

For the next several days you will be learning why farms are so important. You will be learning about farm animals including cows, chickens, pigs, and sheep. You will also be learning about crops that people grow on farms, including corn and wheat.

What do you already know about farms?What kinds of animals live on a farm?

- What kinds of plants grow on a farm?
- What else would you see on a farm?
- What kinds of sounds do you hear on a farm?
- Have you ever been to a farm?

**Old MacDonald Has a Farm** I cannot take you to a real farm today, but you can travel to a farm in your imaginations by listening to the read aloud. Listen carefully to find out about all of the different kinds of things found on a Q farm.



Hello! Let me introduce myself. I'm Old MacDonald, and I have a farm. You might already know that because my farm is one of the most well-known farms around. My farm is famous because a few years back, someone decided to make a song about it.



The song is about all the animals on my farm and the noises they make. A farm is a place for growing crops and raising animals, usually with a house and a barn. Farm can also mean to grow crops or raise animals.



It's true, my farm is a rather noisy place. I have several different kinds of animals here, and each animal makes a different kind of sound. Here are a few of the farm animals I take care of on my farm. Do you know the sound each animal makes?

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We have moos, oinks, clucks, and baas, just to name a few. We also have woofs! This is my dog Bingo. There's a song about him, too. Maybe you know it. It sounds a little like the song someone wrote about me.

There was a farmer had a dog and Bingo was his name-o B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, B-I-N-G-O, and Bingo was his name-o!

Bingo helps me here on the farm. Mostly, he keeps me company while I'm out working, but sometimes Bingo helps in other ways.



For example, yesterday I accidentally left a gate open and my sheep got out. Bingo chased the sheep back inside the fence.



As a farmer, I have many important jobs to do here on the farm, and it is hard to say whether one job is more important than another job. However, if you were able to ask my farm animals, they would tell you that taking care of them is the most important thing I do.



After all, farm animals don't take care of themselves. The cows, chickens, pigs, and sheep need a farmer to give them food, water, and shelter because, as farm animals, they were not born to live on their own in nature. They need help. A **shelter** is something that protects the animals from weather or danger.



They need help. Excuse me while I use my pitchfork to pitch a little hay to one of my cows. She's hungry, as always.



This is my barn. Sometimes, especially when it is cold or rainy outside, I bring my farm animals into the barn for shelter. I also keep my tools and other equipment; there are many, many jobs to do here on the farm, and each job requires its own tool. Tools are things that help you do a job.



I keep hay for the animals up there in the hayloft. And that's a tractor over there. I love to ride through my fields on my tractor. Let's take a ride!

I grow most of the farm animals' food right here on the farm. On my farm, there are **pastures** full of green grass for the cows and sheep. Pastures are fields of grass for animals to eat. I also plant and **harvest crops** of 'corn and wheat out in the



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Farm animals are big eaters, so I need to be sure to have plenty of feed on hand to keep them healthy and happy. I store extra feed for the animals in my silo. A silo is like a giant can.

This silo is full of dried corn, which I will use to make feed for my cows in the winter when there is less grass for them to eat out in the pasture.



By the way, this is my wife, Mrs. MacDonald. I have three children, too. Their names are Deliah, Śadie, and John. You can see our farmhouse in the background. This farm would not run smoothly without Mrs. MacDonald and the children.



It takes a whole family to run this farm! You might be surprised to learn that our farm is actually very small compared to some. Sure, we have many different types of animals, and we grow and harvest several different crops, but we don't have nearly as much land as some of the other farms I will show you.

Farms are very important. Most of the food we eat--from hamburgers to carrots to French fries--gets its start on a farm. Many kinds of fruits and vegetables come 🔤 from farms.

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We also get milk, cheese, ice cream, and eggs from farms. Which of these foods do you like to eat? Many people, for different reasons, do not eat or like to eat meat, dairy, eggs or other foods that you will hear about.



Bread, cakes, cereal, crackers don't come straight from farms--there are no farms with cookie trees or bread bushes. But the things you need to make bread and other food come from farms.



All kinds of meats come from farms too.



Well, I have plenty of work to do today. I need to feed the rest of the animals and water the crops. First, however, I am going to fix the latch on this gate so this sheep doesn't get out again.



As soon as I finish my work, I promise to take you on a tour to see some other farms and learn all about farming and farm animals.

Comprehension Questions: What is this a picture of? Why do many farms have barns?



Comprehension Questions: Why are farms important?

Comprehension Questions: How would you explain what a farm is to a friend?

Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What kinds of jobs does a farmer have to do?

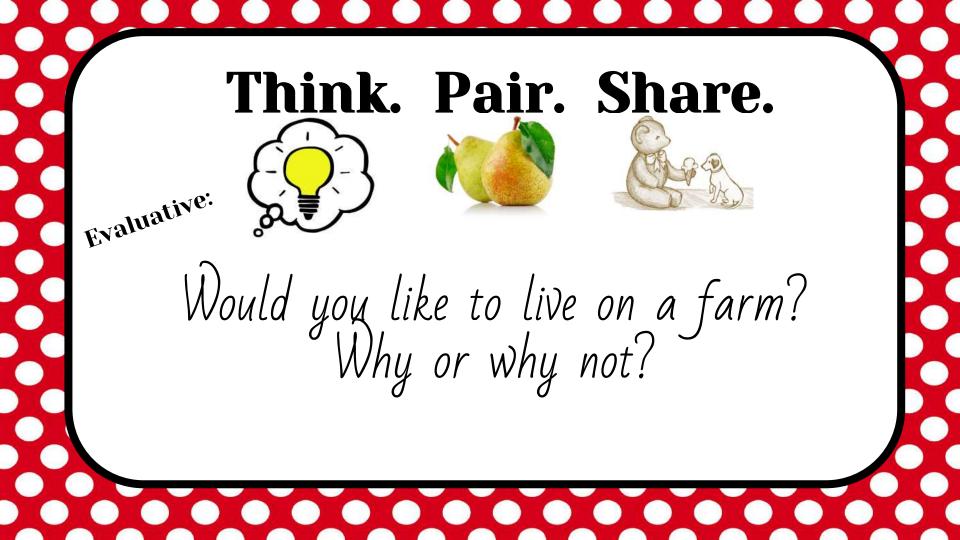
Comprehension Questions:

Literal

What tools or machines help the farmer do his work?



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



## **Word Work** Explicit Vocabulary Instruction

In the read aloud you heard Old MacDonald say, "I keep my **tools** and other equipment in the barn." Say the word **tools** with me.

**Tools** are things that help you do a job.

A computer is a very important **tool** for me, as a teacher.

Think about the work you do at school. Are there **tools** that help you do your work? Try to use the word **tools** when you tell about it. "Pencils and paper are **tools** that I use when I write."

# What's the word we've been talking about?

I am going to name a job that you might do. I want you to tell what tools might help you do that job. Try to answer in complete sentences and use the word tool or tools

Brushing your teeth



Eating soup



Drawing a picture



Combing your hair



Cutting a piece of paper

