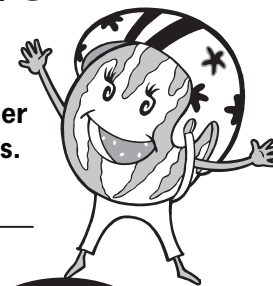


From Field to Table, Watermelon Wows!

Language Arts Grades 3-4



You need three things to grow watermelon: sun, bees, and water. Farmers generally grow watermelon in rows, 8-12 feet apart. The watermelons grow in raised beds 4-12 inches high composed of fertilized sand or sandy loam.

Tiny watermelon plants from a transplant nursery are implanted in the beds. Honeybees must pollinate the watermelon blossom. In one month, a vine may spread to as much as 6-8 feet. Within 60 days, the vine produces its first watermelons.

The crop is ready to harvest within 3 months. Pickers look for a pale or buttery yellow spot on the bottom. That means it's ripe and ready to be picked.

Answer the questions to discover where the first watermelon harvest took place.

1. How many things do you need to grow watermelons? _____
2. What do watermelons do in raised beds? _____
3. What kind of bee pollinates watermelon blossoms? _____
4. What are the people called who harvest the watermelon? _____
5. What is buttery yellow on the watermelon? _____

Compare and contrast watermelon with another fruit or vegetable. Fill in the charts with details.

Watermelon and _____
name of fruit or vegetable

**How they
Are Similar**

**How they
Are Different**

1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____



Read the passage. Then complete the chart.

What size/shape watermelon do you need?

What shape of watermelon pieces fill the carving?

What other fruits are added to the carving?

Watermelon Treasure Chest	Hedgehog	Watermelon Snowman	Butterfly Basket

With the help of an adult, you can make lots of fun watermelon carvings! You can turn a large, oblong watermelon into a Watermelon Treasure Chest. Fill it with diamond-shaped watermelon pieces and balls, kiwi and star fruit for the treasure.

A medium-large, round watermelon is perfect for a Hedgehog! Scoop out the inside of the watermelon, cut the flesh into triangles and insert toothpicks for quills. Use blueberries for its eyes and nose.

Create a Watermelon Snowman by combining a round watermelon with two mini watermelons. Fill the carving with watermelon balls and blueberries.

An oblong watermelon can be carved into a Butterfly Basket. Use cookie cutters to cut butterfly shapes out of watermelon, cantaloupe and honeydew to layer in the basket.