



Literacy



Art

# PIG PLACEMAT

## Grade Level

3-6

## Length of Lesson

15-45 minutes

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of pigs.

## Materials Needed

- IAITC Pork Ag Mag
- 8.5" x 11" paper or larger
- Scratch paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Paper scraps, various colors (optional)

## Standards

### Common Core

CCSS.ELA-Literacy:  
RI.K.4; RI.1.5; RI.2.5;  
RI.3.5; W.4.3; SL.K.1a;  
SL.K.2; SK.K.6;

### Illinois Visual Arts

VA:Cr1.2.K-6;  
Cr2.2.PK; Cr2.3.PK;  
Cr2.1.1; Re7.2.1

## Lesson Summary

This lesson is designed to challenge students to take their knowledge of pigs — life, health, and uses — and creatively display that understanding on a kid's placemat!

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Read "[Awesome Agriculture: Pigs & Pork in the Story of Agriculture](#)" by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Bugey to snag student interest.
2. Read through the [IAITC Pork Ag Mag](#) to learn about pigs and pork. Interactive online versions can be found on our website.
3. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Take some time to discuss what placemats are used for. How do they look in restaurants? Brainstorm some creative ideas for designing a kid's placemat — crosswords, word searches, matching, true or false, pictures/diagrams, fonts, etc.
  - Pass out an IAITC Pork Ag Mag to each student and give them time to read through it.
  - Give your students requirements for what needs to be included on their placemat, using research from the Pork Ag Mag and other sources. Make it fun by including interactive information like games!
  - Give each student a blank piece of scratch paper and have them create a rough draft or write down the facts they want to share and how they want to share them.
  - Once students are finished with their rough drafts, give them the paper you are using for final drafts.
  - Have fun and be creative!
4. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity. Have students share one to two facts they added to their placemats!

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Extension Ideas:

- Have students include the different cuts of meat a pig provides.
- Make copies of their placemats and have them switch with the person next to them to read the information and complete the games on each others' placemats!
- Laminate their final drafts so they can take them home and use them when they eat.
- Read "[Awesome Agriculture: Pigs an A-to-Z Book](#)" by Susan Anderson & JoAnne Buggiey. Look at the pictures and have students analyze the images.
- Introduce the word 'livestock' to your students and talk about why farmers raise animals. What do we use pigs for?
- Learn about all the products we get from pigs. Why are pigs so important for us?
- Find various recipes that use pork products. Dig deeper and compare pork dishes from around the world.
- Watch a video that talks about what pigs eat and where they live. What do pigs need to be healthy?
- Learn about different pig species around the world.
- Invite a pig farmer into your classroom to talk about pig farming.
- Go to [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) to contact your County Ag Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!