***Lesson: Exploring Industrial Hemp***

**Purpose:** Hemp, a plant often viewed as taboo is an extremely versatile plant grown for many uses. As a source of fiber and oilseed, it is grown all around the world. However, in the United States its growth is regulated by drug enforcement laws. How is it that a plant with such restrictions can be used for so many purposes?

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website ([http://www.agmrc.org](http://www.agmrc.org/)) and find the link to the fiber profile page. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. How is hemp different from marijuana?
2. Find at least 5 common uses for hemp.
3. What are some examples of food products containing “hemp seed and oil”? What, according to the Hemp Industries Association (HIA), is the estimated retail value of U.S. hemp products?
4. During the 1990s, Canada allowed the legal re-introduction of hemp into the marketplace. What were some steps taken by the Canadian government in order to help reestablish the industry?
5. For what conditions and/or diseases may hemp seed oil have potentially helpful health benefits?

**Reinforcement activity: Investigator**

Hemp and especially cannabis oil have been in the news quite a lot recently. Your task is to find an article from a newspaper, magazine, journal etc. that discusses the use of hemp of cannabis oil. Be prepared to give a brief summary of your findings to the class.