

# Watermelon Vines Spread Across the U.S.

Grades 5-6 or customize for lower grades

## Subject: Geography

### Objective:

Students should be able to distinguish between the different regions in the U.S.

### Materials:

Political outline maps of United States, colored pencils

### Lesson:

Give outline maps to students and tell them you will be discussing the regional differences of the top watermelon-producing states in the U.S.

### Introduction:

Watermelons are grown in 44 states, and the U.S. now ranks 4th in worldwide production of watermelon.

1. Ask students in which state do they think most watermelons are grown. Write the answers on the board.

2. Share the following information. Two - three hundred varieties of watermelons are grown in the U.S. and Mexico. Fifty popular varieties are grown regionally, with only a few produced on a national scale.

3. Tell students the states that are the top five for producing watermelons, including how many are grown in each state. Then, ask students to draw a watermelon in the middle of the top five watermelon-producing states on their outline maps.

	2004 (thousand pounds)
Florida	800,000
California	688,500
Texas	605,000
Georgia	379,500
Arizona	294,400

4. Explain the word **region**. (A region is an area with common features that set it apart from other surrounding areas.) Share the names of the four different regions where these top watermelon-producing states are located and ask students to use a different color to shade in each of the four different regions.

#### Pacific

Washington  
Oregon  
California  
Alaska  
Hawaii

#### South Central

Oklahoma  
Texas  
Arkansas  
Louisiana

#### Midwest

Wisconsin  
Michigan  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Ohio

#### Southeastern

Kentucky  
West Virginia  
Maryland  
Virginia  
Tennessee  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Mississippi  
Alabama  
Georgia  
Florida

5. Ask students to describe what they think these four regions are like. (For example, mountainous or flat, etc.) Write answers on the board.

6. Describe the regions to the students.

California, or the golden state is a Pacific State. The Pacific States is a mountainous region, with beaches and coastlines, thick green forests and hot, dry deserts.

Texas, a South Central State, is often called the lone star state. The South Central States have large areas of flat land. It is known for its rich deposits of oil, found beneath the surface of land and ocean floor.

The Hoosier state, or Indiana, is located in the Midwest States region. These states are full of freshwater lakes, deep forests, and very fertile farmland.

Florida is the sunshine state, and Georgia is called the empire state of the south. Both are Southeastern States with long jagged coastlines, valleys, rivers and deep pine forests.

Extension: Discuss remaining U.S. regions with students.