

Watermelon - Tasty Fruit! Healthy Veggie!

Language Arts Grades 5-6



For years people have debated whether watermelon is a fruit or a vegetable. Most people think of watermelon as a fruit. Like the pepper, tomato, and pumpkin, watermelon is **botanically** a fruit. By definition, a fruit is the ripened ovary of a seed plant and its contents. A watermelon is a large, oblong, or roundish fruit.

Watermelon is also a vegetable. A vegetable is anything made or obtained from plants. Watermelon is a member of the cucurbitaceae plant family of gourds (classified as *Citrullus Lantus*). It's related to the cucumber, squash, and pumpkin. Watermelon is planted from seeds or seedlings, harvested, and then cleared from the field like other vegetables.

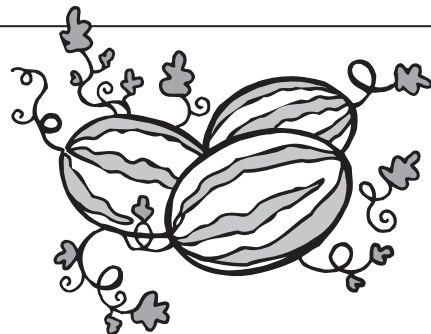
Watermelon is popularly used as a fruit. It is often cut into bite-sized squares, balled, and sliced and used in the types of recipes that call for fruit. However, the whole watermelon, even the rind, is edible. In China, watermelon is stir-fried, stewed, and pickled. In this case, the watermelon is used more like a vegetable. Depending on how you want to classify it, a watermelon can be considered a fruit or a vegetable.

What's the main idea of the passage? _____

List three ideas that support the main idea.

What do you think *botanically* means?

- obviously
- of or relating to plants
- most likely



Rewrite these sentences using the correct pronoun or pronouns from this list: **their, its, his, my, his or her**

J. Slice said he needed to wax its surfboard first.

Somebody left their Rollerblades outside in the rain.

The children packed his or her lunches for a picnic.

A dog can easily lose their ball in a crowded park.



Pinky put mine skateboard next to the bicycle.

Transition words and phrases such as *finally*, *during*, *next* and *in the end* describe when things happen and in what order.

Circle all the transition words and phrases in the following passage.

J. Slice got dressed as soon as he woke up. Then he had a healthy breakfast of watermelon, yogurt and granola. He got out his snowboard immediately after breakfast and headed up the mountain to meet his friends.

While they were having fun skiing and snowboarding, it began to snow. Later, the snow started falling heavily. Everyone decided to go warm up around the lodge fireplace before heading home.