

How to Use This Book

Have you ever wakened in the morning not feeling well? You have a terrible headache or the flu bug that has been going around has finally hit you. It's too late to find someone to take over your class so you HAVE to teach. Or perhaps you are pulled out of class for an unexpected meeting, assembly or conference. To temporarily fill in for you, where can you find simple lessons that are easy to use and take little or no preparation? You need activities that your students will enjoy working on while learning at the same time!

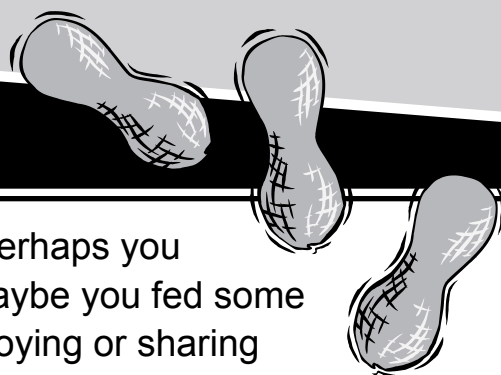
Welcome to *Emergency Lesson Plans*, a collection of educationally-based, cross-curricular activities that are ready to use for any emergency teaching situation. This unique selection of articles and non-fiction stories appropriate for specific grade levels can serve as a starting point for cross-curricular studies. They can also easily be added to existing classroom studies because of the wealth of subjects covered and their support of multiple National Education Standards.

It's always a good idea to have a backup plan, just in case the situation rises. Let these emergency lesson plans help you with those "I just can't teach right now" moments.

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Goober Peas



Did you have a peanut butter sandwich today? Perhaps you nibbled some roasted peanuts at a ball game. Maybe you fed some peanuts to a zoo animal. If you did, you were enjoying or sharing a true American snack. Every year, people in the United States eat about 2.4 billion pounds of peanuts! Almost half of that amount is in the form of peanut butter. By the time you graduate from high school, you will probably have eaten 1,500 peanut butter sandwiches. From just one acre of peanuts, you could make 30,000 peanut butter sandwiches.

Farmers in Peru learned to grow peanuts as long ago as 2500 B.C.E. They raised their crops in the dry coastal regions, where the soil was sandy. Peanuts were important to the early peoples of Peru. They even decorated their pottery with clay images of peanut shells.

From Peru, the peanut spread to Mexico and the Caribbean. In the 1500s, the Spanish and Portuguese explorers of the Americas were afraid to eat peanuts. They may have been cautious because, unlike peanuts, the nuts of Europe grew on trees. The peanut grows at the bottom of a bushy plant and the peanut pods develop underground. This difference is because peanuts are really part of the legume family. Other familiar legumes are peas and beans. Although peas and beans don't grow underground, all three plants have pods.

Although the Europeans weren't excited by the new plant, people in Africa and Asia were. Portuguese merchants took the peanut to Africa, where the people ate little meat. Peanuts became an important source of protein for Africans. Peanuts are 26 percent protein and have healthy vegetable oil in them.



The Spanish introduced peanuts in Asia. Cooks in India added them to curry sauces. In both Africa and Asia, cooks used peanut oil for cooking, because it can be heated without burning or smoking.

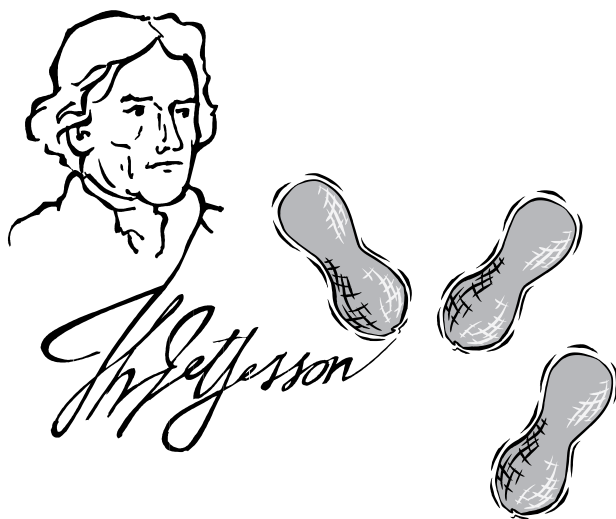
Early settlers in the United States considered peanuts as food for livestock, but not people. Farmers fed them to the pigs and cows. During the food shortages of the Civil War, people changed their minds about peanuts. Hungry Confederate soldiers ate what they called “goober peas”. Someone even made up a song about them. The term *goober* may have come from *nguba*, the African Bantu word for peanuts.

When the Civil War ended, some former soldiers sold roasted peanuts in large cities. Phineas T. Barnum sold peanuts as a snack to audiences at his circus acts. Other people sold peanuts at ball games and at theatre performances.

Do you know why the balcony of a theatre is called the “peanut gallery”? It’s because people sitting in those cheaper seats often ate peanuts, an inexpensive snack.



Two peanut farmers—Thomas Jefferson of Virginia and Jimmy Carter of Georgia—were elected president. In the early 1900s, George Washington Carver developed more than 300 ways to use peanuts. It’s clear that the small peanut has played a big role in history.





Understanding What You Read

True or False?

- _____ 1. The peanut was first grown in Peru.
- _____ 2. Europeans wanted to try peanuts in their recipes.
- _____ 3. Peanuts are a good source of protein.
- _____ 4. Peanuts develop underground.
- _____ 5. Peanuts became a favorite snack after the War of 1812.
- _____ 6. Two American presidents have been peanut farmers.
- _____ 7. George Washington developed more than 300 uses for peanuts.



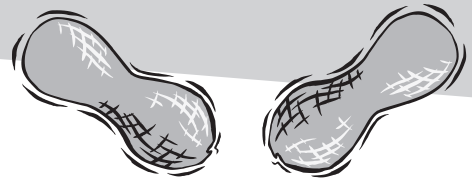
Vocabulary Builder

Antonyms are words that are opposite in meaning. Words like hot and cold, light and dark are antonyms. Write an antonym for each word below. Use a thesaurus if you need help.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. enjoy _____ | 5. familiar _____ |
| 2. raise _____ | 6. excited _____ |
| 3. afraid _____ | 7. cheap _____ |
| 4. sold _____ | 8. shortage _____ |



Figure it Out!



1. People in the United States eat 600 million pounds of peanuts a year. How many pounds do they consume each month? _____
2. It takes 540 peanuts to make a single 12-ounce jar of peanut butter. If a case of peanut butter has 24 jars, how many peanuts are needed?

3. A peanut plant makes about 40 pods that grow into peanuts. Assuming each pod produces one peanut, how many plants are needed to make a 12-ounce jar of peanut butter? _____
4. The largest peanut butter factory in the world makes 250,000 jars of peanut butter daily. Write this number as a fraction of 1 million. _____
5. Four of the ten most popular candy bars made in the United States have peanuts or peanut butter in them. Express this number as a percentage.



Tell Your Own Story

The National Peanut Festival is held every year in Dothan, Alabama. Imagine that you are at the festival. What do you see, hear, and do? What peanut treats do you enjoy? _____

