



Christmas Farm

GRADES 3-6 ELA

GENERAL OUTCOME 2

Students will listen, speak, read, write, view and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts.

GRADE 3 MATH NUMBER

9. Demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction of numbers with answers to 1000 (limited to 1-, 2- and 3-digit numerals), concretely, pictorially and symbolically, by: 9

- using personal strategies for adding and subtracting with and without the support of manipulatives
- creating and solving problems in context that involve addition and subtraction of numbers using personal strategies for adding and subtracting with and without the support of manipulatives

10. Apply mental mathematics strategies and number properties in order to understand and recall basic addition facts and related subtraction facts to 18.

GRADE 4 MATH NUMBER

6. Demonstrate an understanding of multiplication (2- or 3-digit by 1-digit) to solve problems by:

- using personal strategies for multiplication with and without concrete materials
- using arrays to represent multiplication
- connecting concrete representations to symbolic representations
- estimating products
- applying the distributive property

GRADE 6 SCIENCE

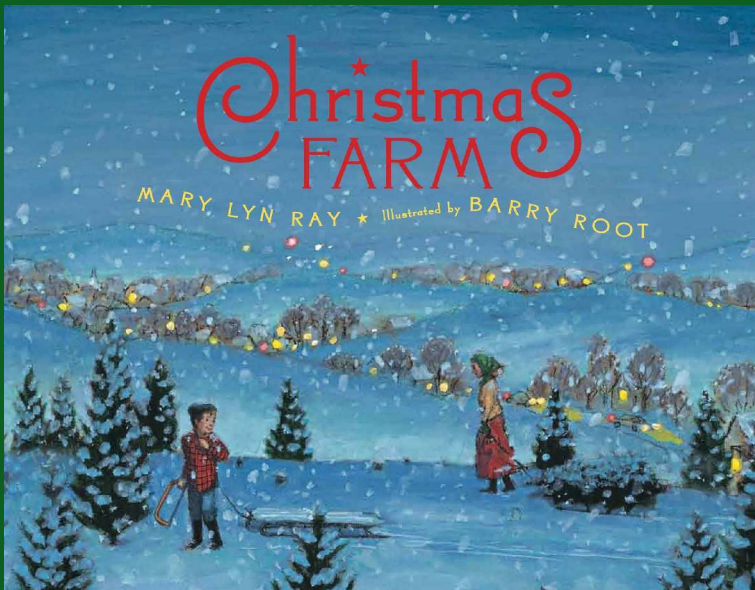
6-10. Describe characteristics of trees and the interaction of trees with other living things in the local environment.



Christmas Farm

Christmas Farm by Mary Lyn Ray Illustrated by Barry Root

Published by HMH Book for Young Readers; Reprint edition (Oct. 8 2013)



This story helps illustrate the dedication and time required by growers and farmers to grow Christmas trees. It celebrates determination, growth and nature, and special friendships.



LEARN MORE ABOUT CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS!

Check out Ag for Life's article all about Christmas trees!

Evergreen Expedition

This year, consider bundling up and taking a family trip to a Christmas tree farm near you. You can be a part of the experience and bring a little piece of Christmas cheer to your home with the fresh scent of evergreen.

[Read more](#)





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Comprehension Questions

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. What did Wilma grow in her field before trees? Why did Wilma want to start a tree farm?
2. Who is Parker? And how old is he?
3. How many trees did Wilma and Parker plant?
4. What happened to some of the trees the first winter?
5. What are some obstacles Wilma faced?
6. How old were the trees when Wilma started to shape them?
7. When Parker and the trees turned 10 years old, what did Wilma do?
8. How many trees did Wilma and Parker sell?
9. How many trees were left for another winter?
10. How many trees did Parker and Wilma order to plant for their next season of planting in the spring?



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Life Cycle of Christmas Trees

Step 1 - Propagation

Propagation: the process of starting new plants from seed, or plant stem/tissue. Most trees begin their life in a nursery (a greenhouse or area where plants are started as seeds or seedlings and grown to a larger size; the trees are propagated). Seedlings are grown from cuttings off a mature tree with favorable traits, or grown from seeds gathered from mature trees.

Step 2 - Seedling

Seedling: a plant that has been successfully propagated and has formed leaves, stems and roots. After several years, the tree seedlings are ready to be moved out of the nursery into beds where they can grow without competition from larger trees. The trees will stay in the beds until they are large enough to be transplanted (uprooted and planted elsewhere) into fields.

Step 3 - Finishing

Finishing: growing a plant to its full growth or maturity before harvest or sale. Trees are transplanted directly into the ground. They will continue to grow for 7-8 years in the field. As they grow, the farmer will spend time and effort in shaping them. After the trees reach several feet in height, they are sheared (or cut/shaped) for the first time.

Step 4 - Harvest

Harvest: the time and process in which crops or plants are gathered. At harvest time, growers identify finished trees by placing a ribbon on them. The ribbons are color coded with each height being assigned a different color. Often a whole field is not ready for sale in any one year. It often takes two to four years before a field is cleared and ready for new trees to be planted. The tagged trees are cut and then bundled during a process called baling. During the baling process, the trees are placed in a machine that ties them in twine so they are easier to ship. The baled trees are placed on trucks and shipped to retail lots all across the state and country.



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Math Activities

Show your work to answer questions.

1. How many items in a dozen?
2. How many trees are there in 62 dozen?
3. How many trees were in each row? (There are 24 rows)
4. If there were 719 trees left after the final winter before the trees were sold as Christmas Trees, how many trees did they lose in total?

Additional Activities

- Create your own Christmas Trees for Sale sign
- [Christmas Nature Craft](#)
- Design your own Christmas Tree Farm sign
- [Grow your own Christmas Tree Sponge](#)
- [Christmas Cranberry Garland](#)
- [Nature Inspired Christmas Crafts](#)