



SOIL&WATER

CONSERVATION VIRTUAL FIELD TRIP SERIES



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Introduction to Agricultural Sustainability Virtual Field Trip



3D-Student Science Performance

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Grade: 9-12:

Integrated Biology, Integrated Chemistry, Environmental

Science, Agricultural Science

Lesson Topics:

Life and Earth Systems

Matter and Chemical Reactions

Human Impacts on Earth Systems

Sustainability

Performance Expectations (Standard) from State Standards or NGSS:

Integrated Biology:

Topic 6: Life and Earth's Systems

B16-ETS1-3: Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural and environmental impacts. [AR Clarification Statement: Solutions could include those designed by students or identified from scientific studies.]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.7: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem (BI16-ETS1-3)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information (BI16-ETS1-3)

RST.11-12.9: Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible (BI16-ETS1-3)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematical Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively (BI16-ETS1-3) MP.4:

Model with mathematics (BI16-ETS1-3)

Topic 7: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

BI-ESS3-1: Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity. [AR Clarification Statement: This PE is fully addressed in this course. Emphasis is on the way climate change has impacted human populations and how natural resources and natural hazards impact human societies.

Examples of climate change results which affect populations or drive mass migrations could include changes to sea level, regional patterns of temperature and precipitation, and types of crops and livestock available.

Examples of the dependence of human populations on technology to acquire natural resources and to avoid natural hazards could include damming rivers, natural gas fracking, thunderstorm sirens, and severe weather text alerts.]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (BI-ESS3-1)

WHST.9-12.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes. (BI-ESS3-1)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematical Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (BI-ESS3-1)

HSN.Q.A.1: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays. (BI-ESS3-1)

BI-ESS3-2: Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost benefit ratios. *[AR Clarification Statement: This PE is fully addressed in this course. Emphasis is on the designs of possible solutions. Emphasis is on the conservation, recycling, and reuse of resources (minerals and metals), and on minimizing impacts. Examples could include developing best practices for agricultural soil use, mining (coal, tar sands, and oil shales), and pumping (petroleum and natural gas).]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (BI-ESS3-2)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (BI-ESS3-2)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematical Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (BI-ESS3-2)

BI-ESS3-4: Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems. * [AR Clarification Statement: This PE is partially addressed in this course. Examples of data on the impacts of human activities could include the quantities and types of pollutants released, changes to biomass and species diversity, and changes in land surface (urban development, agriculture or livestock, and surface mining). Examples for limiting future impacts could range from local efforts (reducing, reusing, and recycling resources) to large-scale bioengineering design solutions (altering global temperatures by making large changes to the atmosphere or ocean).]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (BI-ESS3-4)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (BI-ESS3-4)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematical Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (BI-ESS3-4)

HSN.Q.A.1: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays. (BI-ESS3-4)

B17-ETS1-1: Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants. [AR Clarification Statement: Examples could include recycling, increased atmospheric carbon dioxide, ocean acidification, impacts on marine populations, increased wildfire occurrence, deforestation, and overfishing.]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.7: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem. (B17-ETS1-1)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (B17-ETS1-1)

RST.11.12.9: Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible. (B17-ETS1-1)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematical Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (B17-ETS1-1) MP.4:

Model with Mathematics. (B17-ETS1-1)

Integrated Chemistry:

Topic One: Matter and Chemical Reactions:

CI1-ETS1-2: Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller, more manageable problems that can be solved through engineering. [AR Clarification Statement: Examples of real-world problems could include wastewater treatment, production of biofuels, and the impact of heavy metals or phosphate pollutants on the environment.]

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.4 Model with Mathematics. (CI1-ETS1-2)

Environmental Science:

Topic One: Systems

EVS1-ETS1-1: Analyze a major global challenge to specify qualitative and quantitative criteria and constraints for solutions that account for societal needs and wants. [AR Clarification Statement: Qualitative and quantitative constraints can be used to analyze a major global challenge. Examples could include water quality with relation to biosphere, atmosphere, cryosphere, and geosphere.]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.7: Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem. (EVS1-ETS1-1)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (EVS1-ETS1-1)

RST.11-12.9: Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible. (EVS1-ETS1-1)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS1-ETS1-1) MP.4:

Model with Mathematics. (EVS1-ETS1-1)

Topic 2: Energy

EVS-ETS1-2: Design a solution to a complex real-world problem by breaking it down into smaller more manageable problems that could be solved through engineering. [AR Clarification Statement: Examples of solutions could include designing and refining solutions using solar cells and energy recovery from waste practices. Examples of constraints could include use of renewable energy forms and efficiency modeling.]

Topic 4: Sustainability

EVS-ESS3-1: Construct an explanation based on evidence for how the availability of natural resources, occurrence of natural hazards, and changes in climate have influenced human activity. [AR Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on sustainability of natural resources, extracting natural resources, and how human societies are economically impacted by these phenomena.]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.1: Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (EVS-ESS3-1)

WHST.9-12.2: Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narrations of historical events, scientific procedures/experiments, or technical processes. (EVS-ESS3-1)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS-ESS3-1)

HSN.Q.A.1: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays. (EVS-ESS3-1)

HSN.Q.A.2: Define appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling. (EVS-ESS3-1)

HSN.Q.A.3: Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities. (EVS-ESS3-1)

EVS-ESS3-2: Evaluate competing design solutions for developing, managing and utilizing energy and mineral resources based on cost-benefit ratios. * [AR Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on conservation, sustainability (e.g., recycling and reuse of resources), and minimizing impacts (e.g., Low Impact Design).]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (EVS-ESS3-2)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS-ESS3-2)

EVS-ESS3-3: Create a computational simulation to illustrate the relationships among the management of natural resources, the sustainability of human populations, and biodiversity. [AR Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on Arkansas-specific management and conservation of, costs of implementation and regulation of, and land use of (agriculture, mining, recreation, and urbanization) natural resources.]

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS-ESS3-3) MP.4:

Model with Mathematics. (EVS-ESS3-3)

EVS-LS2-7: Design, evaluate and refine a solution for reducing the impacts of human activities on the Environment and biodiversity. * [AR Clarification Statement: Emphasis in this course is on Arkansas-specific

solutions. Examples of human activities can include land use (agriculture, forestry, recreation, industry); sustainable and non-sustainable practices (crop rotations, eradication of invasive species); and solution resources may include Low Impact Design (LID) or bioremediation (Faulkner County, AR; Gulf of Mexico hypoxia zone.)]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

RST.9 -10.8: Assess the extent to which the reasoning and evidence in a text support the author's claim or a recommendation for solving a scientific or technical problem. (EVS-LS2-7)

RST.11-12.8: Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (EVS-LS2-7)

WHST.9-12.7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. (EVS-LS2-7)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS-LS2-7)

HSN.Q.A.1: Use units as a way to understand problems and to guide the solution of multi-step problems; choose and interpret units consistently in formulas; choose and interpret the scale and the origin in graphs and data displays. (EVS-LS2-7)

HSN.Q.A.2: Define appropriate quantities for the purpose of descriptive modeling. (EVS-LS2-7)

HSN.Q.A.3: Choose a level of accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement when reporting quantities. (EVS-LS2-7)

EVS-LS4-6: Create or revise a simulation to test a solution to mitigate adverse impacts of human activity on biodiversity. * [AR Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on designing solutions for a proposed problem (e.g., micro-bead pollution, invasive species, effects of sedimentation on the Arkansas Fatmucket, White-nose Syndrome affecting bat populations, and environmental pollution from hormones and antibiotics).]

Connections to the Arkansas Disciplinary Literacy Standards:

WHST.9 -12.5: Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience. (EVS-LS4- 6)

WHST:9 -12.7: Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation. (EVS-LS4-6)

Connections to the Arkansas Mathematic Standards:

MP.2: Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (EVS-LS4-6)

EVS4-ETS1-3: Evaluate a solution to a complex real-world problem based on prioritized criteria and trade-offs that account for a range of constraints, including cost, safety reliability, and aesthetics, as well as possible social, cultural and environmental impacts. [AR Clarification Statement: Modeling complex real-world problems using computer software could include simulating future population growth in terms of limited resources or evaluating water flow through different Earth and geo-engineered materials.]

Lesson Performance Expectations:

- Students will understand the importance of agricultural sustainability in regards to the lessening of the environmental impact the loss of nutrients and water have on the local ecosystem.
- Students will learn that collaboration between suppliers and farmers helps everyone by improving productivity and protecting local ecosystems.

Student Science Performance

Phenomenon: Agricultural Sustainability is the key to productivity and profitability for both farmers and suppliers.

Gather

1. Students will break into groups and define the following words:

- Agricultural Sustainability
- Wholesale suppliers and supply chain
- Continuous Agricultural Improvements
- Retailers

Reason (In this section students are generally: evaluating information, analyzing data, using mathematical/computational thinking, constructing explanations, developing arguments, and/or using models to reason, predict, and develop evidence.)

2. Students in groups will come up with two questions they have about the above word groups that may be answered in the video.

Class Discussion:

Questions to initiate Discussion:

Q: What is sustainability?

Q: How does one measure sustainability?

Q: What are the advantages of practicing sustainability at all economic levels? Q: How can a consumer concerned about sustainability influence a farmer?

Q: How can farmers practicing sustainability benefit buyers?

Q: Why would retailers be interested in farmers practicing continuous sustainability improvement?

(Teaching Suggestions: In this section provide insights into the focus of the class discussion. The questions are typically how, why, or what causes. This is a good place to prompt with crosscutting concepts.)

Do a KWL Chart about what students know about Agricultural Sustainability. What is sustainability? How does one measure sustainability? What are the advantages of practicing sustainability at all economic levels? How does sustainability concern at the buyer level help farmers? How can farmers be practicing sustainability help buyers? Why would retailers be interested in continuous farming sustainability improvement?

Tell the students that they are going to watch a video titled ‘*Introduction to Agricultural Sustainability Virtual Field Trip.*’ Before they start the video, have the students break into groups to define the following words:

- Sustainability
- Wholesale suppliers and supply chain
- Continuous Improvements (Agricultural)
- Retailers

BEFORE THE VIDEO, be sure the students understand that agricultural sustainability not only benefits the environment, but the farmer and buyers too. Many farmers are aware that water and nutrient conservation can translate into more profits for them. Big businesses take advantage of this by advertising to consumers their choice to go with products from sustainable farms.

Biology Teachers: This is a good time to cover/review human impact on ecological systems and how population dynamics/agriculture affect the local ecology and economics.

Chemistry Teachers: Cover how today’s technology is preserving water and nutrients in our ecosystems.

Environmental Science Teachers: This is a good time to cover/review human impact on ecological systems and how population dynamics/agriculture affect the local ecology and economics.

AG Teachers: This is a good time to cover/review human impact on ecological systems and how population dynamics/agriculture affect the local ecology, and the economics of farming profitability by using continuous agricultural improvement.

Farmers must be constantly aware of the resources they use to grow their crops. Practicing sustainability in the field mean less water and chemicals (herbicide and insecticide) treatments. This translates into more profit for the farmer and is environmentally friendly. Many farmers are aware that by continuously improving agricultural sustainability on their farms, they can appeal to big businesses who are interested in marketing products that come from ecological friendly farms.

Show the video ‘*Introducing Agricultural Sustainability Virtual Field Trip.*’

Communicate *(In this section students will be communicating information, communicating arguments (written and oral for how their evidence supports or refutes an explanation, and using models to communicate their reasoning and make their thinking visible.)*

After the video, break the students into three groups; the *Retailer* group, the *Wholesaler* group, and the *Farmer* group. Have each group brainstorm their area of study and explain to the class how important their area is to sustainability and conservation. Tell students they need to come up with at least six ways total and then report them to the rest of the class.

Students will turn in a two-paragraph reflection paper on what they learned and how these sustainability efforts can affect where they live.

Evidence of Student Proficiency

Students will understand the importance of agricultural sustainability in regard to the lessening of the environmental impact the loss of nutrients and water have on the local ecosystem.

Students will learn that collaboration between suppliers and farmers helps everyone by improving productivity and protecting local ecosystems.

Range of Typical Student Responses *This section provides a range of typical student responses, often using a three-point scale.*

Descriptors of grade-level appropriate student responses:

- *Full understanding: Student will have all the vocabulary defined, two questions for the video and will participate fully in the post video discussion. Reflection paper will show full connection between what they experienced and understand.*
- *Partial understanding: student will have 75% of the vocabulary defined and one question for the video. Reflection paper will only show partial connection between what they experienced and understand.*
- *Limited understanding: Student will have 50% or less of vocabulary defined, no questions for the video and show no understanding of what was learned in the reflection paper.*

Acting on Evidence of Learning *This is a brief description of the instructional actions to take based on the students’ performance. When the action includes extensive descriptors and/or materials, you may wish use **Appendix C.***

Description of instruction action and response to support student learning.

- *Action for student who displays partial or limited understanding: student will be partnered with a student who has full understanding, and reviewed with mentoring from the teaching student.*
- *Extensions of learning for student who displays full understanding: Assign a brainstorming project that*

allows students to design their own cover crop for a cash crop. Students could also interview local agencies as to the collaboration they have done with local farmers.

Science Practices:

Developing and Using Models (B16- ETS1-3) (EVS-LS4-6)

Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions (BI-LS1-5) (BI- ESS3-1) (BI-ESS3-4) (EVS-ETS1-2)
(EVS-ESS3-1) (EVS-LS2-7) (CI1-ETS1-2)

Planning and Carrying Out Investigations
(CI-ETS1-2) (EVS-ESS3-3)

Engaging in Argument from Evidence (BI-ESS3-2) (EVS-ESS3-2)

Asking Questions and Defining Problems (B17-ETS1-1) (EVS4-ETS1- 3)

Science Essentials:

- Use a model to predict the relationships between systems or between components of a system.
- Design a solution to a complex real-world problem, based on scientific knowledge, student-generated sources of evidence, prioritized criteria, and trade-off considerations.
- Plan, and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data and refine the design accordingly.
- Evaluate competing design solutions to a real-world problem based on scientific ideas and principles, empirical evidence, and logical arguments regarding relevant factors.
- Analyze complex real world-problems by specifying criteria and constraints for successful solutions.

Crosscutting Concepts:

Energy and Matter (EVS-ESS2-6)

Stability and Change (BI-ESS2-2) (BI- ESS3-4) (EVS-ESS3-3) (EVS-LS2-7)

Influence of Science, Engineering and Technology on Society and the Natural World (BI16-ETS1-3) (BI- ESS3-2) (BI-ESS3-4) (B17-ETS1-1)
(EVS-ESS3-1) (EVS-ESS3-2) (EVS- ESS3-3)

Cause and Effect (BI-ESS3-1) (EVS- ESS3-1) (EVS-LS4-6)

Science Addresses Questions About the Natural and Material World (BI- ESS3-2)

Science Essentials:

- The total amount of energy and matter in closed systems is preserved.
- Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible.
- New technologies can have deep impacts on society and the environment, including some that were not anticipated. Analysis of costs and benefits is a critical aspect of decisions about technology.
- Empirical evidence is required to differentiate between cause and correlation and make claims about specific causes and effects.
- Science knowledge indicates what can happen in natural systems-not what should happen. The latter involves ethics, values and human decisions about the use of knowledge.

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions

ESS3.A: Natural Resources

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems

ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

LS4.C Adaptation

Science Essentials:

- When evaluating solutions, it is important to take into account a range of constraints, including cost, safety, reliability, and aesthetics, and to consider social, cultural, and environmental impacts.
- Resource availability has guided the development of human society.

- Humanity faces major global challenges today, such as the need for supplies of clean water and food or for an energy source that minimizes pollution, which can be addressed through engineering. These global challenges also may have manifestations in local communities.
- Scientists and engineers can make major contributions by developing technologies that produce less pollution and waste and that preclude ecosystem degradation.
- Criteria and constraints also include satisfying any requirements set by society, such as taking issues of risk mitigation into account, and they should be quantified to the extent possible and stated in such a way that one can tell if a given design meets them.
- Criteria may need to be broken down into simpler ones that can be approached systematically, and decisions about the priority of certain criteria over others (trade-offs) may be needed.
- A complex set of interactions within an ecosystem can keep its numbers and types of organisms relatively constant over long periods of time under stable conditions. If a modest biological or physical disturbance to an ecosystem occurs, it may return to its more or less original status (i.e., the ecosystem is resilient), as opposed to becoming a very different ecosystem. Extreme fluctuations in conditions or the size of any population, however, can challenge the functioning of ecosystems in terms of resources and habitat availability.

Appendix A - Student Prompts

Student Prompts for the Lesson

Phenomenon: Agricultural Sustainability is the key to productivity and profitability for both farmers and suppliers.

Group Performances:

1. Ask questions to plan an investigation for understanding that by learning about and practicing agricultural sustainability, farmers, buyers and the ecosystem benefit.
2. Plan an investigation by defining the words necessary and having questions ready for the video.
3. Construct an explanation by forming groups and discussing how these collaborations and conservation efforts can affect where they live.
4. Use a model to explain how teaching agricultural sustainability can decrease mineral loss, erosion and help both the local ecology and economy.

Class Discussion

Individual Performances:

1. Develop an argument that shows farmers and buyers learning about how agricultural sustainability can and does help the economy and ecology in our local area.

Appendix B – Materials, Preparation and Time Duration. Materials:

- Go to www.uaex.uada.edu/soywhatsup and click on the *'field trips and lessons'* link on the left-hand side of the page. This will take you to the video archive webpage. Keep in mind it will take several days for IT to edit and upload the video to the website.
- Paper writing utensils for students (if in class).

Preparation:

If this is being done in class, it is highly recommended that you, the teacher, do research on the key words given above.

Time Duration: two class periods.

The video is about 60 minutes long (45 minutes plus any questions). Assume about 10 minutes for students to look up vocabulary, 10-15 minutes to teach essential concepts and about 15 minutes for group discussion and reflection after the video.

