



## Trivia Facts



*In a World without Corn... there are many things that would be different!*

**No frozen pizza!** Freezing pizza is a problem, because the moisture in the sauce can migrate into the crust, making it so soggy it's unappealing to eat. Modified corn starch is used to provide a barrier that prevents water migration and keeps the crust crisp.

**Drippy lollipops.** Candy makers began using corn syrups in lollipops and other hard candies generations ago because the syrups hold moisture and prevent drips.

**Crystals in ice cream.** As a box of ice cream goes in and out of freezers on the way home from the store and in the kitchen, it's natural for crystals to develop in it. Part of the role corn sweeteners play in ice cream and other frozen desserts is to keep crystals from developing.

## AG-Mazing News ~ Links to Agriculture

### Super Slurper



In 1976, Agricultural Research Scientists (ARS) in Beltsville, Maryland combined corn starch with a synthetic chemical and created a product so thirsty that it could absorb 300 times its weight in water. Someone called it "Super Slurper" and the name stuck.

Since the beginning, the positive qualities of Super Slurper make it an "earth friendly" product. Super Slurper is made from corn starch which is a renewable resource. It is both biodegradable and non-toxic which is good for the environment. The basic technology of Super Slurper was the inspiration of other absorbent products such as disposable diapers.



One business that uses Super Slurper today is the Nursery and Greenhouse Industry. It is used there as a seed coating which absorbs and holds moisture around a seed and encourages it germinate quickly. The Ag Sorbent Company in North Carolina makes a mixture that keeps tree roots moist until the trees can be planted.

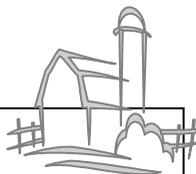
One of the latest uses for Super Slurper began in 2003 in libraries. Super Slurper is now being used to dry books, papers, photographs, and other materials soaked by water from flooding, leaks, and other disasters.

Using Super Slurper to salvage water-damaged materials is much faster than air drying the materials. Tests showed that Super Slurper could dry several wet books in about 10 minutes. Air drying could take weeks. Mold, which can begin to grow in just 48 hours, can be eliminated if Super Slurper is used.



Scientists continue to look for new uses for this product. What will they think up next?

## Farm Facts



- Since cows, pigs, and chickens all eat corn, your breakfast of milk, bacon and eggs is all related to corn!
- Corn is a major component in many food items like cereals, peanut butter, snack foods, and soft drinks.
- U.S. researchers have led the way in finding many uses for corn - like in vitamins and amino acids.
- Corn is used to produce fuel alcohol. Fuel alcohol makes gasoline burn cleaner, reducing air pollution, and it doesn't pollute the water.

## Joke

What does every corn grower make and every ear of corn have?



## Joke Answer

ROWS



Maryland Ag in the Classroom

[www.maefonline.com](http://www.maefonline.com)



Mobile Ag Ed Science Lab

[www.aglab.pfb.com](http://www.aglab.pfb.com)

# What Do You Remember?



1. About how many years has it been since Super Slurper was discovered?
  - 50 years
  - 30 years
  - 15 years
  - 5 years
  
2. Which of the following describe Super Slurper?
  - Toxic
  - Earth friendly
  - Biodegradable
  - Non-renewable
  
3. How does the Nursery & Greenhouse Industry use Super Slurper?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. What is the latest use for Super Slurper?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Growing Corn Experiment

## Materials:

1. Five to six corn kernels
2. Paper towels
3. One sandwich-size zipper-lock bag
4. Water
5. Black markers



## Directions:

1. Wet a paper towel completely, then gently wring out excess water.
2. Put five to six corn kernels in the center of the paper towel.  
(Using 5-6 kernels will increase the chances of sprouting.)
3. Put the paper towel and the kernels in the zipper-lock bag so that the kernels can be seen. Close the bag and label it.
4. Lay the bag in a place exposed to natural daylight or a grow lamp, where you can observe it.
5. Check on the bag regularly, water the kernels and watch the corn grow.  
(When the corn grows too tall for the bag, unzip the top.)

