

Zippy Farmer Poem

The ZIP code we use on letters and packages is a routing code developed by the US Postal Service to help get the mail to its desired destination in a quick and efficient manner. **ZIP** is an acronym for the Zone Improvement Plan. The basic ZIP code has five numbers.

Some towns and cities have gotten their names because they are good places to grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables. Bloomington, Maryland, is one of those places.

Directions: Write the zip code for a selected town or city vertically down your paper. Write a poem in which the syllables in each line match the number on that line. (Note: Zeroes count as 10.) Remember to give your poem a title and include the name of the location and its ZIP code with the poem.

Example

Place: Bloomington, Maryland

Zip Code: 21523

Flowers Bloom in Bloomington

- 2 Sunshine
- 1 Helps
- 5 Flowers bloom in spring
- 2 So does
- 3 Good rainfall





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Select a place from the list below and write the ZIP code vertically down your paper. Think of some words and phrases that might describe the place. Write a poem in which the syllables in each line match the number. (Note: Zeroes count as 10.) Remember to add a title. Illustrate your poem if you have time, and be prepared to share your creation with the class.

Appleton, Maine 04862

Berryville, Virginia 22611

Blooming Grove, Wisconsin 53716

East Meadow, New York 11530

Evergreen, Alabama 36401

Farmersville, Ohio 45325

Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Farmville, North Carolina 27828

Flower Mound, Texas 75022

Garden City, Kansas 67846

Gardendale, Alabama 35071

Gardenville, Nevada 89410

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

Orange City, Florida 32763

Orchard City, Colorado 81410

Park City, Utah 84060

Strawberry Valley, California 95981

Wheatland, Wyoming 82201

Place: _____

Zip Code: _____

Title: _____

Old Manhattan Has Some Farms: E-I-E-I Grow!

For Discussion. Growing your own fruits and vegetables is considered a noble pastime, resulting in good health and delicious meals. However, there are instances when planting a garden may not be a good thing. A neighbor may have a right to be concerned if a garden contains a stinky compost bin, is attracting unwanted pests, is using too much water, or contains fruit trees that block the sun. Ask students if they can think of any other ways someone might find a garden offensive. Ask them to come up with some solutions to these problems.

Geography. Six cities are featured in the text of *Old Manhattan Has Some Farms: Manhattan, Atlanta, Chicago, Toronto, Seattle, and Washington, DC*. Challenge students to use an atlas to find these cities on a map of North America. Have them write the state or territory in which each is located and three reasons why the author may have selected these locations to represent different methods of gardening.

Investigating the 600s. *Old Manhattan Has Some Farms E-I-E-I Grow!* has been assigned the Dewey Decimal Number 635.091. (It's grouped with the 630s: Agriculture.) Explain to the students that books in the 600 section deal with the broad category of applied science. Some of the topics include medicine, engineering, cooking, pets, building, and transportation. Encourage students to investigate the various titles in this section for possible book checkout.

Poetry and Art. Invite students to write a haiku that describes a fruit, vegetable, or animal illustrated in the book. (A haiku is a Japanese nature poem composed of three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.) Provide construction paper, glue, and scissors for the students to create an artistic representation of the selected topic. The haiku may be printed on the artwork and displayed on a bulletin board with the title "Our Haiku Garden."

Reading. Students who enjoy picture books about growing things will find these titles to their liking.

- *And Then It's Spring* by Julie Fogliano. Roaring Brook Press, 2012.
- *E-I-E-I-O!: How Old MacDonald Got His Farm (With a Little Help from a Hen)* by Judy Sierra. Candlewick Press, 2014.
- *Grandpa's Garden* by Stella Fry. Barefoot Press, 2012.
- *Isabella's Garden* by Glenda Millard. Candlewick Press, 2012.
- *Jack's Garden* by Henry Cole. Greenwillow Books, 1997.
- *Up, Down, and Around* by Katherine Ayres. Candlewick Press, 2007.
- *Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt* by Kate Messner. Chronicle Books, 2015.