Guided Activity: Sprigging
https://vimeo.com/405981340
https://youtu.be/hj32MY7dbPs

Term to Know:
➢ Sprigging: the process of planting improved grasses from living grass cuttings

Test Your Knowledge: (recommended for all grades)
1. Why do ranchers sprig grasses?
2. Did you count how many steps are in the sprigging process?
3. Can you write a short story about the life cycle of a Bermuda grass sprig? Get creative – write the story from the sprig’s perspective!

Before and After: (recommended for grades K-3)
➢ Draw what the field looks like before the sprigs are planted. Pay close attention to the video!
➢ Now draw what the field looks like after the sprigs grow into grass.

Before

After
Measure and Observe: (recommended for grades 3-5)
The video explained how rain is an important component of the growing cycle.

➢ Put a rain gauge outside to see how much rain you receive at your house.
  *Note: The days in this activity might not be back to back depending on outdoor conditions.

  o Day 1:
    ▪ **READ** the rain gauge and **RECORD** in a journal how much rain you received at your house.
    ▪ **OBSERVE** what that amount of rain does to the ground. Is it really muddy? Did all the water soak into the ground quickly? How would this amount of rain effect a farmer’s field?

  o Day 2:
    ▪ Did it rain more? Did it not rain at all?
    ▪ If so, **READ** your rain gauge and **DO THE MATH** to determine the increase in rainfall since the last time you recorded in your journal.
    ▪ What do you observe about the soil now? Is it dry? Is it muddier than before?
      • **RECORD** your observations in your journal
      • **MAKE A PREDICTION** of how you think the increase or decrease in rain will affect how plants grow.
      • **REVISIT** your prediction in a week to see if you were correct!

  o Don’t have a rain gauge? No problem! Just click on the following link. Then click on the county that you live in. Enter the day, and it will tell you how much rain your county received that day.
  "https://www.cocorahs.org/Maps/ViewMap.aspx?state=TX"
Investigate: (recommended for grades 2-5)
The video also taught you that soil is important for healthy plant growth.

➢ Get outside! See if you can identify the soil texture at your house! Is it sandy? Does it have smaller silt particles? Or is it clumpy like clay soil?
  ○ Use the graphic below to learn about how the different soil particle sizes look.

Make a Dirt Shake! (recommended for grades 3-5)

➢ Learn what the texture of the soil in your yard.
➢ Follow the steps from the Dirt Shake lesson on the National Agriculture in the Classroom eLearning site: https://www.agclassroom.org/eLearning/grade2.cfm