the state's history, geography, famous people, and places. The topics in the story include the dancing prairie chickens and the invention of the microchip. *One Kansas Farmer* provides students with a rhythmic and inspirational view of Kansas' common stories and historical facts along with stories in and information that are not so common history; it also allows students to build an awareness of history that creates Kansas pride.

Pre-Reading

One Kansas Farmer provides the reader a sidebar expository that will give context to the story. To help the students gain new knowledge about Kansas history and to encourage active listening, follow these steps before reading the story:

1. *Reflection:* Ask students what they know about Kansas. You can prompt them by asking questions about the state flower, tree, bird, etc. Responses can be written or spoken in a quick discussion. Then ask the students what they want to know about Kansas. Perhaps they will find the answers in the story. The overall goal of this activity is to get students thinking about Kansas and curious about what they do not know / can learn.
2. *Vocabulary:* Term by term, ask students if they have heard of the word and what they think it means. After a quick discussion, tell students to give a signal queue when they have heard one of the terms during the reading— for example, touching their ear or snapping their fingers. This will keep them alert during the reading and build vocabulary recognition by encountering the terms in context.
 - a. Grain
 - b. Antelope
 - c. Motto
 - d. Stream
 - e. Culture
 - f. Rodeo
 - g. Reptile
 - h. Cottonwood
 - i. Salamander
 - j. Pioneer

Post-Reading

After reading *One Kansas Farmer*, there are several ways to expand the learning experience. We have provided a short, medium, and long-term follow-up assessment to ensure that education doesn't begin with the first page and end with the last.

Short Term: Comprehension & Analysis Questions

Right after the book is read, revisit the sidebar expository and reflect on the story with comprehension questions to make sure students understand what happened. These questions can either be delivered through discussion or assessment.

1. Why are Kansas farmers important? (See sidebar 1)
2. What is the name of the tune that became the state song? (See side bar 2)
3. What is the Kansas motto? (Sidebar 4)
4. What is Kansas state reptile and how do you identify it? (See sidebar 9)
5. What is the state insect that makes something sweet and sticky? (See sidebar 11)
6. What is the name of the tree that was adopted as the state tree? (See sidebar 15)
7. What is the name of 44-foot statute in Wichita that was created by Blackbear Bosin? (See sidebar 25)
8. Who invented the microchip? (See sidebar 50)

For deeper reflection on the topic, consider having students write a short journal assignment on one of the following topics:

1. Think about the Kansas history and facts shared in the story. What is your favorite Kansas fact? Create a story using that Kansas fact.
2. There is so much to learn about Kansas. What are other things facts about Kansas would you like to learn about, and why?

Medium Term: “Add” to the Story

One Kansas Farmer is a book about numbers, and this activity will allow students to “add” more facts and even some uncovered history to the story. Once the book is read, adding to the book offers both a fun arts and crafts opportunity and a way to expand their knowledge about Kansas. This activity can either be a take-home activity or be run in the classroom. Students will need writing and drawing materials as well as paper; students will add as many additional Kansas facts to the story as they would like. This will require research on their own. The students don't have to rhyme like the story, but they should illustrate their additions to the book. For example, if a student added 105 sunflowers to the story, they should include illustrations of bright yellow sunflowers with facts about when it became the state flower and any other facts they would like to share. All the facts and illustrations should be collected and stapled together to create a small book to create a *One Kansas Farmer: More Kansas Numbers Book*.

Long Term: Research Report

In this activity, students will research a Kansas historical figure or a senior family figure that was born in Kansas. They will either use sources or conduct interviews, then write a short paper on the history of that person. You can model this by having a student come to the front of class and asking basic questions like, “when did you start school?” and “What do you like to do in your free time?” and then tell students how you would begin your paper – by establishing who you're talking about, and then presenting the information in a way that makes sense. Depending on the level of the students, you can expand or collapse this activity; the main goal is to establish preliminary research skills through a simple version of that process. This activity will help students understand that Kansas history can be found in the history books and within the family, friends, and people around you.