

Grade 5 -- Informational

What is a Corn Maze?

People have built mazes for thousands of years. Mazes have been used to hide objects and to attract adventurers. Ancient Greek stories tell of a stone maze built to hide a creature called a Minotaur. In the United States today, farmers create mazes in their corn fields. These mazes attract visitors, provide entertainment, and earn money.

A New Use for a Corn Field

The first corn maze in the United States was reportedly created in the early 1990s. Corn mazes have continued to grow in popularity. Hundreds of corn mazes are created every year. Corn mazes provide hours of entertainment for adventurers of any age. Most corn mazes are only a few acres in size. In 2009, a farmer in California set a world record with a 45-acre corn maze. Other farmers continue to compete to break the record for the largest maze.

Farmers turn their corn fields into mazes as a way of earning additional money. Visitors pay a fee to find hidden objects or just find their way through the paths. Many people look forward to exploring a corn maze as a family experience. Corn mazes also attract scouts and other groups.

How to Make a Corn Maze

A farmer can make a corn maze in different ways. One way is to stake out paths for the corn maze before planting. Then corn is planted to create the walls of the maze. The paths are weeded to keep them clear for visitors. Another way to make a maze is to mow the cornstalks. A tractor with a mower attached can be used to cut the cornstalks to make the paths. A farmer may use a global positioning system (GPS) like the one used in a car to find directions. The GPS helps guide the trimming of the corn field to create the maze.

A farmer can plan the maze design or hire a company to create it. Some maze builders choose a state theme or another favorite design. Logos of sports teams or cartoon characters are popular. Some businesses pay farmers to use their company's logo as the pattern for the maze. Designs are often chosen for how they will look from the air. In fact, many farms with a corn maze post aerial pictures of their maze on a website.

Finding Your Way through a Corn Maze

Mazes may be large and complicated. Some people are concerned they may get lost. Farmers take steps to make sure people are safe. Some farms offer maps of the maze. Some mazes offer texting as a guide. A visitor can key in numbers on a cell phone, and directions will appear on the screen. Sometimes farm workers are available in a maze to assist with directions.

A Popular Form of Entertainment

In addition to a corn maze, a farm may offer other features to attract more people. Visitors may enjoy food, such as caramel apples. Activities such as pumpkin picking or a petting zoo may also add to the fun. Corn mazes are a great way to enjoy time outside. They offer adventure, exploration, and lots of fun! Consider a corn maze for your next autumn outing.

- 1) What could be another title for this passage? (LA 5.1.6.e)
 - a) 45 Acre Corn Maze
 - b) Corn Maze Designs
 - c) Making a Corn Maze
 - d) Getting Lost in a Corn Maze

- 2) What is the author's purpose for writing this passage? (LA 5.1.6.a)
 - a) to explain how to make corn mazes
 - b) to inform the reader about corn mazes
 - c) to persuade the reader to experience a corn maze
 - d) to entertain the reader about a story in a corn maze

- 3) Which word is a compound word? (LA 5.1.5.a)
 - a) logo
 - b) didn't
 - c) design
 - d) cornstalk

- 4) How big is the world record corn maze? (LA 5.1.6.k)
 - a) 2 acres
 - b) 45 acres
 - c) 1990 acres
 - d) 2009 acres

- 5) How can a farmer use technology, such as a global positioning system (GPS), to create a corn maze? (LA 5.1.6.k)
 - a) A GPS helps guide the trimming of the corn field.
 - b) A GPS offers texting as a guide through the maze.
 - c) A GPS helps the farmer post an aerial picture on a website.
 - d) A GPS offers assistance to visitors going through the maze.
 - e)

- 6) Based on the story, what does the author believe? (LA 5.1.6.k)
 - a) It is easy to create a corn maze.
 - b) People would enjoy going through a corn maze.
 - c) All farmers should create a maze in their corn field.
 - d) No one will get lost in a cartoon character design corn maze.

- 7) In paragraph 5, what does the word **aerial** mean? (LA 5.1.5.c)
 - a) lacking substance
 - b) of or relating to a forward pass
 - c) a type of maneuver in gymnastics
 - d) existing, happening, or operating in the air

C4L Reading - Item Writing Tally Sheet

Grade 5- Informational

Passage Name: What is a Corn Maze?

Gr5 Vocabulary	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 5.1.5 Vocabulary: Students will build literary, general academic, and content specific grade level vocabulary.					
LA 5.1.5.a <i>Apply knowledge of word structure elements, known words, and word patterns to determine meaning (e.g., affixes, abbreviations, parts of speech, word origins)</i>	1, 2	1			1
LA 5.1.5.c <i>Select and apply context clues (e.g., word, phrase, sentence and paragraph clues, re-reading) and text features (e.g., glossary, headings, subheadings, captions, maps) to determine meaning of unknown words in a variety of text structures</i>	2				1
LA 5.1.5.d <i>Identify semantic relationships (e.g., multiple meanings, metaphors, similes, idioms, analogies)</i>	1, 2	1			1
Gr5 Comprehension	DOK Level	DOK 1	DOK 2	DOK 3	Item Total
LA 5.1.6 Comprehension: Students will extract and construct meaning using prior knowledge, applying text information, and monitoring comprehension while reading grade level text.					
LA 5.1.6.a <i>Identify author purpose(s) (e.g., explain, entertain, inform, persuade) and recognize how author perspective (e.g., beliefs, assumptions, biases) influences text</i>	3				1
LA 5.1.6.d <i>Identify literary devices and explain the ways in which language is used (e.g., simile, metaphor, alliteration, onomatopoeia, imagery, rhythm)</i>	2, 3				
LA 5.1.6.e <i>Summarize and analyze the main idea from informational text using supporting details</i>	2				1
LA 5.1.6.f <i>Understand and apply knowledge of organizational patterns found in informational text (e.g., sequence, description, cause and effect, compare/contrast, fact/opinion)</i>	2				
LA 5.1.6.g <i>Apply knowledge of text features to locate information and gain meaning from a text (e.g., index, maps, charts, tables, graphs, headings, subheadings)</i>	1, 2				

<p>LA 5.1.6.h <i>Describe the defining characteristics of narrative and informational genres (e.g., textbooks, myths, fantasies, science fiction, drama, periodicals, essays)</i></p>	2				
<p>LA 5.1.6.k <i>Generate and/or answer literal, inferential, critical, and interpretive questions, supporting answers using prior knowledge and literal and inferential information from the text and additional sources</i></p>	1, 2, 3	3			3

