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# *A Home Run For Peanuts*

## **CLASSROOM GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & PARENTS**

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### **Reading Comprehension**

After reading the story, ask students the following questions:

1. What challenges do farmers face through the seasons in growing a peanut crop?
2. Why do you think Jake was so disappointed when he struck out in his baseball game?
3. What skills did Jake need to improve his swing and be a better baseball player?
4. How did Jake incorporate protein-rich meals to fuel his day at school and while playing sports?
5. What did you learn about growing peanuts through this story?
6. Did anything about the peanut plant surprise you?

Also, reference the vocabulary list to practice spelling the new words you learned in “A Home Run For Peanuts.”

Wrap up this lesson with a poem. Write a poem or lyric that describes peanut farming or peanut eating!

### **Math: Peanut butter & planting season**

One 16 ounce jar of peanut butter has about 28 tablespoons. A serving of peanut butter is two tablespoons. How many servings are in a jar?

The farmer has 100 rows of peanuts to plant. He wakes up early to start and gets 65 rows planted before he needs to head to town for his son’s baseball game. How many rows still need to be planted?

### **Science: How do peanuts grow?**

Unlike pecans or walnuts that grow on trees, it may surprise you to learn that the peanut plant flowers above the ground, but fruits below ground. Peanut seedlings rise out of the soil about 10 days after planting, and at maturity, the peanut plant stands about 18 inches tall.

Forty days after planting, yellow flowers emerge and pollinate themselves. The petals fall off the plant, and the peanut ovary begins to form.

In a unique feature called “pegging,” the plant forms a small stem which extends into the soil. The peanut embryo can be found at the tip of the peg, which grows into the soil and matures into the form of a peanut. The plant continues to grow and flower and will produce 40 or more pods.

Did you know, peanut plants are nitrogen fixing, as well? This means the plant absorbs nitrogen from the air and enriches both the plant and soil as it grows.

Plus, peanut plants are water efficient, needing only 4.7 gallons of water to produce one ounce of peanuts!

## **Nutrition: Peanuts are nutritious and tasty, too!**

Not only do peanuts taste good, they are good for you! Peanuts contain more than 30 essential vitamins and minerals, including Vitamin E, Magnesium, Folate, Copper, Phosphorous and Nia-cin. They are also an excellent source of fiber and good fats.

What's more, one serving of peanut butter (2 tablespoons) contains 7 grams of satiating pro-tein to fuel your day! Get in the kitchen and prepare the kid-friendly "Game Day Peanut Butter Protein Bites" found in the back of the book.

## **Art: Let's create with peanuts!**

Now that you know how peanuts grow, let's draw, paint or create the plant from top to bottom. Use materials you have on hand to show how the plant grows above and below the ground. Get creative with glitter, pipe cleaners, foam, glue, sand or tissue paper to make your peanut plant!

Or, make a movie describing what you learned about peanut farming. What did you find most interesting? The equipment needed? The plant itself? The many uses of peanuts? Share in a 3-5 minute video that you share with the class!

## **Gym: Let's move!**

Farmers work hard to create a "home run" peanut crop, and it's time to move like they do!

Line up in the gym or outside and pretend you're preparing the seedbed for planting. Walk in a straight line doing lunges as you go.

Next up, it's time to plant. Line up again and this time, sprint to the other end of the gym. Just like the farmer, don't forget to stay in a straight line!

Now it's time to dig up the plants. Line up and do some knee highs across the gym floor.

Finally, it's time to harvest. Just like the combine scoops up the peanuts and separates the pods from the plant, it's time to skip across the gym floor.



*Published by the Georgia Peanut Commission  
on behalf of Georgia's peanut farmers*

