

The Wonder Box of Watermelon

Welcome your students with this fresh-off-the-vine assortment of back-to-school ideas. You'll find that these watermelon-related activities are the perfect remedy for those "wish-it-were-still-summer" blues!

Ideas by Susan Baldwin and Kathleen Kopp

The Wonder Box

Set the stage for this juicy unit with a wonder box. You will need a watermelon and a lidded box large enough to hold the melon. Use gift wrap or bulletin-board paper to wrap the lid and the box. Place the melon inside the box, secure the lid, and attach a construction-paper sign labeled "The Wonder Box." Then display the box for all to see. Eventually invite students to ask questions to determine the box's contents. Explain to students that they may only ask questions that can be answered with a "yes" or a "no." Once students have identified the box's contents, remove the melon from the box for everyone to view. Not only will students enjoy the excitement of the activity, but they'll be working on their questioning skills too!

Sandra Heid—Gr. 2
Hettinger Elementary School
Hettinger, ND

The
Wonder
Box

What-A-Melon!

Whet your students' appetites for watermelon-related fun with this listening activity. On white construction paper, duplicate student copies of the watermelon pattern on page 9. Have each student color and cut out her watermelon pattern, and attach a craft-stick handle. Read a watermelon statement from the provided list. If a student thinks the statement is true, she holds up her watermelon. If she thinks the statement is false, she does nothing. Continue in this manner until all of the statements have been read. Next reveal that all the statements are true. Then reread each statement to the class. Students can't help but be amazed at this remarkable patch of facts!

- Watermelons probably first grew in Africa.
- Watermelons are about 93 percent water.
- The flesh (inside) of a watermelon can be white, greenish white, yellow, orange, pink, or red.
- Most watermelons weigh between 5 and 40 pounds.
- Watermelons grow on vines.
- Watermelons are vegetables.
- According to *The Guinness Book Of Records* 1996, the largest watermelon grown to date weighed 262 pounds.

- As many as 15 watermelons may grow on one watermelon vine.
- Thomas Jefferson grew watermelons at his home.
- Every part of the watermelon can be eaten.
- The average American in the United States eats about 16 pounds of watermelon each year.
- The watermelon is a cousin to the cucumber.
- In some places watermelon juice is used to make syrup.
- In some places watermelons are fed to farm animals.