



Social Science



Peanut Butter Caper

Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- determine the correct order of moments in peanut history and the development of peanut butter.

National Learning Standards:

National Social Studies and History Standards

- NSS-USH.K-4.3: The history of the United States: democratic principles and values and the people from many cultures who contributed to its cultural, economic, and political heritage

Activity Description: Students will race to put a series of statements in sequence about the history of peanut production and the development of peanut butter. Once assembled correctly, the information will yield a clue to solving a fun peanut riddle.

Materials

- “Peanut History” cards (1 set per group of 2-3 students)
- Paper clips or envelopes (1 per group of 2-3 students)

Activity Steps

Activity Prep: Copy “Peanut History” cards and cut apart one set for each group. Randomize order and paper clip or place in an envelope. Copy the following riddle onto board in classroom for all students to see: A tasty treat, packed with power, below ground the fruit, above ground the flower.

Step 1: Divide students into groups of two to three. Give each group a set of “Peanut History” cards. Challenge groups to review and place in chronological order.

- Answer Key: (P) No Date (E) 1700s (A) early 1800s (N) late 1800s (U) 1895 (T) early 1900s (S) Today

Step 3: Once put in the correct order, the letters in the top corner of the slips will spell out the answer to the riddle at the front of the class, “A tasty treat, packed with power, below ground the fruit, above ground the flower. Peanuts!”

Processing Questions:

1. How did American’s view of peanuts change over time?
 - a. Listen for students to recall that peanuts were initially seen as food for the poor, but after the Civil War, were seen as tasty and nutrient-rich food.
2. Where are peanuts often eaten, and how are they viewed today?
 - a. Listen for students to identify community and sporting events, such as baseball games, as well as nutritious energy bars and snacks.

It’s A Fact!

Two peanut farmers have been elected president of the USA—Virginia’s Thomas Jefferson and Georgia’s Jimmy Carter.

Social Science: Peanut History Cards¹¹

— (P) —
European explorers first discovered
peanuts in Brazil.

— (E) —
Africans introduced peanuts to
North America.

— (A) —
Peanuts were grown for the first
time in Virginia. At this time,
peanuts were considered food for
livestock and the poor.

— (N) —
Peanuts became popular in the
United States after the Civil War
when the soldiers realized they
liked them and they were a source
of protein.

— (U) —
Dr. John Harvey Kellogg developed
a version of peanut butter for his
older patients who couldn't chew
meat and needed a source of
protein.

— (T) —
Peanuts became a significant
agricultural crop in the United
States. Dr. George Washington
Carver was an inventor and scientist.
He saved agriculture in the South
by encouraging peanut production
when the boll weevil had destroyed
other crops.

— (S) —
Peanuts are considered the
12th most valuable cash crop in the
United States. Their farm value is
over one billion dollars.