

# A Poppin' Popcorn Festival

## Dear Educators,

For centuries, festivals have inspired communities around the world to come together in celebration. And popcorn, a centuries-old grain that remains one of the most popular snacks today, has played an integral part in creating many festival memories and traditions.

To celebrate Popcorn Poppin' Month in October, The Popcorn Board and the curriculum specialists at Young Minds Inspired have developed this free educational program to introduce your students to the history of popcorn and inspire them to make plans for their own **Poppin' Popcorn Festival**.

These standards-based, easy-to-implement activities for grades 4–8 challenge students to imagine how they would make popcorn the star of a "could-be" festival event. Some might create unique popcorn recipes for festival tasting tents, others might create games, rides, dances, songs, and more to engage your whole school community in the fun and excitement of popcorn. Best of all, planning a Poppin' Popcorn Festival can inspire your students to enter the annual **Popcorn Pep Club Contest** for the **chance to win cash prizes for your school — \$10,000 in prizes will be awarded to schools!**

Please share this program with other teachers in your school, and let us know your thoughts on the program by visiting [ymiclassroom.com/feedback-popcorn](http://ymiclassroom.com/feedback-popcorn).

Let's get popping!

  
Dr. Dominic Kinsley  
Editor in Chief  
Young Minds Inspired



© 2022 YMI, Inc.  
© 2022 The Popcorn Board

Questions? Contact YMI toll-free at 1-800-859-8005, or by email at [feedback@ymiclassroom.com](mailto:feedback@ymiclassroom.com).

### TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 4 to 8 as a supplement to family and consumer sciences, language arts, and health curricula

### PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Visit [ymiclassroom.com/popcorn](http://ymiclassroom.com/popcorn):

- This teacher's guide
- Two reproducible activity sheets
- A curricular standards alignment chart

### PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

- Introduce students to the history and nutritional facts of popcorn
- Spark creative thinking and collaboration as students make plans for a "could-be" popcorn festival
- Encourage students to enter the **Popcorn Pep Club Contest**

### HOW TO USE THE PROGRAM

Distribute photocopies of the two activity sheets. Organize students into pairs or small groups to create concepts for a fun popcorn festival. Students will need internet access, markers, paper, and other media to present their ideas. Connect with your colleagues in science, art, and health to make this a fun cross-curricular learning experience.

### ACTIVITY 1: WELCOME TO THE POPPIN' POPCORN FESTIVAL!

To introduce the program, ask students what they think of when they hear the word "popcorn." Do they have memories of making popcorn? Favorite ways to eat it? Next, ask what they think of when they hear the word "festival." Responses might include fun, food, entertainment, rides, and craft exhibits. Finally, ask what could happen if you put all these thoughts together. Tell students they are going to find out by coming up with their own original ideas for a Poppin' Popcorn Festival!

Group students in pairs or small teams and review the activity sheet, which lists some themes for attractions that could be part of a popcorn festival. Depending on your class, you might let students choose a theme, assign different themes to each team, or let them brainstorm their own ideas.

To get their creative ideas popping, have students research popcorn to learn more about its history, how it is grown, its nutrition, and its many uses. Each team will write a description of the attraction they would create for a popcorn festival.



### ACTIVITY 2: LET THE FESTIVITIES BEGIN!

This activity guides students from concept to design as they work as a team to present their ideas for a festival attraction. You might want to assign a common presentation format, such as a poster, brochure, model, slide presentation, or video, or let students choose their own formats.

The activity sheet provides prompts to help students plan and build their concept presentation. In addition, for consistency, teams might vote on colors and other common features to be included in each presentation. Once done, the presentations can be combined to create a class display for a Poppin' Popcorn Festival!

**Extension:** Since popcorn is a popular snack often associated with fun family time, have students create a poll to ask family and friends about their favorite way to eat popcorn or their favorite memory of popcorn (what do they think of when they think of popcorn?). Poll findings can be incorporated into the festival plans to appeal to what people like.

### ONLINE RESOURCES

- The Popcorn Board: [www.popcorn.org](http://www.popcorn.org)
- Lessons, videos, and teaching resources: [www.popcorn.org/Learning/Teaching-Tools](http://www.popcorn.org/Learning/Teaching-Tools)
- Popcorn videos: [www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Videos](http://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Videos)
- YMI and The Popcorn Board microsite: [www.ymiclassroom.com/popcorn](http://www.ymiclassroom.com/popcorn)

### POPCORN PEP CLUB CONTEST

Conclude this unit by having students review some past winning Popcorn Pep Club Contest entries at [www.popcorn.org/PepClub](http://www.popcorn.org/PepClub). Then get poppin' on a Popcorn Pep Club project for your school — **\$10,000 in cash prizes will be awarded to schools, with top schools winning \$2,500 or \$1,500.** The deadline is December 31, 2022.



# Welcome to the Poppin' Popcorn Festival!

Imagine it — a festival celebrating popcorn! What would it look like? What would you see, eat, do, or learn? Let your imagination soar because the answers are up to you. With your partners, you'll create a concept for an attraction at a fun festival where popcorn is the star.

**PART 1:** To start, read the ideas below for themes and attractions you might see at a festival. Visit links to sites where you can learn more. Also brainstorm your own ideas with your team.



**POPCORN HERITAGE TENT:** This agricultural exhibit will celebrate the farming and production of popcorn from seed to snack. Festival goers will learn fun facts about popcorn such as:

- Most of the world's popcorn is grown in eight states in the U.S.
- Popcorn pops because there is moisture in the kernel that turns to steam and explodes when heated.
- Americans consume some 14 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year.

To learn more about popcorn facts for a Heritage Tent exhibit, visit:

**From Seed to Snack:** [www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/From-Seed-to-Snack](http://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/From-Seed-to-Snack)

**History of Popcorn:** [www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/History-of-Popcorn](http://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/History-of-Popcorn)

**Where Does Popcorn Grow?** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvjyc6cdUWA&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gvjyc6cdUWA&feature=youtu.be)



## POPCORN HEALTH & FITNESS TENT:

Festival-goers will learn nutritional facts about this popular snack, such as:

- Popcorn is a whole grain that provides energy-packed complex carbohydrates.
- Popcorn is naturally low in fat and calories.
- Popcorn has no artificial additives or preservatives, and is sugar-free.

To learn more about popcorn's nutritional facts, visit:

**Nutritional Information:**

[www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Nutrition](http://www.popcorn.org/All-About-Popcorn/Nutrition)



**POPCORN FOOD COURT:** For this festival fan favorite, create ideas for your own popcorn recipes to unveil at the festival. For inspiration, check out recipes at:

**Recipes:** [www.popcorn.org/Recipes](http://www.popcorn.org/Recipes)

**Kids in the Kitchen:** [www.popcorn.org/Recipes/Kids-in-the-Kitchen](http://www.popcorn.org/Recipes/Kids-in-the-Kitchen)



**THE POPCORN EXPERIENCE:** A festival needs arts, crafts, and entertainment! Explore how popcorn can be used in an original song or video, or how to create dazzling and delightful artwork and craft items. Your arts and crafts area might even provide supplies for families to create their own popcorn art. For inspiration, check out:

**Popcorn Seed Art:** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTs8STdOLKM&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTs8STdOLKM&feature=youtu.be)



## OTHER IDEAS:



- "Popcorn Fun House" with games and rides inspired by popcorn.
- "Popcorn Marketplace" that sells popcorn treats and collectibles.
- "Popcorn Extravaganza" that features popcorn-themed entertainment.

What other attractions might be part of your festival? Write your ideas on the back of this page.



**PART 2:** Once you have an idea for a popcorn festival attraction, work with your partners to describe your idea in a short write-up on a separate piece of paper. Use your creativity to make your idea stand out!





# Let the Festivities Begin!

You have a terrific idea for a Poppin' Popcorn Festival attraction. Now bring your idea to life with a presentation that shows all the fun and excitement you can imagine.

## PART 1:

Use the questions below to plan how you will present your fabulous popcorn festival idea. For example, if you're creating a Popcorn Heritage Tent, you might decide on the stories you will tell and show how you plan to tell them. If you're planning a Popcorn Food Court, you will need popcorn recipe ideas, plus pictures to show what your treats will look like. Try to make your presentation as exciting as you know your festival attraction will be!

**Our team's attraction:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Our presentation format (examples: poster, brochure, model, slide presentation, video, etc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What our attraction will look like (design, colors, signs, set-up):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What will be included in our attraction (topics, facts, types of food, crafts, etc.):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**What our attraction will offer (the goal of your attraction):** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**How our attraction celebrates popcorn:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2:

Now get poppin' on putting together your festival presentation. And remember: popcorn is the star!

