



TALE OF TWO CORNS

Objective: After the lesson and activity, students should be able to distinguish the differences between field corn and sweet corn.

- Even though the two types of corn may look the same; to an experienced farmer, there are also distinct differences. Yes both plants are green and have lots of leaves, a couple full ears, and tassels, but that is where the similarities end.
- One of the most noticeable differences between field corn and sweet corn is the height difference.
 - Field corn can grow to be 7-10 feet
 - Sweet corn is normally around 2 feet shorter than that.
- Another difference is that a sweet corn plant is normally a small plant as a whole. As well as being shorter, the stalk is usually smaller, and the ears aren't as big as they are on a field corn plant.
- When it comes to the kernels of the two different types of corn, there is one major distinct difference.
 - When field corn becomes mature and dries down, it gets a noticeable dent at the top of the kernel, giving it the name dent corn.
 - Also, sweet corn is supposed to be harvested while it is immature and the kernels are full of sugar. So sweet corn kernels are usually rounder and plumper than those of field corn.
- Finally, there can be a color difference between field corn and sweet corn. Sweet corn is usually more yellow than field corn. Field corn when dried down has more of an orange tint in it.

******Make sure to show students examples of field and sweet corn ears as well as individual kernels. ******



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Instructions: Write as many fun facts as you can think of about each type of corn.



ILCORN
WWW.ILCORN.ORG

Name: _____

Class: _____

Type of corn: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____



Type of corn: _____

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____





TALE OF TWO CORNS

Answer key



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- **98% of corn** grown in IL
- **Yellow** and **dull**
- Hard outer shell
- **Full of starch**
- Mature and dry before harvest
- Stalk grows to about **10ft**
- Food processing, animal feed, ethanol production, & more

What's one thing you didn't know about field corn before?

- **2%** of corn grown in IL
- Kernels are **smooth, glossy**, & have a **yellow & white color**
- Fully formed, but not mature before harvest
- Stalk grows to about **4-5ft**
- For human consumption

What's one thing you didn't know about sweet corn before? _____

