

## Resources for Teachers

### Distance Learning during COVID-19

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**#barncam:** Turnip and tune-in to Queens Farm’s social media daily at 4:00pm to observe this historic site online through the farmers' perspective – from plants & ecology to livestock to NYC history. Watch as the season unfolds, from seeds germinating in the greenhouse to fields being tilled, plowed and planted. Content will also include recipes, craft and cooking tutorials, farm animal videos, photos, NYC history and more. The #barncam campaign will continue until the farm is able to reopen to the public.

- [Facebook](#) (The-Queens-County-Farm-Museum)
- [Instagram](#) (@queensfarm)
- [Twitter](#) (@queensfarm)

**Most families are indoors and on screens during the pandemic. How can you support your students to cultivate safe, outdoor learning experiences? Here are a few ideas!**

- **OBSERVE** nature through journaling: Take a daily walk and keep a journal of what you notice (plants, weeds, trees, wildlife, weather, etc). Students can include poems, drawings, weather maps, and changes they observe over time.
- **STUDY** plants: What is growing around you? There are flowers, grasses, weeds and trees blooming this time of year (even in the cracks of the sidewalk). Students can try to find and identify [field garlic](#), [mugwort](#), [daffodils](#), [garlic mustard](#), [cleavers](#), [dandelion](#) and [flowering trees](#). Some of these plants are edible, but students should not eat plants they are unfamiliar with. They can note locations, plant features, and record observations through photos or drawings.
- **PRACTICE** mindfulness: Sit in a quiet spot in the park or on a bench and practice sitting quietly, even for just a few moments. Notice your breathing...what sounds do you hear? What sensations do you feel? Stay quiet and still for as long as you can. Do you notice anything different when your practice is complete?

#### **Agriculture / STEM**

- Regenerative + Sustainable Farming
  - [A Year on the Farm](#): A story-book style presentation of how Queens Farm implements sustainable farming practices through the seasons [2nd-5th gr]
  - What is [regenerative agriculture](#)? [5th gr +]

- Have students research mono-cropping and diversified agriculture. What are the main differences? Benefits and costs of each? [4th-12th gr]
- How can regenerative farming impact climate change? \*More on this in the *Soil + Compost* section below. [4th-12th gr]
- Livestock
  - Read about [Queens Farm livestock](#) [3rd gr +]
  - [Hello Farm](#): Farm animal sounds [Queens Farm picture book for Prek & K]
  - Learn about [silvopasture](#), a practice used by Queens Farm to rotate livestock [5th gr+]
- Soil + Compost [multiple grade levels]
  - Learn more about soil: Watch [The Soil Story](#) (carbon cycle) and [Why Soil Matters](#)
  - What is compost? Watch [The Compost Story](#). Encourage students to think about how they can recycle food waste at home and in school.
  - Worms: Students can learn all about [earthworms](#), how they [benefit soil](#), [worm anatomy](#), and consider building [indoor worm bins](#) for home composting!
- Seeds + Plants [multiple grade levels]
  - Listen to [Ear Snacks, "Seeds"](#) episode [podcast for ages 3 - 7]
  - Explore seed catalogues + create a project using [Johnny's](#) and [Seed Savers Exchange](#). Students can pick their favorite foods, research varieties, ideal growing conditions, and create a garden plan (drawn or use legos, playdough..encourage creativity!).
- Trees [4th gr +]
  - [NYC Street Tree Map](#); Students can look up their home or school address to see what trees have been identified on their block! Ecological benefits of individual trees are recorded and they can learn to identify trees by leaves and bark.
  - [\[Book synopsis\]](#) Read and learn how NYC street trees played a historical role in civil rights, women's rights, and alleviating health inequalities.

## **Additional Farm + Agriculture Curriculum Resources** [multiple grade levels]

[Edible Schoolyard Project](#): Lesson plans related to food systems

[National Ag in the Classroom](#): Search for lesson plans by grade level and content. Learn [agricultural facts](#) about NY State. Did you know that NYS is home to over 33,000 family farms and a national leader with products including milk, apples, cabbage and maple syrup?

[Farm-Based Education Network](#): Check out their Resources page

- [Connecting Food, Farming and Nutrition Education to School Curricula](#)

[Citizen Science Projects](#) [3rd - 12th gr +]

## **New York City + Early American History** [3rd gr +]

[Queens Farm History](#) & [series of owners](#)

Follow-up questions & activities:

- What events in American history align with the series of owners at Queens Farm?
- What is truck-farming? Can you imagine Queens as an agricultural landscape? [NYC Then & Now](#) is an incredible mapping tool - explore what spaces used to look like!
- Design your own family farm! What crops would you grow? How many seasons can you farm in this region? What livestock would you raise?

[Historic House Trust of NYC](#): Students can explore other historic houses in all five boroughs.

- What is your favorite historic house?

Museum of the City of New York: [Lesson plans](#)

Colonial Williamsburg: [Teacher Resource Library](#): Early American history lessons; wide range of content areas.

## **Nutrition Education**

- [National Agricultural Library Education Resources](#)
- [Chart of key vitamins + minerals](#) (and the foods they are found in); Students could chart their eating habits and note nutritional content.

## Other Resources

- [PBS Learning Media](#): Search by grade level and type of lesson
- [275+ Enrichment Activities for Children While Parents are Working Remotely](#)
- [A Big List of Podcasts for Little Kids](#)

## Farm + Food-themed Books

*Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story* - Kevin Noble Maillard (preK-1st)

*Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table* - Jacqueline Briggs Martin (K-3)

*My Food, Your Food* - Lisa Bullard (K-3)

*The Omnivore's Dilemma, Young Reader's Edition* - Michael Pollan (4th-12th)

*Esperanza Rising* - Pam Muñoz (6th-8th gr)

*Hatchet* - Gary Paulsen (6th-8th gr)

*Farming While Black* - Leah Penniman (High School - Adult)

*Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer* - Novella Carpenter (High School - Adult)