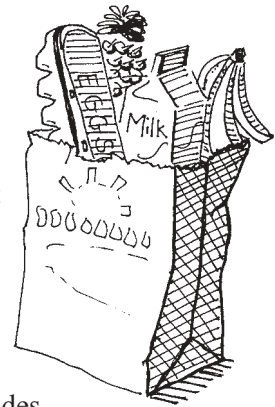


# Introduction

The frameworks for California public schools emphasize the need to make education meaningful to students so they can apply what they learn in the classroom to their daily lives. Since all students eat food and wear clothing, one natural connection between academic education and the real world is agriculture. Advances in agricultural technology are continually making headlines and are an excellent way for educators to connect current trends and innovations to the lives of every student.

“How much does it cost?” “Where does steak come from?” “Why are there scales in the fruit and vegetable sections?” “Is this healthy?” “Is it on sale?” “How much change will I get?”

These are common questions that children ask adults during grocery store outings. Grocery shopping provides many opportunities for children to gain knowledge about mathematics, nutrition, and agriculture. *Edible Numbers* provides teachers with lessons that relate experiences in the grocery store to classroom mathematics and nutrition education.



Food origins, nutrition, and grade-level appropriate mathematics—addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, graphing, problem solving, and statistics—are taught in these two separate grade level units. The interdisciplinary approach to *Edible Numbers* makes it suitable for self-contained classrooms, core, and home school settings. Grocery advertisement scavenger hunts are the highlight of this unit. Use it as written or incorporate single lessons from the unit into an already established curriculum.

This unit teaches or reinforces specific subject matter Content Standards for California Public Schools. The standards which apply to each lesson are listed by grade level, subject matter, and number, on the sidebars of each lesson. A content standard matrix for the entire unit, with specific standards described, is located on pages 60-71. *Edible Numbers* is one of many educational units provided by the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.

*What the future holds for agriculture will determine the quality of life for all . . .*

- *farmers and ranchers*
- *suppliers*
- *food processors*
- *wholesalers*
- *retailers*
- *consumers!*