Alaska Agriculture in the Classroom Indoor Gardening Workshop

Instructor: Amanda Macomber

**Pre-Course Assignment**

*These exercises should be completed and submitted before the workshop begins on October 5th, 6:00PM*

Please complete the following activities. Write your answers and discoveries in a word document. To submit your assignment, email your work to me at [Amanda.Macomber@k12northstar.org](mailto:Amanda.Macomber@k12northstar.org)

# Write a short paragraph on how you define agriculture and what agriculture means to you.

# Visit [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org) Click on “Get Involved” and then “About AITC” tab. After reading this, find the curriculum matrix of lesson plans. Go to Farmer Grows a Rainbow” section of the National Agriculture in the Classroom website. What is this program about?

# Visit <https://www.fairbankssoilwater.org/education-agriculture-classroom.htm>

This is the local website with materials available. If you are seeking credit, you will be expected to do one or more lessons that will add to the Teacher section. This site is monitored and maintained by Soil and Water Conservation under a grant. They also house all the supplies that you can check out for your classroom.

Open one or more of the lessons and activities on the Alaska AITC website. Consider variations that would make the activity more effective in your classroom. List which lesson you explored and at least one way it could be modified.

# 4. <https://www.agclassroom.org/index.cfm> All states’ AITC programs are available from the National site by changing the state selector. Visit at least two of the following states’ sites: Utah, Illinois, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Tennessee and California. Choose at least one favorite lesson or activity that you would be interested in and list which states you explored.

5. Pick three more states to visit. Find another lesson that you are interested in. There is great variation in the depth of materials among the states because funding levels vary from almost nothing to $3 million. List the states you visited and the lesson you are interested in to answer the question.

6. Go to the Student Center on the National Agriculture in the Classroom Website. Find one resource there that your students might be interested in or that you could use in your classroom.

7. Visit <http://www.agfoundation.org/>

This is the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture site. This site has great resources and scholarship opportunities to attend the National AITC conference. Find the free resource area. Identify one free resource that seems interesting or useful.

8. Visit [www.eatsmart.org](http://www.Eatsmart.org)

The Washington Dairy Council’s site is wonderful. It has lots of downloadable material and you, as an Alaska teacher, once a year, get a $25 allotment of materials shipped free to you for your classroom. Find one thing that might be interesting to order.

9. Visit [www.simplyhydro.com/whatis.htm](http://www.simplyhydro.com/whatis.htm) and read through the basic information about hydroponics. Be sure to visit the page on basic types of systems. Write down two systems that you want to try and how it will work in your classroom Explore the rest the site for useful information.

10. The last stop is to [www.nass.usda.gov/ak](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak) to see the Alaska agricultural statistics and note the links to see other state statistics. This is a great resource for your classroom. Think of one way you could use this website in your classroom.