LESSON PLAN

Teacher's name: Nastasi Tinela

School: Colegiul Național **Mihai Eminescu**, Suceava

Class: 5th-6th-7th graders

Number of students: 30

Level: A2-B1

Topic: Eco-farming and Modal Verbs

Approach: Communicative

Objectives:

By the end of the lesson students will be able to:

- identify different modal verb forms
- describe the main duties of a farmer
- use specific vocabulary related to eco-farming
- complete speaking, reading, writing tasks for specific information

Teaching aids:

- Handouts
- Smartboard
- Whiteboard / markers
- Websites: https://wordwall.net/community, https://invideo.io/make/ai-video-generator-web,

https://www.magicschool.ai/
https://www.google.com/search
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhOrIUlrnPo

Skills involved:

Speaking, Reading, Listening, Writing

Anticipated problems for students:

- confusion among different modal verb forms
- difficulty using new eco-farming vocabulary

Anticipated problems for teacher:

- low participation during speaking activities

Procedure:

Stages of the lesson	Teacher's activity	Students' activity	Time	Skills	Interaction	Materials
Warm-up	T greets students and asks them to split in 6 groups and choose a picture from HANDOUT 1 without telling them which one they have chosen, describe it using the MODAL VERBS: *can, must, should, may, might, need*	Students brainstorm ideas and share prior knowledge on the MODAL VERBS. The Ss from one group have	5'	Speaking	T-Ss SS-SS	Smartboard on which the teacher displays HANDOUT 1

		to describe the picture according to the task and the other students from the other groups have to guess the picture.				
Pre-speaking	T. introduces key vocabulary (HANDOUT 2): **a. sustainability** **b. organic farming** **c. biodiversity** **d. compost** **e. crop rotation** **f. harvest** **g. greenhouse** **h. pests**	Students take notes and ask questions.	5’	Listening, Speaking Writing	T-Ss	Whiteboard Smartboard on which the teacher displays the words and their definitions HANDOUT 2

	i. greenhouse **j. irrigation**					
While-speaking	T. guides students to read the cards on: https://wordwall.net/community and answer them using the vocabulary items from HANDOUT 2 and the required modal verbs.	Students read the questions on the cards and answer them, using eco-farming vocabulary and modal verbs.	10’	Reading Speaking Listening	Individual work Group work	smartboard whiteboard
Post-speaking	The T guides the students to do the quiz on https://www.magicschool.ai/. Vocabulary practice on HANDOUT 3	Students complete the quiz.	15’	Reading Writing Speaking	Individual / Pair work	HANDOUT 3

Listening	T. plays a video with the title: What is Organic Farming? | Agriculture **(3 minutes and 28 seconds)** _https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WhOrIUlrnPo and asks Ss to listen to the pros and cons of eco-farming and write them down.	Students listen and complete the tasks.	10’	Listening Speaking Writing	Individual work	Audio on youtube
Feedback & Homework	T. asks students to express their views and give the answers to the previous task. T asks SS to write an imaginary social media post about the experience of being an eco-farmer, using 5 new vocabulary items from today’s lesson and 3 modal verbs.	Students do the task.	5’	Speaking	Ss-Ss T-SS	Smartboard Whiteboard

HANDOUT 1 created with https://invideo.io/make/ai-video-generator-web



HANDOUT 2 Definitions on https://www.google.com/

a. Sustainability Farming that meets current food needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs, focusing on ecological balance and economic viability.

b. Organic Farming An agricultural system that avoids synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and GMOs, relying instead on natural processes like composting, crop rotation, and biological pest control.

c. Biodiversity The variety of life (plants, animals, microorganisms) within an agricultural ecosystem, crucial for resilience against pests, diseases, and climate change.

d. Compost: Decomposed organic matter (plant and animal waste) used as a natural, nutrient-rich fertilizer to improve soil health.

e. Crop Rotation The practice of growing different types of crops in the same area across a sequence of seasons to prevent soil depletion, break pest cycles, and manage nutrients.

f. Harvest The process or season of gathering mature crops from the fields.

g. Greenhouse A structure with walls and roof made chiefly of transparent material, such as glass, in which plants requiring regulated climatic conditions are grown.

h. Pests Organisms (insects, weeds, diseases) that damage crops, which in sustainable systems are managed through natural predators rather than synthetic chemicals.

j. Irrigation The artificial application of water to land or soil, often using efficient methods like drip irrigation to conserve water

HANDOUT 3 created with https://www.magicschool.ai/

Sustainable Farming and Ecosystems

1. Which practice best helps maintain soil health and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers?
   A. Using compost made from food scraps and plant waste
   B. Watering plants more often than needed
   C. Planting the same crop in the same place every year
2. What is one main benefit of crop rotation on a farm?
   A. It reduces pest and disease buildup by changing where crops grow
   B. It guarantees higher prices at market each year
   C. It makes plants produce flowers year-round
3. Which description best defines biodiversity?
   A. The variety of different species living in an ecosystem
   B. The total weight of farmers' harvest each season
   C. The number of greenhouses on a farm
4. Why are greenhouses useful for farmers?
   A. They create a controlled environment to protect plants from bad weather
   B. They stop plants from needing sunlight at all
   C. They ensure pests cannot ever reach the plants
5. How does irrigation help crops grow in dry regions?
   A. It supplies water to plants when rainfall is insufficient
   B. It increases the number of pests feeding on crops
   C. It cools the soil so plants stop growing

Answer Key

1. A 2. A 3.A 4.A 5.A

GreEnglish

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ACTIVITY 1 CREATED WITH:

https://app.magicschool.ai/tools/mc-assessment?thread=146432116

SPLIT IN GROUPS AND WORK TOGETHER ON THE QUESTIONS BELOW. FIRST READ THE VOCABULARY EXPLANATIONS.

Idioms on Ecofarming — 7th Grade Multiple Choice

1. In ecofarming, a farmer says, "We need **to let the soil rest** this season." Which idiom best matches this idea?
   A. Break the ice
   B. Let the grass grow under our feet
   C. Give the land a breather
   D. Beat around the bush
2. A cooperative of small farms shares tools and knowledge. Which idiom best describes their teamwork?
   A. Many hands make light work
   B. A taste of your own medicine
   C. Barking up the wrong tree
   D. Being almost correct
3. After trying a risky new planting method, the farmer decided to "play it safe" next year. Which idiom fits that choice?
   A. Cut to the chase
   B. Better safe than sorry
   C. Hit the hay
   D. Jump on the bandwagon
4. When a community gardener talks about starting with small changes that will grow larger benefits, which idiom applies?
   A. Burn the midnight oil
   B. Rome wasn't built in a day
   C. Spill the beans
   D. Out of the frying pan into the fire
5. A farmer says a pest outbreak "came out of nowhere." Which idiom has the same meaning? A. A drop in the bucket
   B. Out of the blue
   C. In hot water
   D. On thin ice
6. An eco-farming trainer tells students to "keep an eye on" the compost pile. Which idiom has the same meaning?

A. Watch your back
B. Keep an ear to the ground
C. Mind your own business
D. Keep an eye on the herd

7. If an old irrigation system finally fails after years of use, one might say it's "**on its last legs**." Which option is the correct meaning?
A. Brand new and efficient
B. In a bad condition
C. Very heavy and strong
D. Easy to fix
8. A farmer emphasizes that small annual improvements **will bring big harvests**. Which idiom best matches that idea?
A. Every dog has its day
B. At a snail's pace
C. Cry over spilled milk
D. Throw in the towel
9. When someone says the community garden project "**took root**," what does that idiom mean here?
A. It was planted with tree roots
B. It became established and accepted
C. It failed quickly
D. It needed digging
10. Eco-farming improves biodiversity and soil health. Which idiom matches this idea?
A. A stitch in time saves nine
B. Patience is a virtue
C. Hit the nail on the head
D. Kill two birds with one stone

VOCABULARY EXPLANATIONS

1. **Give the land a breather**= to let the soil rest
2. **To let the grass grow under our feet**=to delay action, to be inactive
3. **To beat around the bush**=to avoid talking about the main topic
4. **Many hands make light work**= tasks are easier, when many people cooperate and work together

5. **To bark up the wrong tree**= to look for solutions in the wrong place
6. **To cut to the chase**= to talk about or deal with the important parts of a subject and not waste time with things that are not important
7. **To hit the hay**=to go to bed
8. **To jump on the bandwagon**= to join in a popular activity
9. **To burn midnight oil**=to work late into the night
10. **Rome wasn't built in a day**=important, large, or complex tasks require time, patience and effort to complete
11. **To spill the beans**= to tell people secret information
12. **Out of the frying pan into the fire**= when you move from a bad or difficult situation to one that is worse
13. **A drop in the bucket**= a very small quantity compared to the amount needed
14. **In hot water**= to be in serious trouble
15. **On thin ice**=in a risky situation
16. **To watch your back**=to protect against danger
17. **To keep an ear to the ground**= to pay attention to everything that is happening around you
18. **To keep an eye on the herd**=to take care of
19. **Every dog has its day**= everyone will have good luck or success at some point in their lives.
20. **To cry over spilled milk**=to waste time worrying, complaining, or feeling sorry
21. **To throw in the towel**= to abandon, to surrender

ACTIVITY 1 Answer key

1. C

2. A
3. B
4. B
5. B
6. D
7. B
8. B
9. B
10. D

ACTIVITY 2 CREATED WITH:

https://app.magicschool.ai/tools/worksheet?thread=146468240

Eco Farming Vocabulary

FIRST READ THE TEXT AND THEN DO EXERCISES A, B and C BELOW.

Eco farming is a way of growing food that helps the environment. Farmers who use eco-friendly methods try to keep soil healthy, save water, protect pollinators like bees, and reduce pollution. They use natural processes such as composting, crop rotation, and integrated pest management instead of relying only on chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Eco farming can include organic practices, agroforestry (growing trees with crops), and using cover crops to prevent soil erosion. These methods support long-term food production and help habitats for wildlife.

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct words:

composting, agroforestry, cover crops, crop rotation, integrated pest management

1. Farmers add _____ to soil to return nutrients from plant and food waste.

2. Planting different crops in a field each year is called _____.
3. Trees grown together with crops to provide shade and other benefits is called _____.
4. Plants grown to protect and improve soil between main crops are called _____.
5. Methods that use natural predators or cultural practices to control pests are called _____.

B. Choose the correct answer for each question:

1. Which practice helps keep soil from washing away during heavy rain?
   A. Using chemical pesticides

   B. Planting cover crops

   C. Harvesting early

   D. Removing trees
2. Which eco farming method returns nutrients to the soil by using decomposed organic material?
   A. Crop rotation

   B. Agroforestry

   C. Composting

   D. Pesticide spraying
3. What is a benefit of agroforestry?
   A. It eliminates the need for water.

   B. It increases habitat for wildlife and can improve soil.

   C. It guarantees higher prices for crops.

   D. It stops all insect activity.
4. Crop rotation mainly helps farmers by:
   A. Increasing pest populations

B. Reducing soil nutrients

C. Preventing disease and balancing soil nutrients

D. Making soil more compact

5. Integrated pest management (IPM) focuses on:
   A. Only using chemical pesticides as a first choice

   B. Using natural predators and monitoring to reduce pest damage

   C. Cutting down all nearby plants to remove pests

   D. Planting the same crop every year

C. Answer the following questions in complete sentences:

1. Explain how composting supports eco farming and name one material that can be composted.
2. Describe one way crop rotation can reduce the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
3. Give two benefits of using cover crops on a farm and explain why each is helpful.

ACTIVITY 2 Answer Key

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct words exercise.

1. composting
2. crop rotation
3. agroforestry
4. cover crops
5. integrated pest management

B. Choose the correct answer for each question exercise

1. B
2. C
3. B
4. C
5. B

C. Open-Ended example responses for the questions in exercise **C**.

1. Composting supports eco farming by returning nutrients to the soil as organic matter breaks down. One material that can be composted is vegetable scraps.
2. Crop rotation can reduce the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides by breaking pest and disease cycles and by planting legumes that add nitrogen to the soil, reducing fertilizer needs.
3. Two benefits of using cover crops are preventing soil erosion and adding nutrients. Preventing erosion helps keep topsoil in place during rain, and adding nutrients (with legume cover crops) improves soil fertility for the next main crop.

ACTIVITY 3 CREATED WITH

https://app.magicschool.ai/tools/tongue-twisters

READ THE TONGUE TWISTERS AS FAST AS POSSIBLE.

1. Farmers might mulch morning mounds, making moist microbe meals.
2. Could curious cucumbers cover clay clods, conserving cool, clean conditions?
3. Mandy may move manure modestly, mixing minerals, making mighty mulch.
4. Bees must buzz beside blooming beds to best boost bountiful berries.
5. Will wild weeds waver when water-wise willow windbreaks wind?
6. Farmers should shade seedlings so sun stress shies shyly away.
7. Can compost caretakers carefully combine carrot cores, coffee grounds, and clover?

8. Pairs of planters might plant piles of perennial peas to protect the plot.
9. Should small sprayers spray slowly so soil stays slightly saturated, not soggy?
10. Could clever crop cover curb cold, creating cozy conditions for crops?

ACTIVITY 4 CREATED WITH

https://app.magicschool.ai/

USE BOBBY MCFERRIN'S SONG *DON'T WORRY BE HAPPY*:

(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-diB65scQU&list=RDd-diB65scQU&start_radio=1)

CHANGE THE LYRICS WITH THESE RELATED TO ECO-FARMING AND TRY TO SING IT.

Eco Farming Don't Worry Be Happy

In every field where the soil runs deep, Plant your seeds and you will reap, You can grow your food so naturally, Don't worry, be happy!

You should know that the earth can heal, With eco farming, it's so real, Rotate your crops, let the land be free, Don't worry, be happy!

Chorus: Don't worry, be happy now, Learn to farm sustainably, here's how, Every garden, every row, Watch your eco farming grow!

You might wonder where to start, Composting is an eco art, You must care for what you sow, Help your vegetables to grow!

The soil will thrive when you use no spray, You can build a better way, Pollinators ought to dance and play, In your garden every day!

Chorus: Don't worry, be happy now, Learn to farm sustainably, here's how, Every garden, every row, Watch your eco farming grow!

You shall see the difference that you make, For the planet's and the children's sake, Eco farming, can't you see? It's the way that life should be!

So don't worry, be happy with the land, Nature's bounty in your hand, Eco farming, strong and true, There's so much that you can do!

READING ACTIVITY 1 CREATED WITH:
https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

Eco Farming: Caring for Earth and Food

What is eco farming? Eco farming is a way of growing food that helps nature instead of harming it. Farmers use methods like crop rotation, planting different crops each season, and adding compost to keep soil healthy. They avoid chemical pesticides and instead use natural predators or plant barriers to protect crops. Eco farms save water by using drip irrigation and collecting rain, and they often create homes for beneficial insects and birds. By working with natural systems, eco farming produces healthy food, supports animal life, and helps reduce pollution, so farms can keep producing food for people and wildlife for many years.

Eco Farming: Text-Dependent Comprehension Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage, and which two specific details from the text best support that idea?
2. According to the passage, how do eco farmers protect crops without using chemical pesticides? Cite the exact phrase(s) that explain this method.
3. The author lists several benefits of eco farming. Identify two benefits mentioned and explain how each benefit helps both people and wildlife, using information from the text.

Answer Key (Answer Key):

1. Main idea: Eco farming is a way of growing food that helps nature instead of harming it. Supporting details: "Farmers use methods like crop rotation, planting different crops each season, and adding compost to keep soil healthy." and "They avoid chemical pesticides and instead use natural predators or plant barriers to protect crops."

2. How eco farmers protect crops: The passage states they "avoid chemical pesticides and instead use natural predators or plant barriers to protect crops." (Exact phrase cited.)
3. Two benefits and explanations:
    - Benefit 1: Produces healthy food — This helps people by providing safer, healthier food to eat and helps wildlife by maintaining natural food chains and reducing chemical exposure. (Supported by "eco farming produces healthy food.")
    - Benefit 2: Helps reduce pollution — This benefits people by improving environmental quality and public health, and benefits wildlife by preserving habitats and reducing harmful runoff.

READING ACTIVITY 2 CREATED WITH:
https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

Farming Ecologically: Better for People and the Planet

Why we should farm ecologically: Farming ecologically means growing food in ways that protect soil, water, and wildlife while still producing enough to eat. Practices like crop rotation, planting cover crops, using natural predators instead of chemical pesticides, and composting return nutrients to the soil and reduce pollution. These methods help keep farms resilient during droughts and storms because healthy soil holds water and resists erosion. Ecological farming also supports biodiversity by creating habitats for bees, birds, and beneficial insects that help crops grow. Although some ecological techniques can take more planning and patience, they often lower long-term costs by reducing the need for expensive synthetic chemicals and improving yields over time. For the health of our communities and the future of the planet, adopting ecological farming practices is a smart and responsible choice.

Text-Dependent Questions: Farming Ecologically:

1. What central message about people and the planet does the author transmit through the description of ecological farming practices, and which details in the text best support that message?
2. How does the author connect the long-term economic effects of ecological farming (like lower costs and improved yields) to the larger theme of responsibility for future communities and the planet?
3. The text mentions both short-term challenges (planning and patience) and long-term benefits (resilience, biodiversity, lower costs). How does this contrast help develop the topic of the text? Use specific lines from the passage to support your answer.

Answer Key:

1. Central message: Ecological farming is better for both people and the planet because it protects natural resources and supports community and environmental health. Supporting details: protects soil, water, and wildlife; practices such as crop rotation, cover crops, natural predators, composting; reduces pollution; supports biodiversity (habitats for bees, birds, beneficial insects); keeps farms resilient during droughts and storms.
2. The author links economic effects to responsibility by arguing that although ecological methods may require more planning and patience up front, they "often lower long-term costs by reducing the need for expensive synthetic chemicals and improving yields over time," which supports the theme that adopting these practices is "a smart and responsible choice" for the health of communities and the planet.
3. The contrast shows that short-term difficulties are outweighed by long-term gains, reinforcing the theme that responsible choices may require effort now but benefit people and the environment later. Text evidence: the phrase about techniques taking "more planning and patience" contrasted with benefits like "lower long-term costs," "improving yields over time," and increased "resilience during droughts and storms" that protect soil and water.

SPEAKING **ACTIVITY 1** CREATED WITH https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF ECO-FARMING USING THESE PROMPTS:

ECO farming helps the environment because _____.

One example of an ECO farming practice is _____, which helps by _____.

A challenge ECO farmers face is _____, and a possible solution is _____.

SPEAK ON THE TOPIC OF ECO-PLANTING USING THESE PROMPTS:

When we plant native species in this area, the ecosystem will benefit because...

A good place to start our eco-planting project is to observe the site and record...

To help plants grow and support wildlife, we should choose plants that provide...

SPEAKING **ACTIVITY 2** CREATED WITH https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

Activity description: Students research a local crop (or common garden plant) and create a 60–90 second "stand-up" routine from the plant's perspective describing challenges it faces: pests, water shortage, poor soil, or human changes. Routines must include one scientific fact about the plant's needs and one eco-friendly farming practice that helps (mulching, drip irrigation, companion planting). Performances are lighthearted (no insults), using puns and playful metaphors. After performances, classmates vote on the best scientific solution and justify votes with evidence.

SPEAKING **ACTIVITY 3** CREATED WITH https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

Activity description: Students receive the definitions for these eco-farming terms. After they have read them for themselves, silently they have to explain them in their own words without using the underlined vocabulary items.

Agroecology — A science and practice that applies ecological principles to farming; it looks at how plants, animals, soil, water, and people interact on a farm to make food systems healthier and more sustainable.
Permaculture — A design approach for creating farms and gardens that work with natural systems, using patterns like diversity, recycling, and energy efficiency to produce food with minimal waste.
Soil health — The condition of soil that allows it to support plant growth, store water and nutrients, and host beneficial organisms; healthy soil is often rich in organic matter and life.
Biodiversity — The variety of living things (plants, animals, microbes) in an ecosystem or on a farm; higher biodiversity helps control pests, improves resistance, and supports soil and pollinators.
Integrated pest management (IPM) — A strategy that uses a mix of methods (biological controls, habitat management, monitoring, and treatments) to keep pests below damaging levels while reducing harm to people and the environment
Sustainable — Able to continue over a long time without harming the environment, people, or resources; used to describe farming that does not deplete soil, water, or biodiversity.

Crop rotation — The practice of planting different crops in a field each season or year to keep soil healthy and reduce pests and diseases.
Organic — Farming without synthetic chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified organisms; organic methods rely on natural processes.
Compost — Decayed organic material (like food scraps and plant stalks) that is added to soil to give nutrients and improve soil structure.

SPEAKING ACTIVITY 4 CREATED WITH https://app.magicschool.ai/tools

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THESE QUOTES. CREATE A ONE MINUTE SPEECH.

"Healthy soil grows healthy food — caring for the earth today helps feed the world tomorrow."

"Small choices on a family farm — like saving water and planting trees — add up to big change for nature."

"When we grow food with nature in mind, we protect animals, people, and the planet for the future."

"Care for the land and the animals will follow — raising them with respect helps nature and people thrive."

"Growing food and raising animals in balance with the environment means cleaner water, healthier soil, and happier communities."

SPEAKING **ACTIVITY 5** CREATED WITH https://www.google.com/search

CREATE AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR AN ECOFARM FROM YOUR REGION/COUNTRY USING THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

- **Green Manure:** Legumes or crops ploughed back into the soil to increase fertility.
- **Mulch:** Organic material (like straw or leaves) placed on top of soil to protect it and retain moisture.
- **Vermiculture:** Using worms to produce nutrient-rich fertilizer.
- **Humus:** Stable organic matter that enhances soil structure and fertility
- **Crop Rotation:** Changing the type of crop grown in a field each season to prevent nutrient depletion.
- **Rotational Grazing:** Moving livestock between, fields (paddocks) to allow forage regrowth and improve soil health.

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