



English Language Arts

Peanut Families



Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- listen to/read stories of families on peanut farms and recall key information.

National Learning Standards:

Common Core English Language Arts

- Reading Standards: Foundational Knowledge Grade 4, 3a: Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. Use combined knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (e.g., roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of context.
- Speaking and Listening Standards Grade 4: 2.: Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Activity Description: Three short non-fiction stories are provided about families that grow peanuts. After reading or listening to the stories, students will be asked to recall key information.

Materials

- Copies of “Our Family Peanut Story” (1 per student)
- Writing utensil or highlighter (1 per student)

Activity Steps

Activity Prep: Review non-fiction stories provided. Determine if students will benefit more from independent reading or listening to these stories.

Step 1: Inform students that there are 7,500 peanut farmers in the U.S. who work hard to care for the land and grow peanuts for people all around the world. Ask students to raise their hand if they have ever met a peanut farmer.

Step 2: Let students know that today they will get to meet a peanut farmer by experiencing their story! Distribute a copy of “Our Family Peanut Story” to each student. Preview new and key words as appropriate.

Step 3: Have students independently read or follow along while the teacher reads aloud. Students should highlight or underline key points in the story.

Step 4: After reading the three short stories, break students into groups of three. Ask one student in each group to become an expert on one of the stories by reviewing the key content.

Step 4: After reviewing, have each group select one member to be the first expert. The other two members of the group will be the interviewers. Have the expert turn his/her paper over. Prompt the interviewers to ask, “What do you recall about the story?” The expert should paraphrase the text to his/her best ability. Repeat the process for each member in the group. As an alternate accommodation, you may wish to have students write their paraphrased stories and submit.

Processing Questions:

1. What did all of the farmers have in common?
 - a. Listen for students to recall how the farmers care for the land, work hard, and take pride in providing a safe, quality product.
2. Based on these stories, how would you describe a peanut farmer?
 - a. Answers will vary.

It's A Fact!

99 percent of peanut farms are family-owned, small businesses averaging less than 180 acres.²⁵

Our Family Peanut Story

The Pope Family

Jeffrey and Stephanie Pope live in Drewryville, Virginia. Their 5,000-acre peanut farm has been in the family since the 1800's, for four generations. Jeffery works hard to grow high quality peanuts. They only grow the world-famous Virginia jumbo peanut. After the peanuts are harvested, Stephanie leads a business cooking and coating the peanuts in delicious flavors. Royal Oak Peanuts is the name of their family business that packages and ships peanuts. Hope & Harmony Farms is the name of their specialty peanut business. Jeffrey, Stephanie and their children Mason and Avery work hard to love the land, respect their roots and give their best every day.



The White Family

Joe D. and Gayle White live in Tillman County, Oklahoma. On White Farm and Ranch they grow peanuts, cotton, corn, and wheat. They also have Angus cattle. Peanut farmers know how to work with the land by rotating crops. Each year, the Whites plant one of their crops in the field and they change the crop the next year. This helps the soil naturally gain more nutrients. Joe D. and Gayle know they must be diligent to care for the land and their crops. They pay attention to details very closely, to control pests and diseases, and help their plants grow.

The Martin Family

Christopher and Ginger Martin live in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Christopher went to college and had a dream of owning a farm. When Christopher was 27 years old, he had saved up enough money to buy his own farm. He started farming 555 acres of cotton, peanuts, and watermelons. Today, Christopher has more than 3,000 acres of cotton, peanuts, wheat, rye, and corn. He and his wife raised their son Grantson and daughter Wellsley on the farm. The children grew up plowing, planting, irrigating and caring for the land. The Martins work hard to conserve the land they live and work on. The Martins were selected as the National Outstanding Young Farmers. They earned this award by conserving soil and water and helping their community.

