



Growing America

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- identify peanut-growing states in the U.S.
- use fractions to evaluate peanut production by state.

National Learning Standards:

Common Core Mathematics

- Number and Operations 3.NF.3: Fractions: Explain equivalence of fractions in special cases, and compare fractions by reasoning about their size.

National Social Studies and History Standards

- NSS-G.K-12.1: Understand how to use maps and other geographic representations, tools, and technologies to acquire, process, and report information from a spatial perspective.

Activity Description: Students will label and color a map of the United States to indicate states where peanuts are commercially grown and their respective percentages of peanut production.

Materials

- Blank map of the United States (1 per student)
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Projector or large map poster
- Peanuts

Activity Steps

Activity Prep: Print United States maps and set out coloring utensils.

Step 1: Hold up peanuts and ask students where peanuts come from. Share with students that peanuts grow on plants not trees, and nearly 10 percent of the world's peanuts are grown in the United States!³

Step 2: Distribute coloring utensils and copies of the United States map.

Step 3: Tell students that peanuts are grown commercially in 15 states. Three of these states are minor producing states. They produce fewer peanuts. Twelve

of these states are major producing states. They produce nearly the entire U.S. peanut crop!

Step 4: Have students identify the following states and fill in with a single color on their map: Arizona, Tennessee, Louisiana. These are minor peanut producing states. Show these states on a large map to assist students as needed.

Step 5: Using a projector, map poster, or white board, introduce students to the major peanut producing states and their respective share of U.S. peanut production. Have students color and label each state with the appropriate fraction. Fractions are listed with common denominators for ease in comparison.

U.S. Peanut Production⁴

- Georgia = (50/100) 50.4%
- Florida = (11/100) 11%
- Alabama = (10/100) 10%
- Texas = (9/100) 9%
- North Carolina = (8/100) 8%
- South Carolina = (4/100) 4%
- Arkansas = (3/100) 3%
- Virginia = (2/100) 2%
- Mississippi = (1/100) 1%
- Oklahoma = (1/100) 1%
- Missouri = (1/100) 0.5%
- New Mexico = (1/100) .02%

Step 6: On the bottom or back of the map, have students list the major peanut producing states (12) in order of production, from highest to lowest by comparing fractions. You may wish to have students simplify fractions after comparing.

Processing Questions:

1. What do you notice about your peanut map?
 - a. Listen for students to identify that the peanut producing states are along the bottom of the map (southern region).
2. Why do you think peanuts are grown in this area?
 - a. Listen for students to identify the warm climate.

It's A Fact!

The United States has about three percent of the acres in the world that are planted with peanuts, but grows nearly 10 percent of the world's crop! This efficiency is thanks to technology, environment, and farmers who care for the land!⁵