

Unit 6/Week 4

Title: Cows in the Parlor: A Visit to a Dairy Farm

Suggested Time: 5 days (45 minutes per day)

Common Core ELA Standards: RI. 3.1, RI.3.2, RI.3.3, RI.3.4, RI.3.7, RI.3.8;
W.3.2, W.3.4; SL.3.1, SL.3.2, SL.3.4, SL.3.6; L.3.1, L.3.2, L.3.4

Teacher Instructions

Refer to the Introduction for further details.

Before Teaching

1. Read the Big Ideas and Key Understandings and the Synopsis. Please do **not** read this to the students. This is a description for teachers, about the big ideas and key understanding that students should take away **after** completing this task.

Big Ideas and Key Understandings

This expository selection discusses the daily life of hardworking farmers and cows on a modern dairy farm.

Synopsis

Cows in the Parlor: A Visit to a Dairy Farm is an expository article about the daily running of a dairy farm. Students learn about a day in the life of a cow, Maggie, including what she eats, how she's milked, and other interesting facts.

2. Read entire main selection text, keeping in mind the Big Ideas and Key Understandings.
3. Re-read the main selection text while noting the stopping points for the Text Dependent Questions and teaching Vocabulary.

During Teaching

1. Students read the entire main selection text independently.

2. Teacher reads the main selection text aloud with students following along. (Depending on how complex the text is and the amount of support needed by students, the teacher may choose to reverse the order of steps 1 and 2.)
3. Students and teacher re-read the text while stopping to respond to and discuss the questions and returning to the text. A variety of methods can be used to structure the reading and discussion (i.e.: whole class discussion, think-pair-share, independent written response, group work, etc.)

Text Dependent Questions

Text Dependent Questions	Answers
Reread page 236. Create a graphic organizer (bubble map) using the descriptive words in the text to describe the Jersey cow.	"Jersey cows are always tan or brown. Some have spots on their faces or bodies. They are friendly and touched."
On page 237, the text explains how farmers keep track of all of their cows. How do they keep track of them? Why?	Since farmers have many cows and it is difficult to keep track of all, farmers put a tag with a number on a chain around the cow's neck and another tag is attached to the ear. These numbers help farmers keep track of their cows.
On page 238, the text says that cows like to graze in the pasture. Using context clues, what does the word graze mean? Use the information on page 238 and create a list of steps explaining how cows eat.	The sentence immediately following the word is a clue: "The sun is warm on Maggie's back as she grazes on the grass." The next paragraph mentions how cows eat grass. Graze means to eat grass. They have no front teeth to chew; therefore, they have a long rough tongue around tall grass to pull it down and use their strong back teeth.
Reread pages 238 and 239 to determine how farmers ensure that their cows have enough food to eat in order to produce good milk. Use a graphic organizer (flow map) to organize your findings.	During the summer the cows graze on grass. In the fall, farmers cut some of the grass to dry it out in the sun and store it in bales of hay for the winter months. The farmer, 'Charlie Riddle also makes feed from corn that is planted in the spring." This is a supplement to the hay in order to produce good milk.

<p>On page 240, the text describes how farmers store the chopped corn, which is called silage, for the winter months. Using the picture and text clues describe how the farmers store and distribute the silage.</p>	<p>The farmers store the silage in a tall tower called a silo. The farmer needs the feed for the cows in the winter. He uses a tractor and feed wagon to take the silage from the silo to a trough called a bunk.</p>
<p>Reread page 241. Use the text to discuss how the time when the cows are milked affects the daily schedule of a dairy farmer.</p>	<p>The cows have to be milked twice a day, every 12 hours. Cows are milked early in the morning when they are asleep and again later in the evening when they are sitting down to dinner. The farmer gets up early in the morning before or after the evening milking.</p>
<p>Using the text, define "parlor." (Pg. 241)</p>	<p>The text says. "The parlor in a dairy barn is a room where the cows are milked." It is the room where the cows are milked.</p>
<p>After rereading page 242, make a flow map describing how a dairy cow is milked in the parlor. Use the illustration for clues.</p>	<p>The cow stands in a small pen called a stand. The doors are closed to make sure she doesn't leave. The farmer milks the dirt needs to be washed off her udder. The illustration shows the cow hooked up to a milking machine. An automatic milking machine that gently pulls the milk from the cow by suctioning it out.</p>
<p>Referring to the text, describe what happens after the cow has been milked. (Pgs. 242-243)</p>	<p>According to the text, "The milk runs through a pipe into a large tank." It is stored there until a milk hauler comes to pick it up. The hauler pumps the milk into a tanker truck that takes it to the creamery where it is used to make cheese, ice cream and yogurt. "It is also put in a can so people can pour a glass to drink or have some for breakfast."</p>
<p>Reread pages 244 and 245. Describe the first two years of the life of a calf.</p>	<p>When a calf is born it stays with its mother for the first few days. It gets extra vitamins so it doesn't get sick. On the third day the mother returns to the milking herd. The calf stays with the other calves but has her own small pen with a pile of sweet smelling straw. The farmer feeds the calf grain from a bucket. Calves are frisky and playful. They enjoy taking naps in the sun. After two years, calves will be old enough to breed and have their own. During the first two years the calf is called a heifer if she is a female. The calf is called a bull if it is a male. When the heifer has her first baby she is called a cow. The cow is a part of the milking herd. The bull is often used for breeding. The farmer can raise them.</p>

~~ALPHABETICALLY~~

	<p>KEY WORDS ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING Words addressed with a question or task</p>	<p>WORDS WORTH KNOWING General teaching suggestions are provided in the Introduction</p>
<p>TEACHER PROVIDES DEFINITION not enough contextual clues provided in the text</p>	<p>dairy (page 236) milked (page 236) udder (page 242)</p>	<p>pastures (page 236) herd (page 244)</p>
<p>STUDENTS FIGURE OUT THE MEANING sufficient contextual clues are provided in the text</p>	<p>graze (page 238) bales (page 239) parlor (page 241) bred (page 245)</p>	<p>tractor (page 240) tanker truck (page 243)</p>

Culminating Task

- Re-Read, Think, Discuss, Write
- *After reading “Cows in the Parlor”, we can conclude that dairy farms are busy places for both farmers and cows. Choose one point of view, either the farmer or the cows, and write a paragraph detailing the busy life of that subject. Include at least 4-5 details from the story in your paragraph.*

Answer:

A farmer’s day: cows get milked twice a day, every day (pg 236).

There are fifty cows on Clear Creek Farm (pg. 237).

The farmer tags the cows in order to keep track of them (pg. 237).

In the summer, the farmer works to make hay in order to feed the cows during the winter (pg. 239).

The farmer also has to harvest corn for the cows to eat and stores it in the silo (pg. 239). He/she also has to transport the corn from the silo to the bunk from which the cows eat.

The farmer is up early to do the morning milking (pg. 241). He/she is also out in the evening milking (pg. 241).

The farmer cleans the udders and hooks the cows up to the milking machines (pg. 242).

The farmer has to feed the calves by hand until they learn to eat grain from a bucket (pg. 244).

After the milking is done, the farmer must then clean the machines and the parlor (pg. 245).

A cow's day: Cows are milked twice a day, every day (pg. 236).

"A dairy cow doesn't have a day off." (pg. 236).

Cows spend the day grazing in the pastures (pg. 238).

Cows know when it is time to be milked and walk to the barn gate at milking time (pg. 241).

Once in the parlor, the cows get cleaned and hooked up to the milking machines (pg. 242)

A single cow gives enough milk during one milking to fill fifty glasses (pg. 243).

Cows give birth each year when they mature in order to keep producing milk (pg. 243).

The cows finish grazing in the evening and bed down for the night (pg. 245).

Additional Tasks

- *Create a double bubble that contrasts city life with life of Clear Creek Farm.*

Answer: Cities are urban and have limited space. There are many buildings, houses, and roads. In the city animals are domesticated and tend to live indoors. In the city people generally purchase their food in stores. Clear Creek Farm is in a rural area with lots of open space where animals can roam freely. In the country people often produce their own food such as eggs, milk, fruit and vegetables. Farm work is outdoors, labor intensive, and may require longer days.

- *Research a different type of farm and present your findings to your classmates. Use at least one visual aid in your presentation.*

Types of farms that can be researched are: potato, horse, family, Amish, tree, fruit, egg, cattle

Research can include: equipment used on the farm; daily jobs; product produced on the farm

Presentation can include: dioramas; illustration of farm; actual photos of the farm

Name _____ Date _____

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3. On page 238, the text says that cows like to graze in the pasture. Using context clues, what does the word graze mean?
4. Use the information on page 238 and create a list of steps explaining how cows eat.

5. Reread pages 238 and 239 to determine how farmers ensure that their cows have enough food to eat in order to produce good milk. Use a graphic organizer (flow map) to organize your findings.

6. On page 240, the text describes how farmers store the chopped corn, which is called silage, for the winter months. Using the picture and text clues describe how the farmers store and distribute the silage.

7. Reread page 241. Use the text to discuss how the time when the cows are milked affects the daily schedule of a dairy farmer.

8. Using the text, define "parlor." (Pg. 241)

9. After rereading page 242, make a flow map describing how a dairy cow is milked in the parlor. Use the illustration for clues.

10. Referring to the text, describe what happens after the cow has been milked. (Pgs. 242-243)

11. Reread pages 244 and 245. Describe the first two years of the life of a calf.