

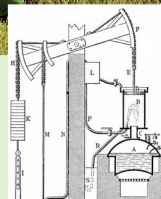
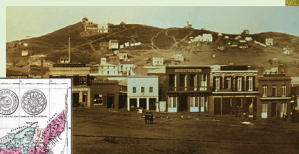
ACTIVITY 1

Reproducible Master

FROM THEN TO NOW

Now is the perfect time to *Think Rice* and learn how long it has been an important source of nutrition in the United States.

Part 1: First grown in China around 2800 B.C.E., rice has been produced in the U.S. since colonial times. To follow the history of U.S. rice, match the letter of each event described below to the correct date on the timeline.



1685

1700

1777

1849

1865

1884

1920

2015

History of U.S. Rice Facts

- A.** Rice production in many states in the Deep South is severely affected by the Civil War. Production begins to move westward to Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas.
- B.** Rice arrives in the colonies by accident. A ship, damaged by a storm after traveling from Madagascar, arrives in the Charles Town harbor of the colony of South Carolina. After the colonists help repair the ship, the ship's captain repays them with a small amount of "Golde Seed Rice." When a local farmer plants the seeds, rice growing becomes part of American history.
- C.** The Industrial Revolution helps make rice farming easier and more efficient. New machines are invented, like steam-powered pumps to pump water into rice fields.
- D.** Rice becomes a major food source for colonists. About 300 tons of American-grown "Golde Seed Rice" are even shipped to England!
- E.** Rice becomes a major agricultural business for the newly formed United States of America.
- F.** The rice-growing regions of the U.S. produce high-quality rice to feed America and the world!
- G.** The rice-farming industry is established in California.
- H.** In California, the Gold Rush brings people from all nations, many of whom are rice eaters.

Now that you know Americans have been farming rice since the colonial days, you might want to include rice in your list of all-American favorite foods!

Part 2: Today, rice is grown in six states. Find out more about each one! First unscramble the state names below, then match their numbers to the correct statement. Do you call any of these rice-producing states home?

The Scrambled States of Rice

1. FICALORNAI

2. MSIRISUO

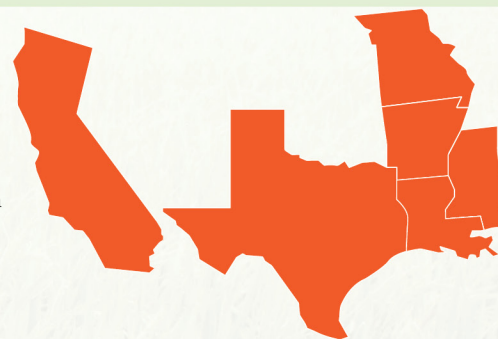
3. SIPIPSISMIS

4. SRKANSAA

5. XATSE

6. ISILUONAA

- A.** This state is the largest producer of rice in the U.S. A line in the official state song says, "The fields are full of rice!"
- B.** It's the second largest rice-producer and also grows wild rice. Almost every piece of sushi made in America is made with rice grown from this state!
- C.** Rice farmers here are neighbors with many cattle ranches and cowboys for which this state is famous.
- D.** Pass the gumbo and jambalaya! Rice farmers in this state serve it up Cajun style!
- E.** The rich, clay soil of the Delta region of this southern state is more suited to growing rice than cotton.
- F.** The rice-growing area of this state is located in what is nicknamed the "bootheel" portion of the state because of its geographical shape.



For fun, read the clues to a parent at home to see if he or she can identify each state!



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