

Skills and Strategies

- Questioning and Predicting
- Planning and Conducting
- Processing Information
- Evaluating
- Applying and Innovating
- Communicating

What You Need

- computer with Internet access
- print resources
- Appendix A, How To Do a Research-Based Project

British Columbia's Agriculture Resources


Agricultural activities in B.C. include cattle ranching, dairy farming, poultry raising, and fish farming, as well as growing tree fruits, vegetables, berries, grapes, and many types of ornamental flowers and shrubs. This success is completely dependent on continual reproduction of the plants and animals involved and following good practices for maintaining these natural resources.

In this investigation you will research the role of reproduction in the sustainable development of an agricultural resource of your choice.

Procedure

1. The chart below lists examples of agricultural products grown or raised in B.C. Choose one of these to investigate.

asparagus	eggs	crabs
beans	milk	oysters
corn	cheese	shrimp
lettuce	seaweed	prawns
apples	yoghurt	chicken
berries	cod	turkey
cherries	halibut	bison
grapes	salmon	beef
peaches	trout	lamb
pears	clams	pork

2. Write out questions you have that could guide your research. Here are some examples to get you started.
 - How is reproduction involved in developing and maintaining the crop or animal that you chose? What are some technologies that are used to help?
 - How can Traditional Ecological Knowledge be applied to sustainable farming techniques? 
 - What, if any, issues are there? (Issues related to agriculture are often environmental and/or ethical, for example.)

3. Develop a research plan that you will follow. Also, choose a format for how you want to present the results of your research. Other considerations include the following.
 - What types of resources will have the most relevant information?
 - Will you need to find print resources or use only online information?
 - What resources are reliable? What makes a resource reliable?
 - How will you organize your data as you collect it?
 - In what way can you use figures, graphs, and photographs to convey some of the information?
4. Have your teacher approve your questions, research plan, and presentation format.
5. Carry out your plan once your teacher has approved it.

Evaluate

1. Were you able to find answers to all of your questions? If not, why not? What information was missing?
2. Based on your research, do you have any concerns about how your chosen agricultural product is developed or raised? Why or why not?

Apply and Innovate

3. The agriculture industry is more than just growing and raising plants and animals. It is also made up of all the people who contribute to the safe production, processing, and transportation of food products to consumers.
 - a) Come up with a list of 10 careers or jobs that are related to helping meet these needs.
 - b) Share your list with your teacher, who will combine the class's ideas. What does this list tell you about the importance of the agriculture industry to the social and economic well-being of B.C.?