

Growing a superpower

Objective(s):

- ☀ Students will analyze the great civilizations of the world and recognize the role of agriculture in advancing civilization

Materials:

- Internet or IMC access or research.
- Materials to make posters.

Procedures:

1. Open with a discussion of the great world civilizations that have been superpowers in their time. List on the board names of great world civilizations that students give.
2. Divide students into groups and each group is to research one of the civilizations that were listed on the board. They should find out the answers to the following questions.
 - A. Where, when, how did the civilization start?
 - B. How did it expand, who lived around them and why were they able to conquer the neighboring peoples?
 - C. What were the food items grown by the civilization? An army moves by its stomach explain this statement.
 - D. Why did the civilization eventually fail and fall?
(interesting article in National Geographic about conquering Virginia and role of destruction of the native American food supply)
3. Students make posters/power points to present their findings to classmates.
4. Discussion on role of agriculture to being a world power. Discussion to include our increasing reliance of foreign sources of food for our nation and its implication to our standing as a world power.

Follow-up activities

1. For the next 2 weeks students will keep a log of where the food that their parents purchase in the grocery store came from. (if information is available)
2. Tally results and graph percentage of food consumed by class that came from U.S. or from overseas.
3. Students can use resources from Ag in the classroom to identify the percent of people in US that are involved in the food and fiber industry
4. Students research what laws have impacted our ability to produce our own food. i.e. local "nuisance" ordinances that have hindered crop/food production.