TRUTH OR HOGWASH

PURPOSE
Students will work in teams to play a game in which they answer true/false questions about pigs.

TARGETED GRADE LEVEL
3rd-5th grade

MATERIALS
- Resource A (print 1 copy front to back. Cut on lines to make 12 game cards. Make sure the numbers for the question and answer match.)
- Resource B: Hogs: from Producers to Plates Handout
- Bowl or hat

ACTIVITY
1. Scan through the Hogs: from Producers to Plates.
2. Take a few minutes to discuss the information. Some possible questions to facilitate discussion:
   - What were you surprised to find out about pigs?
   - What information confirmed something that you already knew about pigs or hogs?
   - How do pigs impact your life?
   - What are some words or phrases that we use that involve the terms hog, pig, etc. (Examples: pig out, go hog wild, that's hogwash). Discuss why you think the phrases came about. Tell students that the term Hogwash means – swill, slop, nonsense – foolish or meaningless words or actions.
3. You will be the moderator for the game Truth or Hogwash. Divide the group into two teams. Give each group a clipboard with blank paper.
4. The moderator (you!) reads the following rules:
   - I (moderator) will draw one card and read the statement.
   - Each team will quietly discuss the statement and determine if it is True or if the statement is Hogwash.
   - I will allow 30 seconds for discussion, then each team must write Truth or Hogwash on their writing surface. At the end of 30 seconds I will say “show your answers” then each team must hold up their writing surface with their answer.
   - Each team that has the correct response will get one point. The first team to get five points (or whatever amount the moderator determines) will win.
5. Play the game! Remember to keep score and recognize the winning team.
CLASSROOM CONNECTIONS

Science
Assign students to groups and have them research one of these areas about hog production:

- Nutrition
- Products from pigs
- Caring for pigs
- Life cycle of pigs
- History of pigs

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Minnesota Science Standards and Benchmarks
3.6.7.7 Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
3.1.1.1 Provide evidence to support claims, other than saying “everyone knows that,” or “I just know,” and question such reasons when given by others.

National Agricultural Literacy Outcomes
T2.K-2b Identify animals involved in agriculture production and their uses (i.e. work, meat, dairy, eggs).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Pork Commodity Page for kids at mnaagmag.org/commodities/
Female hogs, called sows, are pregnant for 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days before giving birth.

On modern hog farms, hogs are fed table scraps and garbage.

A hog is ready to go to market when it weighs between 260-280 pounds.

Truth or Hogwash
Hogs will “pig out” or overeat.

Truth or Hogwash
Hogs lay in the mud because they are lazy and dirty.

Truth or Hogwash
Most hogs are raised in temperature controlled buildings.

Truth or Hogwash
On modern hog farms, hogs are fed table scraps and garbage.

Truth or Hogwash
A hog is ready to go to market when it weighs between 260-280 pounds.
2. **TRUTH**

Sows are pregnant for about 114 days before they give birth to a litter of piglets. Average litters are 10-14 piglets.

3. **HOGWASH**

Hogs will only eat until their energy requirements have been met. When compared to humans, hogs eat more frequently throughout the day and in smaller amounts.

4. **HOGWASH**

Pigs are fed carefully balanced rations matched to their age and weight.

   Ration – amount of feed consumed by one animal for one day.

5. **HOGWASH**

Pigs cannot sweat like humans. They will lie in mud to cool themselves. As the mud dries on their skin, it evaporates and cools the pig. The mud can also provide a protective barrier against the sun.

6. **TRUTH**

After the fat, bones and organs are removed, a 270 pound hog ends up as a carcass of about 185 pounds. From this, about 140 pounds will become cuts of meat.

**TRUTH**

On most MN farms, pigs live in clean, modern buildings that protect them from weather and predators. Temperature is carefully controlled. Fans and sprinkling systems cool pigs in summer. Heat lamps warm them in winter.