

The Cornfield Maze Mystery

Companion Guide – Sample Excerpt

Educators and Parents Resource

Teaching Materials & Resources

Supporting inquiry-based learning about food systems, agriculture, and health

Ages 8–12

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Download free PDF resources: www.thecornfieldmazemystery.com

Teacher Quick Reference (Excerpt)

Quick unit snapshot:

- Ages: 8–12
- Timeframe: 2–4 class sessions (45–60 min each)
- Core activities: read-aloud, hands-on experiments, research projects, poster presentations
- Key aims: inquiry-based learning, media literacy, food-system awareness, critical thinking; avoid alarm, emphasize evidence-informed choices

Suggested teacher script:

"Science is a process. Some studies show possible effects; others show different results. We will look at age-appropriate evidence and focus on practical steps to make informed choices while research continues."

Section 1: Quick Start Guide (Excerpt)

This companion guide supports the children's book *The Cornfield Maze Mystery* by providing ready-to-use lesson plans, student activities, and background information. The materials are designed to:

- ✓ Spark curiosity about food systems without causing alarm
- ✓ Support inquiry-based, age-appropriate learning
- ✓ Align with Common Core and NGSS standards
- ✓ Provide balanced, science-based information
- ✓ Engage families in meaningful conversations about food

Section 2: Teacher-Facing Lesson Plans – 'From Seed to Spoon' (Excerpt)

Overview: This plan supports a comprehensive unit (2–4 class sessions, expandable) built around the narrative about three children exploring corn production, farming practices, food processing, and health.

Learning Objectives (Sample)

- Students will explain, in their own words, the journey of corn from field to table and identify the main steps in food production and processing.
- Students will identify ways agricultural chemicals and food processing affect the food system and discuss evidence-based actions to make informed food choices.
- Students will conduct hands-on experiments, observe and record changes, and use evidence to draw conclusions.

Standards Alignment (Sample)

NGSS examples: 3-LS4-3, 3–5-ETS1-1/2, 5-LS2-1, MS-LS2-1 (farm ecosystems, design problems, movement of matter, resource availability).

Common Core ELA examples (Grades 3–6): RI.4.3, W.4.7, SL.4.1, W.5.1 (explaining concepts, short research projects, collaborative discussions, opinion writing).

Worksheet 1: Story Comprehension (Sample Excerpt)

Name: _____ Date: _____

After reading *The Cornfield Maze Mystery*, answer the following questions:

1. Who are the three main characters in the story? What are their names and ages?

2. What did the Corn Crew decide to investigate for their science fair project?

3. List three places the children visited during their investigation:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

(Full worksheet set, answer key, and additional STEM and ELA activities are available in the complete companion guide.)

About This Sample

This sample excerpt from *The Cornfield Maze Mystery Companion Guide* is intended to illustrate the lesson structure, standards alignment, and student-facing materials included in the full resource.

The complete companion guide provides detailed lesson plans, multiple ready-to-print worksheets, answer keys, background information on GMOs, herbicides, ultra-processed foods, the gut microbiome, and extensive parent communication and extension projects.