Tinkering for Tots
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Little learners get hands on, minds on at Tinkering for Tots, a program designed for curious preschoolers to develop an innovative mindset and make connections through storytelling, play, artifact exploration and a take-home STEAM activity kit.

What connections are we making?

Highlighted Habit

STAY CURIOUS

Description: Keep asking questions such as how and why, ask how you can help solve a problem, what is a new way to do something?

Story

Title: *Amara's Farm*
Author: JaNay Brown-Wood

Why we picked this book: *Amara's Farm* shows Amara asking questions to discover differences among the produce growing in her family's garden. It encourages young learners to explore visual clues so they can compare and contrast the various fruits and vegetables to the pumpkins they are looking for.

Artifact Spotlight

Name: New Holland Combine

Location: Agriculture

To learn more about the story behind this artifact, please see the artifact spotlight on Page 2.

Open Exploration

Description: Farm Sensory Bins

Skills your young learner is practicing: Staying curious by exploring different shapes and textures.

Questions to Ask Your Young Learner

Why did Amara want to find her pumpkins? What does a pumpkin look like? What makes a pumpkin different from the other fruits and vegetables Amara found in her garden? What do you think it would be like to ride in a combine? What do you think it would be like to harvest a corn field with this combine? Do you think it would be dusty or dirty?

Take-Home Activity

Title: Pumpkin Tambourine

Materials:

- 2 paper plates
- Orange paint
- Paintbrush
- Brown pipe cleaner
- Construction paper stem
- Bells and buttons
- Tape
- Glue
- Clothespins

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Artifact Spotlight

1975 New Holland Combine: Combines are named this because they combine the three jobs of picking ripe grain - cutting the stalks off in the field; removing the kernel of wheat, rye, or corn from the plant; and separating the kernels from the straw or stalks. Combines save lots of time and only need one person to drive them. It is called self-propelled because it does not need to be pulled by another engine.
The crop moves grain in a spiral motion to separate the grain, a process that was faster, got more of the grain off, and takes less room in the combine to do it. Within a couple of years, this was the most popular machine.

This combine was a model to show how it worked at demonstrations and agriculture shows and was never used in an actual field. The combine is covered with stickers showing off the features of the new design to get farmers to buy. Combines are expensive and needed to show farmers why they should buy one.

Though this combine is pictured with the front part used for harvesting corn, let us look at wheat harvesting to understand how the combine changed work for farmers.

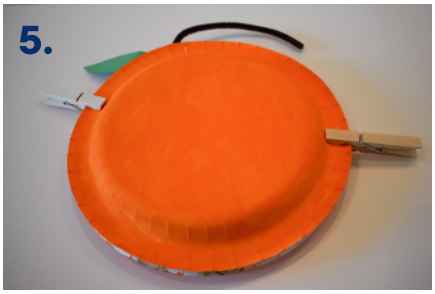
The idea of a machine that would do most of the work of harvesting was something that farmers had been working on for many years. Using hand equipment like these pictured required whole families, including children, to work in the field to harvest. Getting 100 bushels of wheat would take 373 hours (about 2 weeks) of working by hand. (A bushel of wheat is about 60 pounds; a bushel of corn about 56 pounds.)

This combine cut that time down to 3 hours to harvest 100 bushels of wheat. Combines are expensive, but the savings in time made them worth the money for many farmers.

Take-Home Activity

Pumpkin Tambourine Materials:

- 2 paper plates
- Orange paint
- Paintbrush
- Brown pipe cleaner
- Construction paper stem
- Shaking items
- Tape
- Glue
- Clothespins



Directions:

1. Paint the bottoms of both paper plates orange. Let dry.

2. After the paint dries, tape the stem and the leaf to the inside of one paper plate, so they stick out of the top.

3. Place buttons and bells on the plate

4. Glue the other paper plate on top, face down. Be sure to use glue all the way around.

5. Use clothespins to hold the plates together while the glue dries. Let glue dry completely.

6. Shake and make music.

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Coloring Sheet