

Name _____



Ag Mag: Corn Guided Reading Questions

Directions: Read the article titled “Corn” one page at a time.
After reading each page, answer the questions about what you read.

QUIZ! Food for thought: Is corn a vegetable, fruit, or grain? YOU decide!

1. Scientifically, corn has seeds, so it is considered a (circle one): **VEGETABLE / FRUIT / GRAIN**
 2. Agriculture considers corn a (circle one): **VEGETABLE / FRUIT / GRAIN** because...
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From PLANTING to HARVEST and Beyond

3. Illinois ranks _____ in US corn production.
4. What’s another name for a “corn seed”? (HINT: They are golden.) _____
5. During planting, a tractor pulls a _____ to place kernels into the ground.
6. Pollination is the transfer of male pollen to female part of the plant to create a new offspring.
Pollen from the _____ lands on the _____ to make one corn kernel.
7. On average, how many kernels are on an ear of corn? _____ kernels
8. How long does a corn plant grow before it is mature and then harvested? _____ days
9. What machine is used to harvest corn? _____
10. This machine separates the _____ from the _____ of the corn plant
before it is stored in a dry facility called a _____.

What’s Inside That Seed?

11. Match the seed structures in the box below with the correct description.

A. Pericarp

B. Endosperm

C. Germ

D. Tip Cap

_____ The living part of the seed that becomes
the new plant

_____ Where the kernel is attached to the cob

_____ Holds energy protein and starch for new growth

_____ Outside protective covering of the seed

Family Farms: A Tradition...

12. What percent of American corn farms are family owned? _____%

13. List some of the ways that all family members, including children, are involved in working on the corn farm. Why is this important for the future?

Corn Use in Illinois...

14. What percentage of total Illinois corn production is used for ethanol production? _____%

15. Ethanol is a _____ made from corn and makes up _____% of US gasoline supply.

16. Corn is a “renewable resource”. What does that mean?

17. If one bushel of field corn can produce 2.8 gallons of fuel ethanol, what 3 other types of materials can be produced in addition to the fuel ethanol?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Corn Based Products...

18. Draw a line matching the type of corn with the description:

Corn on the cob, canned or frozen corn that we eat field corn.

Field corn

Also called dent corn, has hard outer shell used to feed livestock and 4000 other uses!

Popcorn

Official snack of Illinois, contains water in each kernel that causes popping when heated.

Sweet corn

Transportation and the World Market...

19. What does "exporting" mean?

20. What 2 rivers play an important role in exporting of Illinois corn?

1. _____ 2. _____

Growing Technology and Nutrients

21. List 3 main nutrients needed for corn crop growth.

1.

2.

3.

22. How do farmers prevent nutrients from washing out of the soil?

23. What is GPS?

24. How can GPS and drones help farmers?

Bonus!!

According to Laura Gentry (Illinois Corn Growers Association), what are 3 big issues now facing corn farmers in Illinois?

Three (3) big issues:

1.

2.

3.

Corny Joke!

What do you tell maize after it graduates from high school?

Corn-gratulations!