

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/03/national_agriculture_day.html

CONTENTS:

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| The Reading / Tapescript | 2 |
| Phrase Match | 3 |
| Listening Gap Fill | 4 |
| Listening / Reading Gap Fill | 5 |
| Choose the Correct Word | 6 |
| Multiple Choice | 7 |
| Spelling | 8 |
| Put the Text Back Together | 9 |
| Scrambled Sentences | 10 |
| Discussion | 11 |
| Student Survey | 12 |
| Writing | 13 |
| Homework | 14 |

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

National Agriculture Day is a day to appreciate and celebrate the work of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps few of us stop and think about the vital work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there would be no produce in the stores and little food on the table. It takes place on the first day of spring – a busy day in the farming calendar. Communities, cooperatives, companies and universities all make their own campaigns to highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and exports. It is one of the most important parts of the economy and a key part of our environment. Agriculture is also the oldest industry in the world.

In America, each farmer feeds more than 144 people. This is a huge increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better pesticides and more efficient farming means farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products fall into different groups, the main ones being foods, fibers and raw materials. In recent years, crops have been used to grow biofuels, which has created a whole new area of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a rise in the farming of drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world's largest employer. About 35 percent of the world's workers rely on agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a third of the world's workers, agriculture generates less than five percent of the world's income.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. appreciate and celebrate the | a. the table |
| 2. the vital work that takes place every | b. of our environment |
| 3. food on | c. day by food producers |
| 4. a busy day in the | d. industry in the world |
| 5. a key part | e. work of farmers |
| 6. Agriculture is also the oldest | f. farming calendar |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. each farmer feeds | a. agriculture for their living |
| 2. a huge increase from 25 | b. more than 144 people |
| 3. more efficient farming means | c. 5% of the world's income |
| 4. crops have been used to | d. farmers grow more crops |
| 5. 35% of the world's workers rely on | e. people in the 1960s |
| 6. agriculture generates less than | f. grow biofuels |

LISTENING GAP FILL

National Agriculture Day is a day _____ celebrate the work of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps _____ and think about the vital work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there would be no produce in the stores and _____ the table. It takes place on the first day of spring – a busy day in _____. Communities, cooperatives, companies and universities all make their _____ highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and exports. It is one of the most important parts of the economy and _____ environment. Agriculture is also the oldest industry in the world.

In America, each farmer _____ 144 people. This is a huge increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better pesticides _____ farming means farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products fall into different groups, the _____ foods, fibers and raw materials. In recent years, crops have been used to grow biofuels, which has created _____ of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a rise in the farming of drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world's largest employer. About 35 percent of the world's _____ agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a third of the world's workers, agriculture _____ than five percent of the world's income.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

National Agriculture Day is a day to appreciate and _____ the work of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps _____ of us stop and think about the _____ work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there would be no produce in the stores and little food on the _____. It takes place on the first day of spring – a busy day in the farming _____. Communities, cooperatives, companies and universities all make their _____ campaigns to highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and _____. It is one of the most important parts of the economy and a _____ part of our environment. Agriculture is also the oldest industry in the world.

calendar
vital
key
own
celebrate
table
exports
few

In America, each farmer _____ more than 144 people. This is a _____ increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better pesticides and more _____ farming means farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products _____ into different groups, the main ones being foods, fibers and raw materials. In _____ years, crops have been used to grow biofuels, which has created a whole new area of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a _____ in the farming of drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world's largest employer. About 35 percent of the world's workers _____ on agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a third of the world's workers, agriculture _____ less than five percent of the world's income.

efficient
rely
fall
rise
feeds
generates
huge
recent

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

National Agriculture Day is a day to appreciate and *celebration / celebrate* the work of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps *few / two* of us stop and think about the *vital / vitality* work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there would be no produce in the stores and *little / small* food on the table. It takes place on the first day of *spring / springs* – a busy day in the farming calendar. Communities, cooperatives, companies and universities all make their own *campaigners / campaigns* to highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and *experts / exports*. It is one of the most important parts of the economy and a key part of our environment. Agriculture is also the oldest *industrial / industry* in the world.

In America, each farmer *foods / feeds* more than 144 people. This is a *huge / hugest* increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better *pests / pesticides* and more efficient farming means farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products fall into different groups, the main ones being foods, fibers and *raw / roar* materials. In recent years, crops have been used to *growth / grow* biofuels, which has created a whole new area of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a rise in the *farming / farm* of drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world's largest *employment / employer*. About 35 percent of the world's workers rely on agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a *thirty / third* of the world's workers, agriculture generates less than five percent of the world's income.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

National Agriculture Day is a day to appreciate and celebrate the (1) _____ of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps few of us stop and think about the (2) _____ work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there would be no produce in the stores and (3) _____ food on the table. It takes place on the first day of spring – a busy day in the farming calendar. Communities, cooperatives, (4) _____ and universities all make their own campaigns to highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and (5) _____. It is one of the most important parts of the economy and a key part of our environment. Agriculture is also the oldest (6) _____ in the world.

In America, each farmer (7) _____ more than 144 people. This is a huge increase from 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better pesticides and more (8) _____ farming means farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products fall into different groups, the main ones being foods, fibers and (9) _____ materials. In recent years, crops have been used to grow biofuels, which has created a whole new area of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a (10) _____ in the farming of drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world’s largest employer. About 35 percent of the world’s workers rely (11) _____ agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a third of the world’s workers, agriculture (12) _____ less than five percent of the world’s income.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) workers | (b) workaholic | (c) works | (d) work |
| 2. | (a) virtual | (b) vital | (c) viral | (d) vitality |
| 3. | (a) small | (b) few | (c) little | (d) tiny |
| 4. | (a) companies | (b) companions | (c) company’s | (d) companies’ |
| 5. | (a) experts | (b) exported | (c) exports | (d) expert |
| 6. | (a) industrial | (b) industries | (c) industry’s | (d) industry |
| 7. | (a) feeding | (b) feeds | (c) foods | (d) food |
| 8. | (a) efficient | (b) efficiently | (c) efficiencies | (d) efficiency |
| 9. | (a) roar | (b) rawer | (c) raw | (d) rawness |
| 10. | (a) raise | (b) rose | (c) risen | (d) rise |
| 11. | (a) in | (b) on | (c) at | (d) of |
| 12. | (a) generates | (b) generation | (c) generator | (d) generate |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. a day to eppateaicr
2. the ivalt work that takes place
3. no pceoudr in the stores
4. farming dlarecna
5. jobs and psxerot
6. the oldest itnuryrd

Paragraph 2

7. fesed more than 144 people
8. better dsiscetepi
9. raw mtaiseral
10. dtereac a whole new area
11. the world's largest eprlyome
12. a hidrt of the world's workers

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () materials. In recent years, crops have been used to grow biofuels, which has created a whole
- () highlight the importance of agriculture, for food, jobs and exports. It is one of the most important
- () in the farming calendar. Communities, cooperatives, companies and universities all make their own campaigns to
- () In America, each farmer feeds more than 144 people. This is a huge increase from
- () farmers grow more crops. Agricultural products fall into different groups, the main ones being foods, fibers and raw
- () 25 people in the 1960s. Developments in technology, better pesticides and more efficient farming means
- () of us stop and think about the vital work that takes place every day by food producers. Without them, there
- () third of the world's workers, agriculture generates less than five percent of the world's income.
- () drugs, especially for cocaine and heroine. Agriculture is the world's largest employer. About 35
- () percent of the world's workers rely on agriculture for their living. Even though it employs a
- (**1**) National Agriculture Day is a day to appreciate and celebrate the work of farmers and the agricultural industry. Perhaps few
- () parts of the economy and a key part of our environment. Agriculture is also the oldest industry in the world.
- () new area of agriculture. Recent times have also seen a rise in the farming of
- () would be no produce in the stores and little food on the table. It takes place on the first day of spring – a busy day

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. farmers to celebrate of day and work a appreciate the

2. about work place think vital takes day the that every

3. produce no be would there , them Without

4. economy important one parts of of the the most

5. is in also the the world oldest Agriculture industry

6. feeds than people farmer more 144 each

7. farmers more efficient means grow crops farming

8. grow crops been to biofuels have used

9. largest world's the is Agriculture employer

10. world's the of third a employs it workers

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Agriculture Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

| | STUDENT 1 _____ | STUDENT 2 _____ | STUDENT 3 _____ |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Q.1. | | | |
| Q.2. | | | |
| Q.3. | | | |
| Q.4. | | | |
| Q.5. | | | |

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Agriculture Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Agriculture Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Agriculture Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.