

Newspaper in Education Presents  
**inquizi** **kidz**

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Does your food travel more than you do?

**kidzbiz**

**Ask the expert**

By Leslie Rowe

If your hibiscus plant is wilting or your tomatoes are suffering, Russell Rhoades can help you out. He can analyze your soil, figure out what you're doing wrong, and get you green and healthy in no time! Russell, a seventh grader in **Lincoln Middle School's** agriscience track, knows all about growing things. Both his grandfather and his dad worked on a farm, and Russell knows more about planting, roots, soil nutrients, soil testing, plant pests, mass irrigation, greenhouses, and harvest crops than most people learn in a lifetime. You might say the earth is in his blood!



Russel Rhoades

At Lincoln Middle School, Russell is an active member of National Future Farmers of America (FFA), an organization dedicated to developing leaders through agricultural education. Through Russell's involvement with FFA and agriscience, he and his classmates learn some things from books. But they learn just as much by taking the classroom outside, where they experiment in the school's greenhouse and work in its garden. Russell says that FFA is helping him prepare for the future. With Russell's expertise, he is off to a good start!

**school biz**

**Step outside, please**

By Leslie Rowe

Most students love their pets. But not too many get to bring them to school! Not unless you have Kimberley Lough for a teacher. In Ms. Lough's



Kimberley Lough

**Lincoln Middle School** agriscience class, hands-on learning is a top priority. Learning to care for animals is part of her program, so rabbits, hamsters, turtles, and an occasional dog have all made their way into the classroom. Some of the students, especially those active in FFA, raise livestock such as hogs and steers. They learn the business of agriculture, and keep a record book of time and expenses spent on their animals.

Ms. Lough's class often heads outside and gets their hands dirty. They're experimenting with greenhouse plants and have even rescued some of the schools' failing hibiscus shrubs. After performing a plant pest study and analysis to determine if they had insects or fungal intruders, then replanting to correct the root depth, the hibiscus plants are thriving thanks to the work of Ms. Lough and her students.

Caring for animals, growing plants, and even studying an environmental pond—all of these are part of Ms. Lough's hands-on environmental classroom. Indoors and out!

**Agriscience**

**Does your food travel more than you do?**

By Julie Gillies

Your groceries may not arrive with souvenirs from far-off lands, but most of the food in your house has traveled...sometimes great distances! That's not how it always was. One hundred years ago, families still depended on their very own gardens to supply a good portion of their food. The farthest most food traveled was from the back yard to the dinner table. Talk about uncultured! Exotic fruits or vegetables were extremely rare and expensive. But farming has changed drastically. It's gone global! Now you are very likely to have an international smorgasbord right in your own fridge.

How about some eggs from Ohio, the highest egg producing state? Try some Michigan blueberries on your cereal. Craving a peanut butter sandwich? Those nuts probably came from Georgia, the nation's peanut producing capital. We all know that most orange juice is produced here in Florida, but did you know that Brazil is the coffee capital of the world? And every kid's favorite drink—chocolate milk—most likely originates from Africa, the world's number one producer of cocoa. What a difference a century makes!

Farming has changed in more ways than one. Today the U.S. has fewer than one million farmers, for the first time in two centuries. But most farms have increased in size, allowing them to send more food to more places. The average U.S. farm can now feed 60 people. However, many family farms are facing difficult economic times as they struggle

to compete with the new modern and ultra efficient mega-farms. It's all about supply and demand. As both types of farms coexist, they are filling a need in our country and world.

Thanks to farms both small and large, you can enjoy Wisconsin corn with your dinner, and apple pie with apples all the way from Washington State for dessert.

Variety is the spice of life! Did you know that the finest cinnamon comes from an island on the other side of the world called Sri Lanka?

Cloves, which your mother probably uses on your holiday ham, travel all the way from Madagascar for the honor. Your great-great grandparents would be astonished at the freshness and variety of food your family enjoys. And you'd be astonished if each morsel you ate came with a tally of frequent flier miles. Because the truth is, your food probably does travel more than you do. So the next time you eat a pineapple, you can thank a farmer in Hawaii!



**explore it**

With your parent's permission or help, you can make this tasty vegetable soup, chock full of fresh veggies and ingredients from all around the country. But that's only half the fun! After you've finished cooking, find an atlas and figure out how far the ingredients traveled to get into your cooking pot!

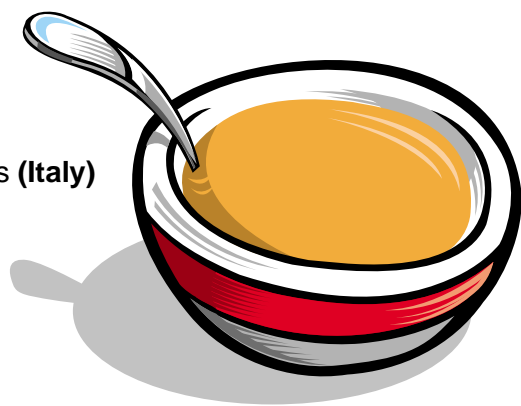
**Atlas Vegetable Soup**

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|---|--|
| 2 large potatoes ( <b>Idaho*</b> )        | 1 fresh tomato ( <b>Florida</b> )              |
| 3 celery stalks ( <b>California</b> )     | 1 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes ( <b>Italy</b> ) |
| 5 carrots ( <b>California</b> )           | 6 chicken bullion cubes                        |
| 1 cup green beans ( <b>Michigan</b> )     | 2 tbs. basil ( <b>Florida</b> )                |
| 1/2 head of cabbage ( <b>Ohio</b> )       | 2 tbs. parsley ( <b>Florida</b> )              |
| 1 medium Vidalia onion ( <b>Georgia</b> ) | Water—enough to cover                          |
| 1 cup frozen corn ( <b>Wisconsin</b> )    |  |

*\*Your ingredients may come from somewhere else. Find it in your atlas!*

Scrub raw vegetables. Peel onion. Chop all ingredients to bite-size pieces. Place all ingredients in a medium stock pot. Add water to cover, and salt and pepper to taste. Bring to a boil. Simmer, covered, for up to 30 minutes or until ingredients are tender. Serve with warm French bread.

Find the state (or country) where your ingredients originated. Using the atlas, figure out how far your ingredients traveled. Add up the miles for a grand total! At dinner, have family members guess the total miles. Whoever has the closest guess gets out of doing dishes!



**Discover the Future**

Whether testing soil, getting creative with irrigation, or creating a new seed hybrid for a tastier tomato, the future of farming is diverse and surprising. You could be a bug scientist, and help farmers defeat their number one natural enemy. Hydroponics, a way of growing fruits and vegetables without soil, is a promising method of future farming. Any way you look at it, farming is one profession none of us can do without! Here is a list of just some of the jobs available in the farming industry:

- Farmer/Farm Manager**
- Farm Equipment Mechanic**
- Agricultural Crop Worker**
- Agricultural Engineer**
- Seed Manager**
- Feed Mill Manager**
- Agricultural Scientist**
- Agricultural Entomologist**
- Agricultural Microbiologist**
- Soil Scientist**
- Horticultural Scientist**
- Agrimarketing**
- Crop Scientist**

For more career information see your school counselor and get information on-line at:  
<http://jobstar.org/tools/career/spec-car.cfm>  
 OR  
<http://www.acinet.org/acinet/default.asp>



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- Sugg Middle School
- Ballard Elementary Magnet
- Daughtrey Preparatory Magnet
- Harlee Middle Magnet
- Johnson Middle Magnet
- Lee Middle Magnet



- Haile Middle School
- Lincoln Middle Magnet
- Manatee Elementary Magnet
- Rowlett Elementary Magnet
- Tillman Elementary Magnet
- Wakeland Elementary Magnet

*Schools listed in red offer instruction in the subject area featured in today's InquiziKIDz*

Next Weeks Inquizikidz - What is Global Studies?

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