

Farming & Agriculture



Citizen Potawatomi

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Reference the section on Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Farming and Agriculture in the *Native American, Farming & Agriculture* workbook (for a digital version of the workbook, visit: <https://nie.newsok.com/native-american-agriculture-farming/>). Ask students to read this section and then, as a class, complete the following activities:

Materials

- Five small paper cups for each student
- Five 1-liter bottles
- Water
- Sugar
- Maple syrup

Procedures

Read and discuss background and vocabulary.

Reference the two stories about maple syrup included in the workbook. Students can read them individually or as a class and discuss how they are different and how they are the same. Which story is a fable, and what is the moral?



Maple sap does not taste sweet when it first comes out of the tree. It is only about 2 percent sugar. The rest is water that has to be boiled down before it begins to taste sweet.

— Provide each student with 5 small paper cups numbered 1-5. Fill the cups with sugar water containing different concentrations of sugar as follows:

- 1 liter of plain water
- 1 liter of water with 10 grams of sugar (1 percent)
- 1 liter of water with 20 grams of sugar (2 percent)
- 1 liter of water with 30 grams of sugar (3 percent)
- 1 liter of water with 40 grams of sugar (4 percent)

— Students will sample each of the cups and rate each cup as follows:

1 - not sweet | 2 - a little sweet | 3 - sweet | 4 - very sweet

— Provide each student with a small amount of maple syrup to compare with the sugar water.

Demonstrate the evaporation of sap to produce maple sugar by conducting the following experiment. Provide each student with a shallow bowl and a small amount of sugar water you have prepared ahead of time by mixing sugar in water and heating it. Students will observe the sugar water to see how long it takes the water to evaporate, leaving the sugar in the bottom of the bowl. Discuss the results.

