

Junior Lesson Plan 5

From Grass to your Glass

Objective

To develop pupils' awareness of the importance of dairy farming and their understanding of everyday life on a farm. Duration: **30 minutes** (approximately).



Curricular Links

Geography:

Human environments → Living in the local community → People at work

Words of the Day

Grazing – Animals, like cows, feeding on growing grass.

Pasteurisation – The heating of milk to a high temperature for a short time (e.g. 72 degrees Celsius for 15 seconds) and then cooling it really quickly.

Homogenisation – When the cream particles in milk are spread evenly throughout the milk so that the cream doesn't rise to the top.

Milking Parlour – A building on a dairy farm which is used for milking cows.

Class Discussion

Pass the Beanbag - Ask pupils to share their prior knowledge / experience of dairy farming by passing a beanbag around the class. Pupils who have the beanbag share with the class.
Prompt Questions:

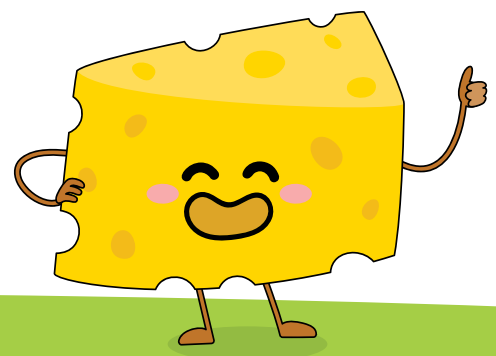
- 1 What is dairy? (It is food like milk, yogurt and cheese).
- 2 What is dairy farming? (It is the type of farming which produces dairy products like milk, yogurt and cheese).
- 3 What animals do you think you would see on a dairy farm? (Cows).
- 4 Have you been to a dairy farm? Describe what you might see on a dairy farm, (e.g. cows, a milking parlour, milking machines, silage, hay).

Pair Discussion

Ask pupils to think about how farmers take care of cows on a dairy farm, discuss their ideas with a partner and share with the class.

Prompts for discussion:

- Farmers have bedding for cows to sleep.
- Farmers can leave cows grazing on fresh grass outdoors for an average of 240 days a year.
- Farmers move cows from field to field so that they have enough grass to eat.
- Farmers bring cows indoors to shelter during the cold winter months.
- Farmers make sure cows have food like silage and maize to eat.
- Farmers keep the cow sheds and milking parlours clean.
- Farmers make sure that a vet visits the farm to make sure that the cows stay healthy.



Pair Activity

Begin by asking pupils as a class to think about how milk gets from a farm to a glass on the kitchen table. Note initial discussion points on the board. Then give each pupil a copy of the **'From Grass to your Glass'** activity sheet. Ask groups to look at the 8 stages of milk production 'From Grass to your Glass', to discuss and then number them, sequencing in the correct order. Discuss the correct sequence as a class, talking through each of the stages in the milk production process. *(Correct sequence outlined on page 23).

Personal Activity

Ask pupils to write about how milk gets 'From Grass to your Glass' in their own words.

Extension Activities

- 1 Ask pupils to imagine they are dairy farmers and to design their own milk carton.
- 2 Ask pupils in groups to create their own class / school 'From Grass to your Glass' poster.

Bring it Home

Encourage your pupils to take home the message of the importance of dairy farming.

As a homework activity, you can ask your pupils to:

- 1 Look at dairy products in the fridge and identify where they were sourced from. For example, was anything sourced from a local farm?
- 2 Does milk in their fridge carry the NDC '*Farmed in the Republic of Ireland*' guarantee?
- 3 Do they know a local dairy farmer?
- 4 Record how many litres of milk each family member has for a week. Compare.

