

What's on the Table: Local Produce

*Adapted from "This Little Lettuce Went to Market" from The Growing Classroom by Gary Appel
Submitted by Patricia Bailey, PSNC*

RI – SS – GSEs:

- E2 (K-2) and (3-4)

Description:

Students will investigate and compare trips to Green Animals for produce to produce grown from far away and bought at the grocery store.

Objective:

Investigate the steps from garden to the super market

Green Animals Connector:

Students will harvest their own produce from the Green Animals vegetable garden and talk to one of the gardeners about the growing and market process.

Materials:

- Seasonal list of locally grown fruits and veggies
 - <http://www.farmfreshri.org/>
 - <http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/pdf/agguide.pdf>
- 1 Grocery newspaper ad per group of students
- Fresh fruits and veggies

Procedures:

1. Divide the class into groups and give each an ad
2. Discuss what is locally in season
3. Have students list fresh produce advertised based on what was discussed
4. Have students choose one item grown locally and one transported from far away discuss the different steps each had to go through to get from harvest to the market. What might be some of the pros/cons of each step?
5. Talk about energy and resources used
6. Talk with one of the Green Animals horticulturalists to talk about how local farms get their produce to market
7. List ideas on the board about why/why not students and their families might want to choose different products

Take Home:

Students will take home produce from Green Animals. Have the students come up with their own advertisement for their locally grown produce.