

HARVEST OF THE MONTH - MAY / MIXED BERRIES

Grades 6-8

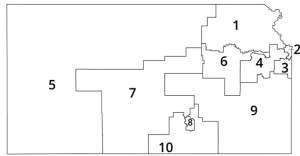


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JULY 18, 2025



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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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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

May / Mixed Berries

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.

- They are small, edible fruits.
- They are usually juicy, round, and brightly colored.
- They taste sweet or sour,
- They may have many small seeds.
- They are grown on trees, shrubs, bushes and on plants along the ground
- This type of food is usually high in things like vitamin c and antioxidants which help keep us from getting sick.
- You can eat them fresh, in a smoothie, or baked in muffins or even a pie!

What do you think this fruit might be? We will be learning about berries!

Some different types of berries include raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, gooseberries, blueberries, huckleberries, mulberries and currants. Have you ever tried any of these? Which are your favorite? How do like to eat them?



VOCABULARY

Characteristics

Anatomy

Cultivation

adaptations

GENERAL RESOURCES

ENGAGE

To engage students in the study of berries, present students with a variety of fresh berries (or pictures) and ask them to make observations. Students can create a notice/wonder chart in their notebooks. Guide students to describe the physical characteristics of the foods by encouraging them to use of their senses (if fresh).

EXPLORE

In this step, students will engage in station rotation listed below allowing students to investigate different aspects of “berry” science.

Station 1: Berry Anatomy

Provide students with dissected berries and magnifying glasses. Have visuals available to help students sketch and label the structures (skin, flesh, seeds, etc.) that they see.

Station 2: Berry Nutrition

At this station, provide or display the nutritional content of various berries so students can compare the nutritional profiles of different berry types. They can look for patterns in vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and sugars.

Station 3: Berry Cultivation

In this station, students watch videos or use images to describe how berries are grown, harvested, processed, or preserved. Prompt students to discuss factors that affect berry cultivation such as climate, soil, and pests.

Station 4: Berry Adaptations

At this station student will analyze and predict how the unique features of berries are beneficial to reproduction. They can draw diagrams or write explanations about attracting pollinators, dispersing seeds, or protecting themselves from predators.

EXPLAIN

At this stage of the lesson, it is suggested to bring the students together and facilitate a discussion about the concepts they explored. Lead the students to discuss the importance of berries in the ecosystem, their nutritional value, and the science behind their cultivation and adaptations.

ELABORATE

Students interested in art could use the internet and the different berries that they observed to create berry dyes and tints. These dyes and tints could be used to add color to berry drawings, recycled paper, or different cloths.

KANSAS SCIENCE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

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 Standards

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

For more information, contact:

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