



## Synopsis

What grain has seeds in all colors of the rainbow, can grow twenty feet high, is often harvested by moonlight, and is more valuable to the United States than gold? As the New York Times Book Review said, "Micucci knows how to grab his audience" and is "canny about organizing his material." Building upon his successful series of creative science for the younger grades, the author-illustrator of the LIFE AND TIMES series focuses on the science, uses and history of America's most prevalent crop. A master of fascinating trivia, he knows just how to draw readers in and expand on a seemingly small topic.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 980L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (September 7, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0618507515

ISBN-13: 978-0618507511

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars See all reviews (7 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #976,524 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #109 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Farming & Agriculture #306 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Nature > Flowers & Plants #867 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life

Age Range: 4 - 7 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## Customer Reviews

Columbus returned to Europe describing all the amazing land laden with treasures, but if he described maize to them they probably were unimpressed. People look for gold, diamonds and other treasures, but one of the most valuable we have is corn. Livestock feed for animals, "sweetener for soda, juice, cakes, cookies, and candy," on the cob, canned, frozen, creamed, cornmeal, corn syrup, margarine, mayonnaise, salad dressing, cooking oil, cereal, paint, ink, artificial silk, laundry starch, disposable diapers, baby powder, plastics, garbage bags, batteries, soap, maizolith ("rubber substitute"), paper . . . get the picture? Corn is a treasure of many

uses. Corn was being grown widely in the Americas by the time Columbus showed up and was a "way of life" to the Native American. This book describes the parts of the corn plant, discusses the varieties, how they can thrive in different climates, tells us about the history of popcorn and how it is popped, you'll learn about its planting and growing cycle, how the plant reproduces, how it is harvested (by hand or by combine), the leading corn areas (around the world and in the states), how "improved farming techniques have increased corn harvests in the United States," its many uses (see paragraph one!), and much more! I never, ever have seen so much information about corn in any book, let alone a children's book. This was an amazingly detailed and, believe it or not, a fun book about this essential grain. I learned several things I didn't know about corn and now will have a new appreciation for it when I pass by corn fields in the summer. Armed with little bits of trivia I'm sure to wow my fellow passengers in the car. Do you know why dent corn is not harvested until the plant looks totally dead (or "straw colored")? I do!

I grew up on a sweetcorn farm; Dad grew 20 acres of my favorite summertime treat. We plant 100 acres of field corn to feed the dairy herd on the farm I own with my husband. I picked up this book to get an idea how much I could include in an educational project for 4th graders I am planning. Wow! As a farmer and as an educator, I am impressed. Micucci has covered history, varieties, uses, and so much more in this slim and engaging volume. His facts are correct as of publication date (American farmers are always improving yields, so check the latest NASS census for up to date information). The illustrations and short factoids keep one reading on... My farm family learned lots of new facts to use at this year's farm visit.

Great for children of all ages. Very interesting. We learned more about corn than we could have ever imagined! Loved it!

Extremely informative book. A class of kindergarteners LOVED it!

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The Life and Times of Corn  
Homegrown Whole Grains: Grow, Harvest, and Cook  
Wheat, Barley, Oats, Rice, Corn and More  
Foxfire 2: Ghost Stories, Spring Wild Plant Foods, Spinning and Weaving, Midwifing, Burial Customs, Corn Shuckin's, Wagon Making and More  
Affairs of Plain Living  
Corn Is Maize: The Gift of the Indians (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 2)  
Blue Corn And Chocolate (Knopf Cooks American Series)  
Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn, and Beans: How the Foods of the Americas Changed Eating  
Arou Allergy Cooking with Ease: The No Wheat, Milk, Eggs, Corn,

and Soy Cookbook The Everything Dutch Oven Cookbook: Includes Overnight French Toast, Roasted Vegetable Lasagna, Chili with Cheesy Jalapeno Corn Bread, Char Siu Pork ... Caramel Apple Crumble...and Hundreds More! Cracked Corn and Snow Ice Cream: A Family Almanac From Corn to Cereal (From Farm to Table) The Corn Grows Ripe (Puffin Newbery Library) Corn From Kernel to Corn (Start to Finish, Second (Paperback)) Corn Snakes: The Comprehensive Owner's Guide (The Herpetocultural Library) A Culinary History of Iowa: Sweet Corn, Pork Tenderloins, Maid-Rites & More (American Palate) People of Corn: A Mayan Story Lives of the Musicians: Good Times, Bad Times (and What the Neighbors Thought) Don Coyote: The Good Times and the Bad Times of a Much Maligned America Predictable Results in Unpredictable Times: 4 Essentials for Great Performance in Good Times and Bad High Times Hard Times

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