

HARVEST OF THE MONTH - JUNE / CUCUMBERS

Grades 6-8

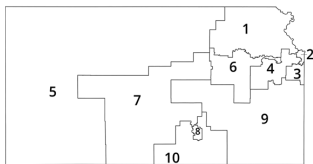


Kansas leads the world in the success of each student.

JULY 18, 2025



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SUCCESS DEFINED

A successful Kansas high school graduate has the

- Academic preparation,
- Cognitive preparation,
- Technical skills,
- Employability skills and
- Civic engagement

to be successful in postsecondary education, in the attainment of an industry recognized certification or in the workforce, without the need for remediation.

OUTCOMES

- Social-emotional growth
- Kindergarten readiness
- Individual Plan of Study
- Civic engagement
- Academically prepared for postsecondary
- High school graduation
- Postsecondary success



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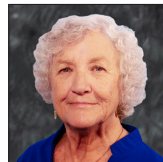
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MISSION

To prepare Kansas students for lifelong success through rigorous, quality academic instruction, career training and character development according to each student's gifts and talents.

VISION

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July 1, 2025

HARVEST OF THE MONTH

June / Cucumbers

INTRODUCTION

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning about a kind of food that we grow in Kansas. I'm going to give you some clues to see if you can guess what this food is.

- This vegetable grows on long creeping vines.
- They have fuzzy leaves
- They are green on the outside and white on the inside
- They contain a lot of water and are a good snack to keep you hydrated
- Their skins contain vitamins A and C
- People eat this vegetable raw in slices or in salads.
- They can also be made into pickles.
- Show picture.

Can you guess what food I'm talking about? We will be learning about Cucumbers!

Optional: You could also place a cucumber in a brown paper bag and let the children reach in and feel it without peeking to see if they can guess what it might be as you give the clues.



VOCABULARY

Photosynthesis

Variation

Traits

Genetics

GENERAL RESOURCES

USDA Marketing Service¹

Science of Cucumbers²

ENGAGE

To engage students with the science of cucumbers, begin by showing them a variety of cucumbers: different sizes, colors, and varieties. Have students complete a notice/wonder chart to record their observations and potential questions they might have. Once students have had a chance to do this solo, partner or group them up and have them refine their wonderings into scientific questions. Have groups of students share their questions on a Driving Question Board.

EXPLORE

It is time for students to conduct research with the goal of answering one or more of their research questions. To facilitate this step, curate a list of websites, videos, magazine articles, or experimental findings that students can use. These materials can be organized into stations for student to “move to,” or digital slide decks that are good for limited space or lessons taught asynchronously. It is important that students first decide what they want to find, and then organize their findings to track their progress. A progress tracker can be as simple as a t-chart with the question on one side, and the student’s key take-aways from each station on the other.

EXPLAIN

At this stage of the lesson, students should be prepared to make a claim to answer their chosen research question. To engage students in discussion consider using a scientist circle³.

1 <https://www.ams.usda.gov/grades-standards/cucumber-grades-and-standards>

2 <https://www.columbian.com/news/2017/jun/22/learn-the-science-of-cucumbers/>

3 <https://www.edutopia.org/video/scientists-circle-encouraging-collaboration/>

4 | Kansas State Department of Education | www.ksde.gov

ELABORATE

Have students read and annotate this article 10 Health Benefits of Cucumbers⁴.

Then they can create a poster, PSA, or infographic to share with their peers.

KANSAS SCIENCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

MS-LS1-5

MS-LS3-1

MS-LS1-4

A sample of Kansas ELA Standards addressed in this unit is listed below. For details and specific grade level standard alignment, see: Kansas 2023 English Language Arts Standards⁵

Reading Foundations: Standard 3; using grade-level phonics and word reading skills

Reading Literature: Standard 1; asking and answering questions about a text

Reading Literature: Standard 4; word meaning/ word choice

Reading Information: Standard 3; Describe the relationship between historical events, scientific ideas, or concepts

Reading Information: Standard 12; word meaning/ nuances

Writing: Standard 3; writing effective narratives to share experiences/ information with effective word choice and relevant details

Speaking and Listening: Standard 4; effectively presenting ideas and detailed/ sequenced descriptions with others

4 <https://pharmeasy.in/blog/healthy-effects-of-cucumber-for-summer/>

5 [https://www.ksde.gov/Portals/0/CSAS/Content%20Area%20\(A-E\)/English_Language_Arts/Kansas%20Standards%20for%20English%20Language%20Arts.pdf?ver=2023-05-17-150345-123](https://www.ksde.gov/Portals/0/CSAS/Content%20Area%20(A-E)/English_Language_Arts/Kansas%20Standards%20for%20English%20Language%20Arts.pdf?ver=2023-05-17-150345-123)

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