

Watermelon Weathering It

Science/Geography Middle School/High School

Objective:

Understand relationship between climate and agriculture (specifically growing watermelon).

Lesson:

Watermelon is grown around the world, including the U.S.

1. Ask students in which states do they think watermelons are grown and what kind of weather/climate conditions do they think watermelons prefer.
2. Share the following information or ask students to visit watermelon.org and research where watermelon is grown and which states lead the nation in area harvested.

Watermelon is grown in 44 states with Florida, Texas, Georgia, California, and North Carolina consistently leading in areas harvested.

State	Area Harvested (Acres) for 2019
Florida	24,500
Texas	23,000
Georgia	21,100
California	10,200
North Carolina	7,400

3. Divide class into five groups, one group per top state leading in area harvested.
4. Ask students to research the climate and weather conditions of their featured state and answer the following questions:
 - A. What are the average high and low temperatures in January and July?
 - B. What is the average annual precipitation?
 - C. When does the region get most of its rainfall?
 - D. What are the most important weather concerns that could affect farmers and production in this state?

5. Let each group share their findings with class and record on board.

Extension: Visit the National Watermelon Promotion Board website – watermelon.org and research other states that grow watermelons. Compare and contrast weather and climate conditions of some of these states, especially in drastically different regions of the U.S., with the top watermelon-producing states (e.g. compare Texas with Vermont). Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of growing watermelon in these other states.

