

<b>Suggested Month:</b>	March
<b>Topic:</b>	Local Food System—Alternative Food Systems—Local Farm Fresh Food
<b>Monthly Essential Question:</b>	Why should we support local farmers?
<b>Content Areas Addressed:</b>	Global Agricultural Systems, Agriscience/Production, Ecology/Environment, Science

**Standards Addressed:**

- Ask and answer such questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1)
- Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.4)
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussion (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 level topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1a, c, d)
- Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail. (CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.3)

**Key Terms:** Greenhouse

Local

**Materials Needed:**

Sampling food

Blank Paper and writing utensils

**Introduction: (5 min)** “Does anyone know what it means if a food is local? (call on one or two students). Local means that the plants can be grown in an area that is close to where you live. In Wisconsin, if a plant is local it means that we can grow the plant in the Wisconsin climate. If a food is global, it means that it was brought to Wisconsin from somewhere else in the United States or the world. . Plants that are local to Wisconsin can easily grow in the short Wisconsin summers, but plants that are global might require a greenhouse to get them started so that they can successfully grow in Wisconsin. \*Introduce essential question—“Why should we support local farmers?” When we buy local foods we are supporting the farmers in our area. Why is it important to support local farmers? Buying from local farmers can give jobs to people in our area, the produce may be better for our health, the produce is better for the environment, and buying local means that the money will stay within our community. The Wisconsin growing season is short due to long winters and cold temperatures. Most of the food grown in Wisconsin is planted and harvested during a 6 month period from April to October. We can extend the growing season by creating an environment that makes the plants grow and be healthy. Every year around this time I start dreaming of fresh fruit and vegetables. Our winters here in Wisconsin get very long and in just a few months we’ll be able to eat strawberries, lettuce, and other spring produce. Some farmers get a jump on the growing season by using a greenhouse or hoop house. By creating a better environment for plants, farmers are able to start planting early and harvest later than usual. This extends the growing season.”

**Development: (20 min)** “How do greenhouses help plants grow? Lets watch a video about how greenhouses work and how they extend the growing season (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbKuWAtWZCw>). Ask students how greenhouses help plants grow. Greenhouses use sunlight to trap heat inside, keep bugs out, protect against freezing temperatures, and keep moisture inside to help plants grow. Conduct greenhouse activity. Draw a greenhouse with fruits and vegetables that you want to grow. Ask them to list tasks they will need to complete in order to make sure their plants continue to grow. (water, weed, make sure they have enough air, give them enough room to grow, check the temperature inside the greenhouse often). Give them a few minutes to draw. Make sure to show the four ways greenhouses give plants a good environment to grow. Next, put a circle around any of the fruits and vegetables that are local. Many of the farmers use greenhouses so they can grow plants that are not local to this area. If the foods that you circled are not local, do you think you would be able to grow them in a greenhouse?

**Sampling & Closure: (5 min)** Conduct local fruit or veggie tasting. Instruct each student to take a ‘polite bite’ (eat at least one bite and only say polite things). \*Review essential question. “We enjoy fresh local food more often by extending the growing season. Greenhouses protect plants from extreme weather, like our cold Wisconsin winters, and keep the air warm and moist so plants can do their best grow