

# Farm To Market: Rice & Corn

## Assessment of Prior Knowledge:

- Why are corn and rice such important crops?
- What do corn and rice have in common?
- How many uses for rice and corn can you think of?

## Vocabulary:

**Ear:** An ear of corn consists of kernels, on a cob, surrounded by a husk

**Tassel:** Long bunches of flowers that grow at the top of the corn stalk and produce the corn plant's pollen

**Panicle:** The portion at the top of the rice plant that holds the individual rice kernels

**Ethanol:** An industrial alcohol made from corn that can be used as fuel

**Wetland:** An area where the ground remains underwater most of the time - providing a habitat for many plants and animals

## Comprehension Questions:

### Growing Corn

1. How do the tassels help the ear develop kernels of corn?
2. How does popcorn work?

### Growing Rice

1. What is unique about the fields where rice is grown?
2. Rice is related to what common plant?
3. How is rice planted?

### Harvesting Corn and Rice

1. What is different about the way corn and popcorn are harvested?
2. How is rice harvested?

3. What is the difference between white rice and brown rice?

## Other Uses

1. Name some of the ways that corn is used.
2. Name some of the ways that rice is used.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Many of the new and different uses of both corn and rice have a positive impact on the environment. Discuss these different uses and how they work to help preserve the environment, either directly or indirectly.

## Follow-up Activities:

- Students can research the historical significance of both corn and rice. Why is corn grown more widely in the United States, and rice more common in Asia? How long have people been using these grains?
- Have students research even more uses for corn or rice. Students may also invent their own uses, based on what they know about each of these grains. Students can share their inventions and ideas.



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