

May is Maine Wild Blueberry Month!

Check out these great Maine Wild Blueberry lessons from our <u>Teach ME Food & Farms Site</u>

(Aligned to State & National Standards)

- * Wild Blueberry. Grades 3-5. Students will be able to identify where blueberries are grown in Maine and describe the growing season. They will list the nutrients in blueberries and enter information into tables. Students will also learn about how foods affect health.
- * Wild Blueberry Poetry. Grades 3-8. The students will explore poetry and art using the wild blueberry as the object of their efforts. They will write and illustrate a poem using descriptive language and read their poems to the class.
- * Animals and Wild Blueberries. Grades 3-8. Students will explore the interaction of several animals with the wild blueberry including, honey-bees, bumblebees, black bears and pest insects.
- * Advertising Wild Blueberries. Grades 3-8. Students will explore the role of advertising in influencing consumer choices. Students will utilize language and visual arts to develop their own advertisements and/or commercials to promote the sale of Maine's wild blueberries.
- * Wild Blueberry Math. Grades 3-8. The students will examine, interpret and manipulate real-life data about the economics of wild blueberry production.
- * Health & Nutrition Wild Blueberry Style. Grades 3-8. The students will learn about nutrition labeling and the nutritional value and other health benefits of wild blueberries, and design their own nutritious, wild blueberry food product with a nutrition label.
- * Wild Blueberry History & Geography. Grades 3-8. The students will explore the impact of wild blueberries on the history and culture of several human populations as well as map the geography. An example of civics in action will be addressed in the story of Megan Frank.
- * Producing Wild Blueberries. Grades 3-8. Students will explore the production of wild blueberries as it relates to their yearly life cycle, technology, and the food system. Students will then utilize methods employing language and visual arts to develop written and oral accounts of the production of Maine's wild blueberries.



- * Wild Blueberries for ME. Grades
 PreK-2. Grades 3-5. Describes the
 history, growing and harvesting of
 this important Maine crop. After
 reading aloud to the class and
 discussing the content, students
 will be involved in English
 Language Arts and Visual Arts
 activities.
- Maine Blueberries and
 Macarons—Delicious Possibilities!
 Grades 6-12. Through class
 discussion, self reflection, viewing
 University of Maine Cooperative
 Extension videos (blueberries and
 macarons), students will explore
 how habits of work and learning
 (habits of mind) impact future
 career success.

Funding from this Specialty License plate and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry supports teacher curriculum materials connecting classrooms to the HARVEST OF THE MONTH project! Please thank everyone you know with this plate!

LESSONS FROM THE National Agriculture in the Classroom **CURRICULUM MATRIX**

Searchable directly from the MAITC Home page!

Teachers can register for a Harvest of Curricula to support Maine Farmers and producers, and harvest of the month! For direct delivery to your inbox Sign up here!

You can receive monthly resources from Maine Ag in the Classroom by signing up for our

E-Newsletter HERE

The Amazing Honey Bee. Grades K-2. Students will investigate the three types of honey bees in a colony, identify their roles, and recognize honey bees as part of a community that works together.

Honey Bees: A Pollination Simulation. Grades 3-5. Students will identify the parts of a honey bee, the stages of its life cycle, and its role in pollination.

- Cruisin' for a Bruisin' Food Packaging Specialist. Grades 6-8. Students will learn that product packaging is a balance between function, food safety, and economics by designing a protective package for shipping perishable fruit.
- FoodMASTER Middle: Fruits. Grades 6-8. Students will learn the concept of enzymatic browning and methods of decreasing enzymatic oxidation by observing 3 types of fruit. Students will learn the relationship between antioxidants and health and nutrition.
- Fermentation of Honey. Grades 9-12. This lesson explains the processes of cellular respiration and fermentation and how it applies to the production and processing of honey.
- Good Taste: Honey Bee Forager Food Preference. Grades 9-12. In this lesson students learn about the foraging behavior of bees and hypothesize if the bee's behavior is related to its ability to detect sugar. Students will then determine which type of foraging bee would be best for pollination or honey production. Students will learn about the process of gel electrophoresis as a genetic tool and analyze DNA to identify strains of bees who are better pollen -collecting bees or better nectar-collecting bees.

Fruits & Vegetables: The Right Pick for Vitamins and Minerals. Grades 9-12. Students will describe the farm to table process of common fruits and veggies, recognize the nutrients they provide and evaluate food storage and preparation for preserving nutrients.



Fresh from the Wild



How it's Made: Honey



Maine's Wild **Blueberries**



Wild **Blueberries** for ME Read Aloud

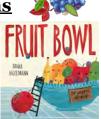


Book Recommendations







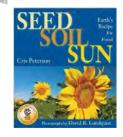












🐎 <u>Activities & Resources</u> 🎐

Read our Wild Blueberries for ME book online here! Check out the many activities that accompany our wild blueberry book such as:

- Wild Blueberry Word Search
- Wild Blueberry Bubble-Gram
- Blueberry Crossword
- Wild Blueberry Graphing
- Sally's Blueberries
- Wild Blueberry Muffin Math
- Find your way to the Wild Blueberry Barrens
- Maine Wild Blueberry Game
- Wild Blueberry Dye
- AND MORE!

Bee Buzz. This is a game in which students take turns rolling a die and drawing parts of a bee. Any number can play, and the only materials needed are a piece of paper, a pencil, a six-sided die, and the included printable activity sheet.

Pollination Simulation Kit. Simulate the role worker bees play in pollination by conducting a pollination simulation. Each kit includes pompoms, cups, jewel bags, yarn, and straws for 35 elementary students. Order this kit online from agclassroomstore.com.

Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine

University of Maine Cooperative Extension: Maine Wild Blueberries