

Lesson Plan – Mason Hills Farm



Grade Levels: 2–6

Program Length: 3 Days (1–2 hours each day)

Location: Working Beef Cattle Farm

Materials:

sketchbook

markers/crayons

Lesson Overview:

The Art of Cultivating the Land introduces students to the relationship between land, animals, farmers, and food. Through a three-day farm experience at a working beef cattle farm, students observe how the land is cultivated to support life and nourish communities.

Students explore the farm environment, observe cattle in their natural pasture setting, and learn how farmers responsibly care for animals and manage the land. Through guided observation, discussion, and artistic expression, students develop an understanding of agricultural systems and the journey food takes from land to table.

On the final day, students observe food preparation on the farm and share a farm-to-table meal around a beautifully set table, experiencing firsthand how the land, the farmer, and the kitchen work together to provide nourishment. This culminating experience encourages appreciation for the land, respect for food sources, and gratitude for the people who cultivate it.

Standards Alignment- Mason Hills Farm



Alabama Course of Study: Visual Arts Grades 2-6

Students will:

- practice observational drawing from real-world environments
- visually document elements of the farm landscape
- illustrate animals, land, and food systems through art
- use art as a tool to express their understanding of the agricultural environment

Students will create:

- observational sketches of cattle and farm landscapes
- drawings illustrating the food journey from land to table
- artistic reflections of the farm experience

Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies (Grades 2–6)

Students will explore:

- the role of farmers in communities
- how agriculture supports society
- how natural resources are used to produce food
- the connection between land, labor, and food systems

Students will gain an understanding of agriculture as an essential part of community life and human survival.

Alabama Course of Study: Health & Nutrition Awareness

Students will develop an understanding of:

- where food comes from
- the importance of fresh, whole foods
- how food is prepared and shared within communities
- the cultural and social value of sharing meals together



Day 1 - Mason Hills Farm

Observing the Land

Students visit the farm and explore the agricultural environment.

Students observe:

- pasture land
- cattle behavior
- farm structures and tools
- how the land supports animal life

Students are introduced to The Five Senses of the Land, beginning with observation of what they see, hear, smell, and feel within the farm environment.

Art Activity

Students create observational sketches of the farm landscape, cattle, and natural elements of the land.

Learning Focus:

- ecosystems
- animal needs
- agricultural environments



Day 2 - Mason Hills Farm

Understanding the Farm System

Students learn how farmers care for cattle and manage the land.

Students explore:

- cattle diet and grazing patterns
- pasture management
- the farmer's daily responsibilities
- the connection between land, animals, and food

Students continue their sensory observations, listening to the sounds of the farm and observing textures and natural elements within the agricultural environment.

Art Activity

Students illustrate the food journey from land to table.

Learning Focus:

- agriculture systems
- food production
- stewardship of land



Day 3 - Mason Hills Farm Farm-to-Table Experience

Students observe the preparation of food sourced from the farm.

Students learn:

- how ingredients are prepared
- the role of the kitchen in the food journey
- how communities gather around shared meals

Students then share a farm-to-table meal around a beautifully set table, completing the final sensory experience of taste within the learning journey.

Table of Gratitude

Before the meal, students pause for a moment of reflection to acknowledge:

- the land
- the animals
- the farmer
- the people who prepared the meal



Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- identify how farmers cultivate and care for land used to raise cattle
- explain the relationship between grass, cattle, and food production
- recognize that farms function as ecosystems where plants, animals, and people depend on one another
- observe and document elements of the farm environment through drawing or visual expression
- describe the journey food takes from land to table
- demonstrate awareness of their sensory observations of the land (sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste)
- express appreciation for the land, farmers, and food sources through reflection and discussion

Assessment

Students will be assessed through:

- participation in guided farm observations and discussions
- completion of observational drawings or artistic reflections of the farm environment
- ability to describe connections between land, animals, and food production
- participation in sensory reflection activities related to the Five Senses of the Land
- verbal or written responses explaining what they learned about agriculture and the journey from land to table