

BREAKING THEM DOWN

SUBJECT: Language Arts

GRADE: 4

AGRICULTURAL TOPIC: Careers

CONCEPT: VI

STUDENT SKILL

The student will demonstrate appropriate practices in written compositions.

LEARNER OBJECTIVE

The student will become familiar with several agricultural careers while developing skills using the suffix “er.”

LESSON

A. Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Discuss the use of the suffix “er,” and have students brainstorm words to which the suffix can be added (swim/swimmer, write/writer).
2. Hand out student worksheets, and review the directions with your students. Read through the root words and definitions. Instruct students to add “er” to each root word to create a job title. Provide dictionaries so students can check spellings of the words.

B. Background

The average person works 2,000 hours a year and 80,000 hours in a lifetime. That means the average person works from the time he or she is 20 until the time he or she is 60, for an average of 40 hours a week, 50 weeks a year. Since you probably will spend the greater part of your adult life working, you may want to familiarize yourself with all kinds of career possibilities.

The largest industry in Oklahoma and in the United States is agriculture. In the past, when people thought of agriculture they thought of farming. But when you talk about agriculture today you’re talking about farming as well as all the businesses that provide materials and services to farmers and all the businesses that process, distribute and market agricultural products. Some examples of jobs tied to agriculture are:

*Agricultural machinery mechanic
Forestry aide
Agricultural supplies sales associate
Dairy farmer
Golf course grounds keeper
Game farm manager
Vocational agriculture instructor
Plant genetics researcher*

C. Resources

Books

- Christelow, Eileen, *Mr. Murphy’s Marvelous Invention*, Houghton Mifflin, 1983.
Gibbons, Gail, *The Milk Makers*, Macmillan, 1985.
Horwitz, Joshua, *Night Markets: Bringing Food to the City*, Harper Row, 1986.
Imershein, Betsy, *Animal Doctor*, Simon and Schuster, 1988.
Imershein, Betsy, *Farmer*, Simon and Schuster, 1990.
Lask, Kathryn, *Sugaring Time*, Macmillan, 1983.

D. Evaluation

A teacher's answer key is provided

E. Related activities

Contact someone in your community who works in one of the career areas discussed. Let them talk to the class about what they do and how it affects others around them.

Name _____

Breaking Them Down

Many job titles end with the suffix "er." When you see an "er" suffix added to a verb it usually describes someone who performs a specific action. Read the agricultural root words in the box on the right, and add "er" to each to form new words in the space provided. **Challenge: One of the root words needs an extra "e" to form an "er" word. See if you can find the word. Match the words to their definitions. Check your words by looking them up in the dictionary.**

job title

1. farmer
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____

definition

- ✎ A person who owns or operates a ranch.
- ✎ A person who owns or serves as an officer of a bank.
- ✎ A person who works in, operates or owns a mill.
- ✎ A person who runs or works on a farm .
- ✎ A person trained in forestry.
- ✎ A person who works in a garden.
- ✎ A person who conducts an auction.
- ✎ A person who gathers food to eat.
- ✎ A person who grows or produces goods or services for sale.
- ✎ A person who shears sheep.
- ✎ A person who bakes.
- ✎ A person who hunts for food to eat.
- ✎ A person or machine that harvests a crop.
- ✎ A person who drives a truck.

root words

1. fArm
2. **G**arden
3. gather**R**
4. auction
5. produ**C**e
6. h**U**nt
7. mil**L**
8. fore**S**T
9. tr**U**ck
10. bank
11. **R**anch
12. shear
13. bake
14. harv**E**st

* Use the upper case letters to complete the sentence below.

The largest industry in the United States today is _____.



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Name _____

Breaking Them Down (Answer Key)

Many job titles end with the suffix "er." When you see an "er" suffix added to a verb it usually describes someone who performs a specific action. Read the agricultural root words in the box on the right, and add "er" to each word to form new words in the space provided. **Challenge:** One of the root words needs an extra "e" to form an "er" word. See if you can find the word. Match the words to their definitions. Check your word by looking it up in the dictionary.

<u>job title</u>	<u>definition</u>	<u>root words</u>
1. farmer	✂ A person who owns or operates a ranch.	1. fArm
2. gardener	✂ A person who owns or serves as an officer of a bank.	2. Garden
3. gatherer	✂ A person who works in, operates or owns a mill.	3. gatherR
4. auctioneer	✂ A person who runs or works on a farm .	4. auctIon
5. producer	✂ A person trained in forestry.	5. produCe
6. hunter	✂ A person who works in a garden.	6. hUnt
7. miller	✂ A person who conducts an auction.	7. mill
8. forester	✂ A person who gathers food to eat.	8. foresT
9. trucker	✂ A person who grows or produces goods or services for sale.	9. trUck
10. banker	✂ A person who shears sheep.	10. bank
11. rancher	✂ A person who bakes.	11. Ranch
12. shearer	✂ A person who hunts for food to eat.	12. shear
13. baker	✂ A person or machine that harvests a crop.	13. bake
14. harvester	✂ A person who drives a truck.	14. harvEst

* Use the upper case letters to complete the sentence below.
The largest industry in the United States today is **A G R I C U L T U R E**.

