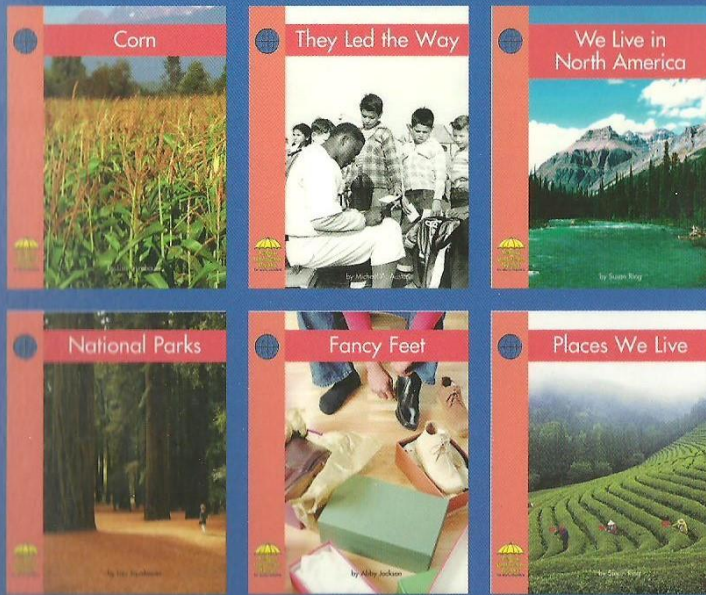


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LEVEL B – SOCIAL STUDIES



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Corn



Yellow  
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for early readers

by Lisa Trumbauer



# A Tasty Surprise

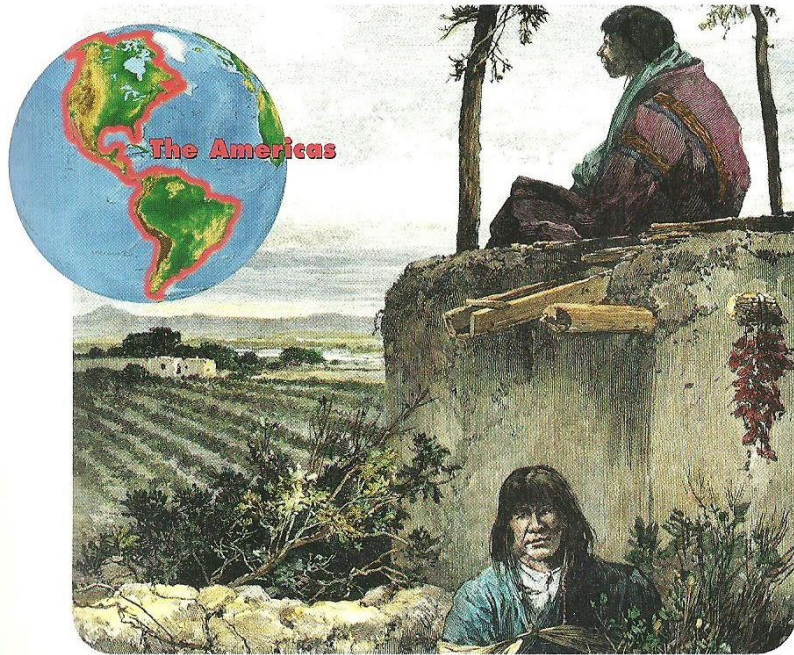


Look at these plants. They are huge! They tower over 8 feet (3.05 m) tall. Do you see the big leaves?

The leaves are called **husks**. If you peel back the husks, you'll see the yellow **kernels** of corn inside. The kernels grow on an inner core, called a **cob**.



# A Plant of the Americas



People ate corn thousands of years ago in the Americas. First, corn grew wild. Then Native Americans learned how to grow it. They called it **maize**.

Corn became a very important food for the Native Americans. They thought of many ways to cook corn. Native Americans knew that when heated, some types of kernels popped. We still eat popcorn today!



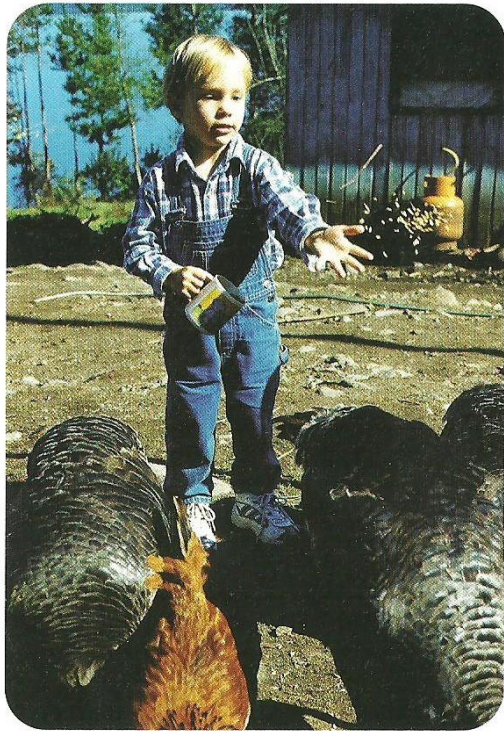


When Europeans first came to America, they had never heard about corn. The Native Americans showed the European settlers how to plant and **harvest** corn. Corn was served at the first Thanksgiving.

Corn quickly became popular with the European settlers in America. More and more farmers began planting this crop. Soon corn became an important food to the settlers, too.



# How Do We Use Corn Today?



Today, corn has many uses. Farmers use a lot of the corn they grow to feed their animals, or livestock.

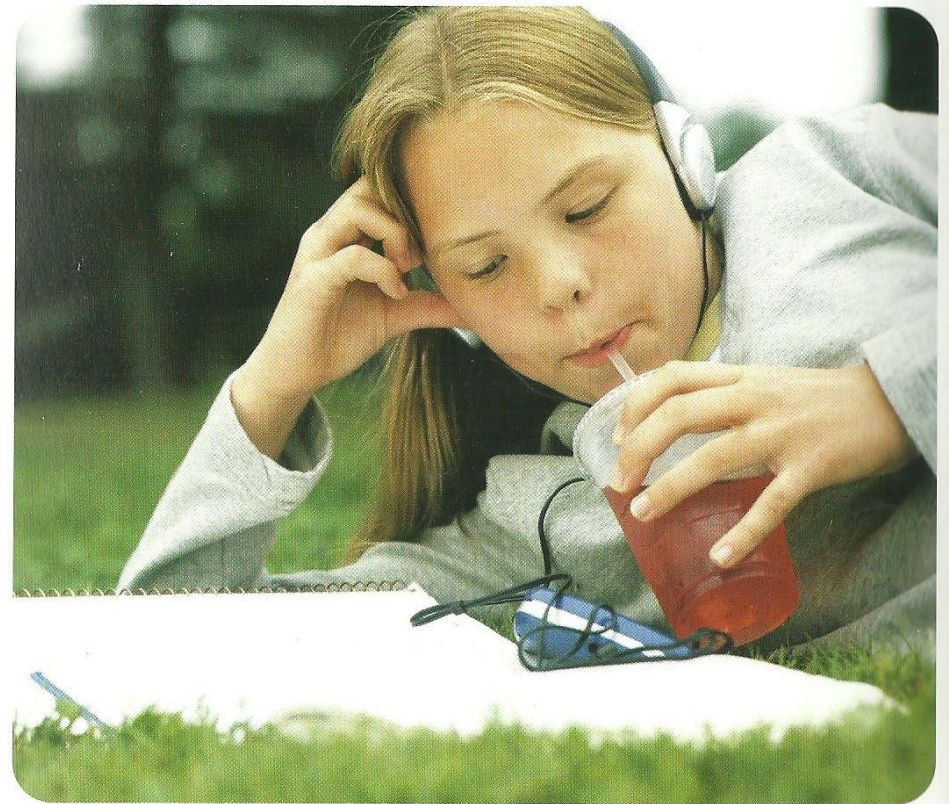
People also eat sweet corn. The corn you buy in the grocery store may come on the cob, in a can, or frozen. No matter how it comes, it is healthy to eat.





Have you ever had corn chips or corn cereal? Both are made with corn. Cornmeal is ground-up corn. People use cornmeal in many ways, including to make corn bread.

Some corn is made into a sweet liquid called **corn syrup**. You can find corn syrup in juices and sodas. Corn is also used to make some things we don't eat, like garbage bags and drinking straws!

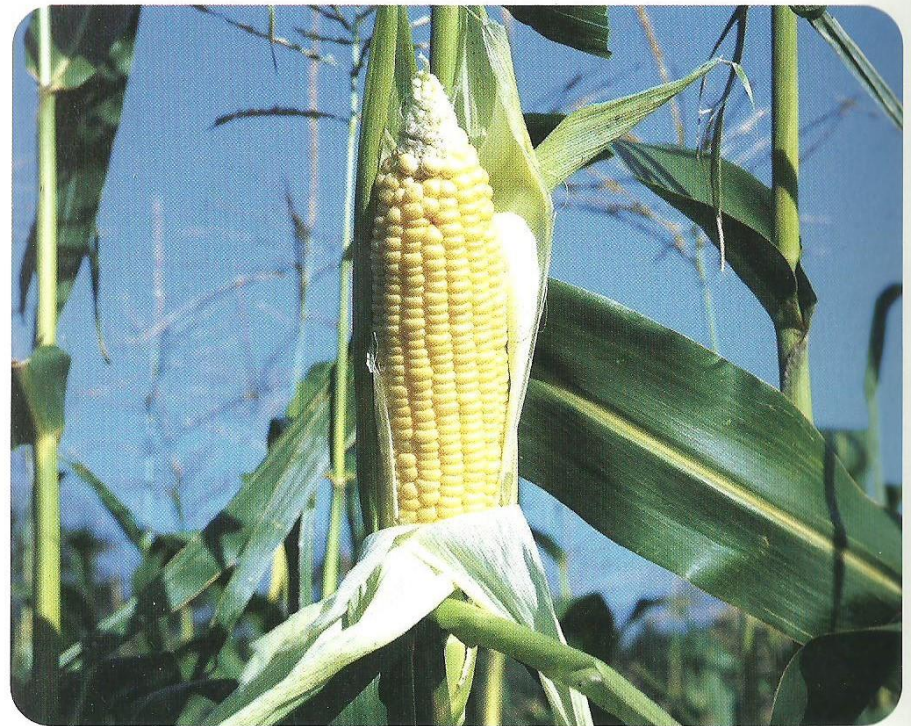


# Planting and Harvesting



Corn is planted in the spring. The corn plant grows throughout the summer. It grows taller and taller. **Ears** begin to grow on the stalk. Corn silk comes out of the top of the ears.

The tassels at the top of the cornstalk have **pollen**. The pollen falls on the silk. Each piece of silk will grow a kernel of corn. By fall, the corn is ready to be harvested. The corn silk is brown and dry, but the kernels inside the husk are ripe and juicy.





Farmers harvest the corn. You can buy the corn in the store or at a farmers' market. Today corn is enjoyed by people all around the world.

## Glossary

<b>cob</b>	the middle part of an ear of corn on which corn kernels grow
<b>corn syrup</b>	a sweetener made from corn
<b>ear</b>	the part of a corn plant where the seeds grow
<b>harvest</b>	to pick or gather a crop
<b>husk</b>	the part of a plant that covers the fruit or the seeds
<b>kernel</b>	a grain or seed, especially of corn
<b>maize</b>	corn; the corn plant
<b>pollen</b>	needed for some parts of a plant to grow