

That Makes Sense!

Immerse your youngsters in the watermelon experience by encouraging them to explore the watermelon with all five senses. In advance, post a chart labeled with the five senses. Prompt children to use all of their senses by asking questions such as "What does the watermelon look like?", "How does the watermelon feel?", and "When you thump the watermelon, how does it sound?" As children explore the watermelon, record their responses under the appropriate heading.

Next cut one watermelon in half lengthwise, and cut the other in half by width. Then ask how the watermelon looks the same as and/or different from before. Finally, give each child a small slice of the melon so they can accurately discuss how the watermelon smells and tastes! (Be sure to save two watermelon halves for remaining activities.)

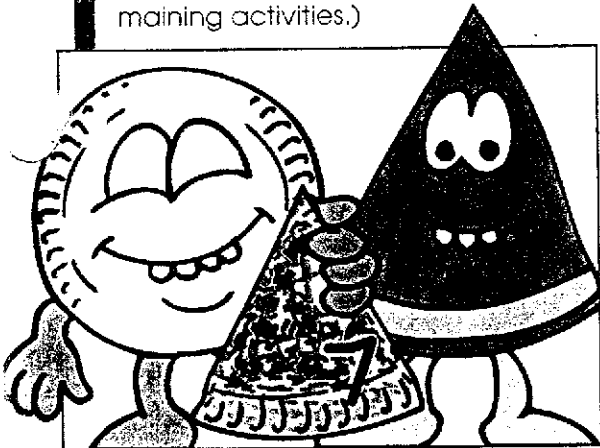
Sight: Round like an oval.
Red, Green

Hearing: "Thump!" "Tum, Tum"

Smell: It smells like the red part.

Taste: Sweet, Drippy.

Touch: Cool, Smooth.



Counting Seeds

Those watermelons are pretty seedy characters—but just how seedy are they? Let's see! Give each child a paper-plate wedge and a similarly sized wedge of watermelon (on another paper plate). Ask each child to color his paper-plate wedge to resemble his watermelon wedge, without the seeds. Then encourage him to guess how many seeds are in his wedge of watermelon and have him write his guess on the back of the colored wedge. As he eats the melon, have him save the seeds on his plate. When all the seeds are gathered, have him write the actual number, and then color that many seeds on the colored wedge. Encourage each child to discuss his results with the group. (Save one watermelon half for the last activity.)

What's In A Name?

If your youngsters have done the activities up till now, they might have some idea how this juicy, red melon acquired its name. But just to make sure, roll up your sleeves for this watery experience! You will need half a watermelon, a large bowl, a strainer, a pitcher, and a one-cup measuring cup. Begin by showing your students the measuring cup. Fill the cup with tap water; then ask children if they think the watermelon half contains more, less, or the same amount of water (juice). Then give each child a chunk of the watermelon. Rest the strainer over the bowl. After demonstrating, have each child use his hands to squeeze the juice out of his watermelon into the strainer. When all the chunks have been squeezed, pour the juice into the pitcher. Then, using the measuring cup, pour the liquid back into the bowl—one cup at a time—to measure the results. Well—any wonder how this melon got its name?

Did You Know...

Because watermelons grow on vines and must be replanted every year, they are considered vegetables?

