

Anticipation guide: The importance of one simple plant

BY PAULINE S. JOHNSON

This activity is designed to be used with the article “The Importance of One Simple Plant.” The true/false statements will enable students to compare what they previously knew about maize with what they’ve learned by reading the article.

Read the following statements. Before you read the article “The Importance of One Simple Plant¹,” write whether you believe the statement is true or false. Then after you read the article, write down whether the statement actually is true or false.

Before reading	Statement	After reading
	Maize is another word for corn.	
	Native Americans believed that maize was the food of the gods.	
	Maize made up 50% of the diet of Indians.	
	Maize was very easy to grow.	
	Both Europeans and Indians used maize just as a food.	
	Succotash is a kind of maize stew with deer meat.	
	Indians could make moccasins out of parts of maize.	
	The “Three Sisters” were a group of stars that Indians thought helped to determine the future of the tribe.	
	The Europeans had never seen maize before they got to North America.	
	The European grains that they brought with them, like wheat and oats, grew very well in North America.	
	Colonists found that they had to work hard to grow maize.	
	We still eat maize today.	

After you have read the article “The Importance of One Simple Plant,” list three things you have learned about maize.

- 1.

- 2.

- 3.

North Carolina Curriculum Alignment

SOCIAL STUDIES (2003)

Grade 8

- **Goal 1:** The learner will analyze important geographic, political, economic, and social aspects of life in the region prior to the Revolutionary Period.
 - **Objective 1.02:** Identify and describe American Indians who inhabited the regions that became Carolina and assess their impact on the colony.

On the web

The importance of one simple plant

<http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/2.10>

The natives of America could trace the history of maize to the beginning of time. Maize was the food of the gods that had created the Earth. It played a central role in many native myths and legends. And it came to be one of their most important foods. Maize, in some form, made up roughly 65 percent of the native diet. When European settlers reached the New World, they learned to cultivate Indian corn from their native neighbors.

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Visit us on the web at www.learnnc.org to learn more about topics related to this article, including American Indians, North Carolina, and maize.

Notes

1. See <http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/2.10>.

About the author

PAULINE S. JOHNSON

I am currently the Director of a Teaching American History Grant for Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and Madison County Schools. I have taught history and English in the seventh and eighth grades for over twenty-six years at Reynolds Middle School in Asheville, North Carolina. I am currently doing adjunct work for Mars Hill College and Western Carolina University. I have a Masters Degree from Western Carolina University and am Nationally Board Certified in Early Adolescence/Social Studies-History. I am certified to teach K-12 and I also have Academically-Intellectually Gifted certification.