***Lesson: Peanuts: The Versatile Nut***

**Purpose:** Imagine you are sitting at a baseball park and you can hear the concession seller in the background yelling loudly “Peanuts! Get your peanuts!” Or you just got home from a long day of school and need a snack, so you go to the kitchen to make a quick peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Or maybe you enjoy fresh, boiled peanuts. Whatever your preference may be, peanuts are a popularly used commodity in our agricultural industry, and the versatility in a peanut leads to numerous chances to add value.

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (<http://www.agmrc.org>) and find the link to Nuts. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. According to the AgMRC website, “peanuts were considered a regional food of the South until after the Civil War”. What are some reasons for the expansion of peanut consumption beyond the South?
2. How has the peanut industry capitalized on the nutritional qualities and attributes of the food when marketing to consumers? Do you think that such methods have positioned the peanut industry well? Why or why not?
3. Name three “value-added” products that are made from peanuts. What role do these products play in advancing the agricultural industry?
4. Where is American peanut production most concentrated? Why do you believe that these areas are the most conducive for peanuts?
5. What role did the 2008 Farm Bill play in assisting peanut producers? What ultimate outcomes were achieved? How did these outcomes affect peanut producers?

**Reinforcement activity: Wonderful Water (retrieved from: nationalpeanutboard.org)**

Peanuts are efficient water users. It only takes two inches of water per week for a peanut plant to develop kernals. For this activity you will need to follow the steps below.

Step 1: In your group, gather the following materials: One bottle of water, two plastic cups, one ruler, and one permanent marker or pen.

* 1. Pick up one empty cup. Using the ruler and pen, mark a line two inches up from the bottom of the cup.
  2. Determine the amount of water in the bottle by pouring it into the cup with the two-inch line. After filling to the line, pour the water into the empty cup. Be sure to count the amount of times you repeat this process!
  3. Record the number of times you filled the cup to the two-inch line.
  4. Determine how many weeks you could water your peanut plant with the water you have been given, assuming that the plant needs two inches of water per week.

Step 2: How many inches of water do you need to water your plant for 3, 6, or 8 weeks?

Step 3: For how many weeks could you water your peanut plan if you have 8, 10, or 14 inches of water?