



Social  
Studies



Art

# BASEBALL CHARM

## Grade Level

2-6

## Length of Lesson

45 minutes

## Objective

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to recognize different agricultural commodities that are used to make various products in sports.

## Materials Needed

- Jewelry size resealable baggies (found in craft stores)
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- Copies of student worksheet
- Materials for baggies\*

## Standards

### IL Social Studies

#### Standards

SS.G.2.5; G.3.2-3; EC.2.4-5; EC.2.6-8LC; IS.4.6-8

### Illinois Visual Arts

VA:Cr2.1.2-5; Cr2.3.2-6; Cr3.1.2-6; Re7.1.2-6; Cn10.1.2-6

## Lesson Summary

This lesson is a fun, hands-on activity to help students become aware of how important agriculture is in the world of sports.

*Feel free to adapt as necessary. Some items may have more than one object to represent them, and you could use one or the other or both.*

\*Materials for Baggies: Cotton balls, toothpicks, yarn (cut into small, 1" pieces), cow-shaped confetti, pig-shaped confetti, grass seed, soybeans, corn and wheat kernels, peanuts, popcorn, gum pieces, ticket roll

## Suggested Sequence of Events:

1. Set Up: Cut the yarn into 24" pieces (long enough to use as a necklace). To save time, split materials into bins for students to have at their tables.
2. Read through the IAITC Ag Mags that tie with this activity to learn more about those commodities.
3. Complete the activity following the procedures:
  - Give each student a student worksheet, baggie, piece of yarn, and all the materials that go inside the baggie.
  - Read through the student worksheet together, filling their baggies with the materials as you go through.
  - Once all the materials are in, have them seal the baggies and use the hole punch to punch a hole in the baggie, above the seal.
  - Thread the piece of yarn through the hole and tie a knot at the ends.
  - Have students wear their baseball charms.
6. Whole class discussion and reflection of activity.

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## Extension Ideas:

- Make this charm during your school's baseball season and encourage your students to wear their charms to a game!
- Did your students know how much agriculture impacted sports? Once the charms are made, have students choose one of the materials in their baggies that they were surprised about and share their thoughts with a classmate.
- Learn more about the impact agriculture has had on the state of Illinois. Have students complete the "Ag-Venture With Illinois History" worksheet as they read through the IAITC Illinois History Ag Mag.
- Go to [agintheclassroom.org](http://agintheclassroom.org) to contact your County Literacy Coordinator for free classroom sets of our Ag Mags!



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## STUDENT WORKSHEET

**Directions:** Read through each item that can be found at a baseball game and put the material that represents that into the baggie!

Uniforms and Baseball Hats – Many uniforms are made from cotton, so first add a small **cotton ball** to your bag.

Bats – Today's official bat is a smooth round stick made of one piece of solid wood. The best bats are made from wood from northern ash trees. In recent years, maple bats have become more popular as a result of Barry Bonds's 73 home runs in 2001 using maple bats. Add a **toothpick** to your bag.

Baseball – An official baseball used in the major leagues today is formed by yarn wound around a core made from cork, rubber, or a similar material. Add a piece of **yarn** to your bag.

Mitts/Gloves – Mitts vary according to the size of the player's hand or the position played. The best mitts are made from natural materials, using cow hide from cattle. Oil to soften a glove may come from fish or animals. Add some **cow confetti** to your bag.

Turf Grass – Many ball fields are covered with natural turf grass which is usually a mixture of perennial rye grass, Kentucky blue grass, fescue, and some other grasses. Add some **grass seed** to your bag.

Tickets, Programs, and Schedules – These are printed on paper from trees and possibly use soy ink made from soybeans. Add **soybeans** and an actual **ticket stub** to your bag.

Tape and Bandages – Corn dextrines and cattle gelatins are used as adhesives and binding agents. Add **corn kernels** and **cow confetti** to your bag.

Foods eaten at the game are also connected to agriculture:

Soda – Soda is sweetened with corn syrup. Add **corn kernels** to your bag.

Hot Dogs – Hot dogs are made from pork and beef are placed in in a wheat bun made from wheat flour and are topped with relish made from cucumbers. Add **pig confetti** to your bag.

Peanuts and Popcorn – Both grown by farmers. Popcorn is the Illinois State Snack Food! Add **peanuts and popcorn** to your bag.

Nachos and Cheese – Nacho chips are made from corn flour with cheese made from dairy cows. Here add **corn kernels and cow confetti** to your bag.

Soft Pretzels – Pretzels are made from wheat flour and vegetable oil. Add **wheat kernels** to your bag.

Chewing gum – The base of chewing gum comes from the tropical gum tree with sugar and corn syrup added as sweeteners. Use an actual **piece of gum**.

In your own words, explain how agriculture plays an important role in baseball.