

## ***Activity: Agricultural Transportation***

### ***Activity Level: Intermediate***

Source: Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom

#### **Purpose**

Students use a map to plan routes, locate rivers, towns, points of interest, etc.

#### **Example Topics It Supplements**

Geography—using maps and finding routes; state economics—Nebraska products and where they are produced

#### **Activity Snapshot**

1. Organize and Prepare Supplies
2. Read Background Information
3. Interest Approach
4. Conduct Activity  
Explain that students will be “working” for a transportation company. Provide them access to maps via computer/tablet. Give each student a copy of Agricultural Transportation handout and have student’s complete questions. Go over answers/information as a class.
5. Ask follow up questions and make the connection to agriculture.
  - What towns/cities did you “deliver” products to?
  - What did you learn about Nebraska agricultural products?
  - Why is it important to know directions? Read directions? Find different routes?
  - Why is knowing about transportation and maps important to Nebraska agriculture?

#### **State Standards It Supports**

SS 4.3.1.—Students will explore where(spatial) and why people, places, and environments are organized in the state.  
SS 4.3.1.a, SS 4.3.1.b, SS 4.3.1.c, SS 4.3.1.d

#### **Materials**

- Handout “Agricultural Transportation”—1 per student
- Access to computer, tablets, etc.
- Google maps or other map application

#### **What’s the Connection to Agriculture?**

Nebraska agricultural products are produced in all parts of the state and need to be transported to a variety of locations. It is important to recognize the locations, routes, and transportation involved in getting agricultural products to the consumers. There are also career opportunities in transportation and logistics.

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**PROCEDURES:**

1. Organize and Prepare Supplies  
See “Materials” on cover page.

2. Background Information

A solid transportation infrastructure is critical to the success of Nebraska agriculture. There are two major railroad lines, which have well established track systems throughout the state. Interstate 80 carries vehicle traffic non-stop from east to west, while other major highways facilitate north/south movement through Nebraska. There also are major airports in Omaha and Lincoln, as well as barge transportation along the Missouri River on the Eastern border.

Agricultural products are grown and produced throughout Nebraska. Those products need to be transported not only to processing facilities, but also to retail stores and outlets across the state.

The transportation system within the state of Nebraska is focused on highway infrastructure and trucking products around the state. It is important for students to understand how agricultural products arrive at their local stores. And it is important to know directions, map reading skills, and how to identify routes that products may travel.

3. Interest Approach

- Have everyone stand, put their right hand in the air and point at the ceiling. When the instructor says “go,” students should point their right index finger in the direction north. Have students freeze once they are pointing in a direction.
- Teacher asks who believes they are pointing in the correct direction (north). Share the correct direction with entire class and have them sit down.
- Lead a discussion regarding the need for directions and maps. Questions might include: “Where do we find maps?” *expected responses: printed, computer, smart phone.* “What do we use maps for?” *expected responses: to find where we want to go.* “What can we learn from maps?” *Expected responses: directions, roads, different routes, etc.* Why are maps important to agriculture in Nebraska?” *expected responses: may vary depending on prior knowledge. Might include where products are grown, how to get products to processing plants and/or consumers.*

4. Conduct Activity

- a) Explain that today students will be “working” for an agricultural transportation company. Their task is to read and interpret routes in Nebraska to get products from one place to another. The “job” will require you to look for quick and efficient routes, identify major highways, cities, and rivers of Nebraska; and perform safe and efficient driving skills as you transport products grown and produced in Nebraska.
- b) Distribute handouts to students and provide them maps (printed, computer, or on tablet).
- c) Review answers as entire class (answer sheet provided at end of this document).

5. Ask Follow Up Questions and Make the Connection to Agriculture

- What towns/cities did you “deliver” products to?  
*Kearney, Niobrara, Lincoln, Chadron, Fremont, Holdrege, Grand Island*

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- What did you learn about Nebraska agricultural products?  
*Nebraska agricultural products are produced all over the state and also need to be transported to locations throughout Nebraska.*
- Why is it important to know directions? Read directions? Find different routes?  
*Knowing and reading directions and finding different routes are an important life skills. It is easy to rely on GPS and other technology to tell us where to go, but it is important to be able to know how to get to a place without help or technology.*
- Why is knowing about transportation and maps important to Nebraska agriculture?  
*Nebraska agricultural products are produced in all parts of the state and need to be transported to a variety of locations. It is important to recognize the locations, routes, and transportation involved in getting agricultural products to the consumers. There are also career opportunities in transportation and logistics.*

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**Agricultural Transportation**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Welcome to Nebraska Agriculture in the Classroom Transportation. We are pleased you were selected to be a transport specialist for our company. Today you will be identifying routes and locations on a map in order to transport Nebraska agricultural products to their destination.

This job will require you to:

- Identify quick and efficient routes
- Recognize the major highways, cities, and rivers of Nebraska
- Perform safe and efficient driving skills as you transport products!

Use the map provided by your teacher to complete your assignment. Good luck!

**1. A load of Poppycock Snacks needs to be transported from Lincoln to a grocery store in Kearney.**

- Take Interstate \_\_\_\_\_ traveling in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction towards Kearney.
- Just south of Grand Island you'll be crossing over the \_\_\_\_\_ River.

**2. A shipment of Morrison Farms Popcorn, which is processed in Clearwater, needs to be delivered to a snack shop in Niobrara.**

- From Clearwater, take Highway 275 traveling in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction to Neligh. From Neligh, take Highway \_\_\_\_\_ to Niobrara. Just East of Niobrara is the \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation.

**3. Ely's Farms Pickled Asparagus is produced near Grafton. A shipment needs to arrive at Hy-Vee grocery store on "O" Street in Lincoln.**

- From Grafton, go \_\_\_\_\_ to Fairmont.
- There is more than one route. Describe two routes, including directions (N, S, E, W), highway numbers, and include at least one town/city you would drive through or by on each route.

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- Option 1:

- Option 2:

**4. Dorothy Lynch Salad Dressing is produced in Duncan, NE. A shipment needs to be delivered to a grocery store in Chadron.**

- Take Highway 30 in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction to Highway \_\_\_\_\_. When you reach Merna, take Highway \_\_\_\_\_ through Alliance to Highway \_\_\_\_\_ into Chadron.
- Highway 2 follows on the \_\_\_\_\_ side of the \_\_\_\_\_ River.
- Approximately how many hours will it take to get to Chadron from Duncan? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Bakers Candies produces chocolate meltaways in a variety of flavors. Your job is to transport a shipment of candy from the main store at 831 S. Baker St, Greenwood, NE to the Hy-Vee grocery store at 840 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fremont, NE.**

- Start out going in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction on Highway 6. At Ashland, turn \_\_\_\_\_ onto Highway \_\_\_\_\_.
- Which highway takes you into Fremont? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which river do you cross south of Fremont? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the small town do you drive through that is on the south side of Fremont as you drive into the city? \_\_\_\_\_

**6. The Barn Candle Company produces candles, room diffusers, room spray, as well as soup mix, salsa, and honey. They are located in Hastings. Today you are delivering candles, soup mix, salsa, and honey to a gift store in Holdrege.**

- Take Highway \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ direction.

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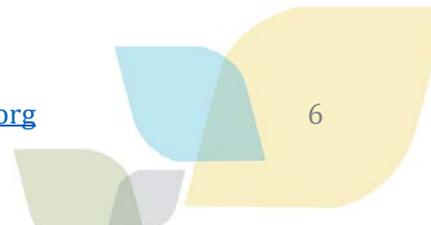
- List three towns you will drive through.

\_\_\_\_\_

- What museum is located along your route in Minden? \_\_\_\_\_

**7. The Country Pumpkin grows and produces pumpkins, squash, and gourds for sale in the fall. They are located near Sutton. You are to transport a load of pumpkins to the Walmart at 3501 S. Locust Street in Grand Island.**

- From Sutton, go \_\_\_\_\_ on Road \_\_\_\_\_. Turn \_\_\_\_\_ on Highway \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is the name of the waterfowl area you drive by? \_\_\_\_\_
- When you arrive at Interstate 80, what direction do you go? \_\_\_\_\_
- The Walmart is located in the \_\_\_\_\_ part of the city of Grand Island.



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**Answers:**

- 1. A load of Poppycock Snacks needs to be transported from Lincoln to a grocery store in Kearney.**
  - Take Interstate **80** traveling in a **western** direction towards Kearney.
  - Just south of Grand Island you'll be crossing over the **Platte** River.
  
- 2. A shipment of Morrison Farms Popcorn, which is processed in Clearwater, needs to be delivered to a snack shop in Niobrara.**
  - From Clearwater, take Highway 275 traveling in a **southeast (SE)** direction to Neligh. From Neligh, take Highway **14** to Niobrara. Just east of Niobrara is the **Santee** Reservation.
  
- 3. Ely's Farms Pickled Asparagus is produced near Grafton. A shipment needs to arrive at Hy-Vee grocery store on "O" Street in Lincoln.**
  - From Grafton, go **east** to Fairmont.
  - There is more than one route. Describe two routes, including directions (N, S, E, W), highway numbers, and include at least one town/city you would drive through or by on each route.
  - Option 1:  
**Go east on Hwy 6 to Lincoln. Towns may include: Exeter, Dorchester, Crete**
  - Option 2:  
**Go north on Hwy 81 to Interstate 80 and go east to Lincoln. Towns may include: Goehner, Pleasant Dale, Utica, Beaver Crossing, Milford, etc.**
  
- 4. Dorothy Lynch Salad Dressing is produced in Duncan, NE. A shipment needs to be delivered to a grocery store in Chadron.**
  - Take Highway 30 in a **southwestern** direction to Highway **92** . When you reach Merna, take Highway **2** through Alliance to Highway **385** into Chadron.
  - Highway 2 follows on the **north** side of the **Middle Loup** River.

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- Approximately how many hours will it take to get to Chadron from Duncan? **6**
5. **Bakers Candies produces chocolate meltaways in a variety of flavors. Your job is to transport a shipment of candy from the main store at 831 S. Baker St, Greenwood, NE to the Hy-Vee grocery store at 840 E. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Fremont, NE.**
- Start out going in a **northeastern** direction on Highway 6. At Ashland, turn **north** onto Highway **66**.
  - What highway takes you into Fremont? **Highway 77**
  - What river do you cross south of Fremont? **Platte**
  - What is the small town do you drive through that is on the south side of Fremont as you drive into the city? **Inglewood**
6. **The Barn Candle Company produces candles, room diffusers, room spray, as well as soup mix, salsa, and honey. They are located in Hastings. Today you are delivering candles, soup mix, salsa, and honey to a gift store in Holdrege.**
- Take Highway **34** in a **western** direction.
  - List three towns you will drive through. **Heartwell, Minden, Axtell, Funk**
  - What museum is located along your route in Minden? **Pioneer Village**
7. **The Country Pumpkin grows and produces pumpkins, squash, and gourds for sale in the fall. They are located near Sutton. You are to transport a load of pumpkins to the Walmart at 3501 S. Locust Street in Grand Island.**
- From Sutton, go **west** on Road **317**. Turn **north** on Highway **14**.
  - What is the name of the waterfowl area you drive by? **Hultine Federal Waterfowl Production or Sandpiper Federal Waterfowl Production**
  - When you arrive at Interstate 80, what direction do you go? **West**
  - The Walmart is located in the **northeast** part of the city of Grand Island.