

# The History of the Watermelon World

Social Studies/Language Arts Grades 5-6

1. Read watermelon history facts below.
2. Put facts in order of when they occurred (from first to last) by placing numbers 1-10 in the blanks next to each fact description.

- \_\_\_ In 1850, explorer David Livingston found watermelon growing wild in southern Africa.
- \_\_\_ During the 13th century, watermelon spread through Europe via the Moors.
- \_\_\_ According to Guinness World Records, the world's heaviest watermelon was grown by Chris Kent of Sevierville, Tennessee in 2013, weighing in at 350.5 lbs.
- \_\_\_ By the 10th century, watermelon found its way to China, which is now the world's number one producer of watermelon.
- \_\_\_ The first cookbook published in the U.S. in 1796 contained a recipe for watermelon rind pickles.
- \_\_\_ Oklahoma designated watermelon as the official state vegetable in 2007.
- \_\_\_ Watermelon is thought to have originated in the Kalahari Desert of Africa. The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt and is depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics on walls of their ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife.
- \_\_\_ On August 27, 1853 Abraham Lincoln officially christened the town Lincoln, Illinois, named after him, with watermelon juice.
- \_\_\_ In 1964, a watermelon slice monument was erected to commemorate the historical Abraham Lincoln event.
- \_\_\_ A watermelon was once thrown at Roman Governor Demosthenes (384–322 BC) during a political debate. Placing the watermelon upon his head, he thanked the thrower for providing him with a helmet to wear as he fought Philip of Macedonia.

3. Now, draw a timeline below and place events along it in chronological order. (Large gaps of time occur between some events.)

**chronological** – starting with the earliest and following the order in which they occurred.

