

## K-5 Lesson Plan: The Corn We Eat

Overview: Autumn is a time for **crop harvesting**. Students will learn about the difference between field/ harvest corn and sweet corn. The corn is harvested differently depending on how it will be used.

Background Knowledge Activation: Before this lesson, students will be able to explain what **harvesting** is and why we harvest food. Discuss Autumn fruits and vegetables you see and eat in fall.

Lesson	Time	Essential Questions	Activity	Conclusion
The Corn We Eat	20-25 minutes	<p>What are the differences you see and feel between harvest corn and sweet corn?</p> <p>Why are they different?</p>	<p>Introduction: <i>My Family's Corn Farm</i> by Katie Olthoff. Discuss where corn is grown, and how it is harvested.</p> <p>Activity: In small groups, students will do an exploratory activity with two types of corn: harvest corn and sweet corn. Students will draw and label the parts of the corn on a piece of paper. Once students draw a picture of the corn, students will describe 2-5 differences and similarities.</p>	<p>Together, discuss student findings. Field/harvest corn is hard and dry. It is used to make tortillas, cereal, bread and feed livestock. Sweet corn is harvested at ripeness, and we eat it fresh. Both are important in our food systems.</p> <p>Explain that harvest/field corn is in things we eat, like cereal and tortillas. While sweet corn we eat fresh. The taste and look are different because it is harvested at different times for different reasons. Both keep the food system going.</p>



**Glossary:**

**Agriculture** - the art and science of cultivating land for growing crops

**Corn** - the typically yellow or whitish seeds of corn used especially as food for humans and livestock

**Crops** - A crop is a plant or plant product that can be grown and harvested for profit or subsistence

**Harvesting** – gathering crops during a specific time of year

