

# **Corn: An Integrated Curriculum; Science Enhancement for K-5 Teachers. (A01-tracy133947-Poster)**

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## **Abstract:**

The Wisconsin Teacher Enhancement Program, UW-Madison, is a national professional development program for K-14 science and health educators. Courses in the program are designed to enhance teachers' understanding of biology and provide curriculum directly applicable to the classroom. A key aspect of this program is the teaming of professors with master teachers for course development and instruction. In 1993, we developed 'Corn; The Grain That Changed History.' Usually it is taught in the summer as a one credit, one week module. Focusing on plant biology, agriculture, and environmental science, we provide an integrated curriculum in which corn is used to teach all subjects. We focus on inquiry based science activities and provide information and curriculum for using corn in the class. We introduce 'corny' activities and strategies to challenge students in designing their own experiments and investigations using the scientific method. We provide information on growth systems for corn in the classroom. Participants gain knowledge in corn physiology, history, geography, economics, and genetics. Field trips, art activities, and projects, are a part of the course curriculum.

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