

# ALL MIXED (NUTS) UP!

Unscramble the following pecan related words:

These are the words you are looking for

PECAN

NUTLET

HEALTHY

TREE

NUT-FILL

HARVEST

ORCHARD

DORMANT

BUD-BREAK

POLLINATION

1. EETR \_\_\_\_\_

2. DUB-BEARK \_\_\_\_\_

3. RROCHDA \_\_\_\_\_

4. VSETRHA \_\_\_\_\_

5. DMTONRA \_\_\_\_\_

6. YHTEALH \_\_\_\_\_

7. CPNAE \_\_\_\_\_

8. TUN-LILF \_\_\_\_\_

9. PNOOLITLAIN \_\_\_\_\_

10. EUNTLT \_\_\_\_\_

## **ANSWERS**

1. tree
2. bud-break
3. orchard
4. harvest
5. dormant
6. healthy
7. pecan
8. nut-fill
9. pollination
10. nutlet

# ARE YOU A MATCHMAKER?

Read the essay, "From Tree to Table", and then draw lines to match the pecan growing stages with the time of year in which they occur.

Planting

Late October

Dormant

January

Bud-break/Pollination

September/Early October

Nutlet

Late April/Early May

Nut-fill

Winter

Shuck-Split

June/July

## **ANSWERS**

Planting-January

Dormant- Winter

Bud-break/Pollination- Late April/Early May

Nutlet- June/July

Nut-fill- September/ Early October

Shuck-Split- Late October

**HA! HA! HA!**

Use the key below to decode the punch lines to these hilariously nutty jokes!

1-A 2-B 3-C 4-D 5-E 6-F 7-G 8-H 9-I 10-J 11-K 12-L 13-M  
 14-N 15-O 16-P 17-Q 18-R 19-S 20-T 21-U 22-V 23-W 24-X 25-Y 26-Z

1. What's a pecan's favorite dance move?

$\frac{20}{20}$   $\frac{8}{8}$   $\frac{5}{5}$        $(\frac{16}{16} \frac{5}{5})$   $\frac{3}{3}$   $\frac{1}{1}$   $\frac{14}{14}$   $\frac{3}{3}$   $\frac{1}{1}$   $\frac{14}{14}$ !

2. What do you call it when a pecan invites his friends peanut, walnut, cashew, and almond over for a party?

$\frac{13}{13}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{24}{24}$   $\frac{5}{5}$   $\frac{4}{4}$        $\frac{14}{14}$   $\frac{21}{21}$   $\frac{20}{20}$   $\frac{19}{19}$ !

3. What was the bus driver doing after mama pecan put her kids on the bus?

$\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{18}{18}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{22}{22}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{14}{14}$   $\frac{7}{7}$        $\frac{8}{8}$   $\frac{5}{5}$   $\frac{18}{18}$        $\frac{14}{14}$   $\frac{21}{21}$   $\frac{20}{20}$   $\frac{19}{19}$ !

4. What does a pecan call his best friend?

$\frac{8}{8}$   $\frac{9}{9}$   $\frac{19}{19}$        $\frac{19}{19}$   $\frac{21}{21}$   $\frac{20}{20}$   $\frac{20}{20}$   $\frac{25}{25}$        $\frac{2}{2}$   $\frac{21}{21}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{25}{25}$ !

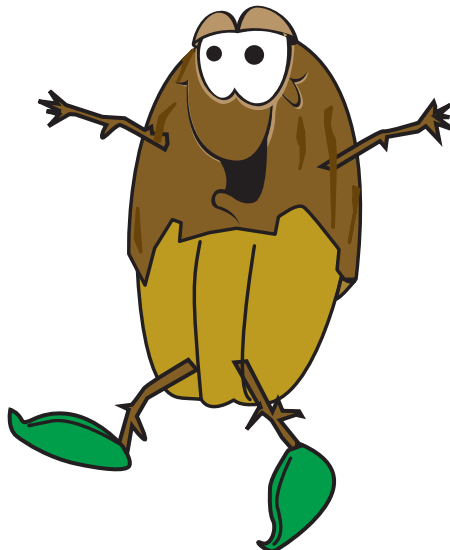
## **ANSWERS**

1. THE (PE)CANCAN
2. MIXED NUTS
3. DRIVING HER NUTS
4. HIS NUTTY BUDDY

# MATH IS EVERYWHERE!

Complete these math problems to find out some interesting facts about pecans.

1.  $6 + 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many months you can store fresh pecans in the fridge
2.  $18 - 16 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many years you can store fresh pecans in the freezer
3.  $140 / 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many feet apart you need to plant pecan trees
4.  $2 \times 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many MAJOR insects bother pecan tree.  
They are: pecan weevils, twig girdlers, stink bugs, and aphids
5.  $50 \times 4 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many "chill hours" pecan trees need in the winter  
A chill hour is one hour with the temperature between  $32^{\circ}$ - $45^{\circ}$ F
6.  $1000 + 919 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's the year that Texas adopted the pecan tree as its  
official state tree
7.  $11,627 - 3 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many pecans (stacked end to end) it would take  
to reach the top of the Empire State Building
8.  $160 / 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's the percentage of the world's pecans produced by the  
United States
9.  $5,000 + 640 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's how many pecan halves it would take to equal the weight  
of one standard watermelon
10.  $100 \times 2 =$  \_\_\_\_\_. That's the number of days in a pecan growing period

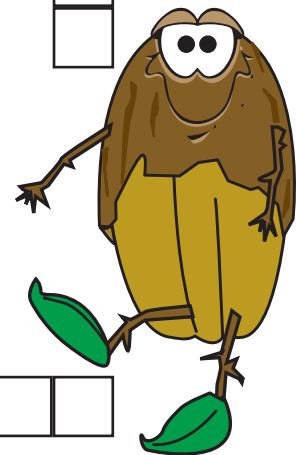
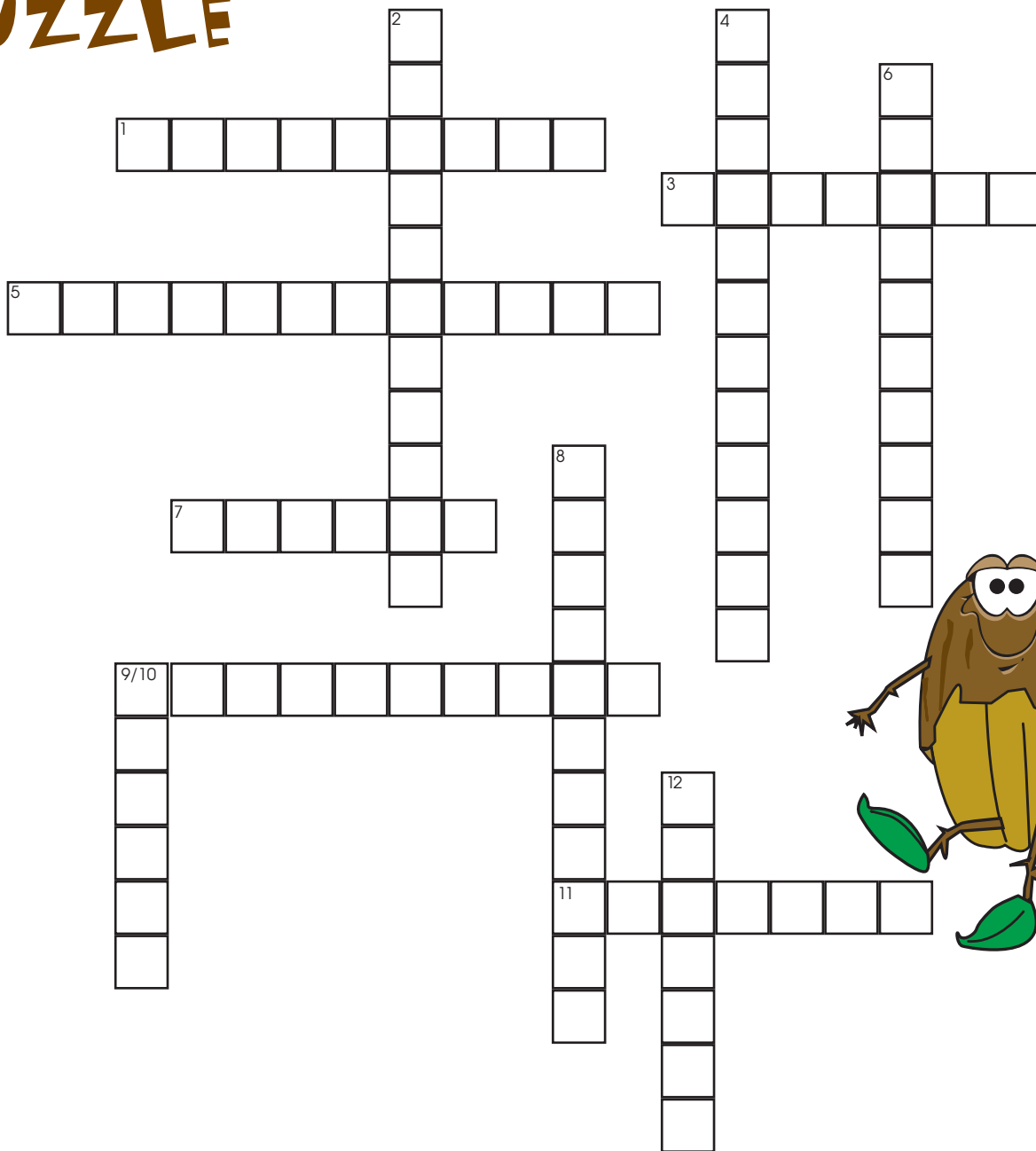


## ANSWERS

1. 9
2. 2
3. 70
4. 4
5. 200
6. 1919
7. 11,624
8. 80
9. 5,640
10. 200



# PECAN CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## ACROSS

All ACROSS answers can be found in the essay, "FROM TREE TO TABLE"

1. Pecans grow best in what region of the US?
3. Pecans should be planted \_\_\_\_\_ feet apart.
5. What stage do pecans go through in winter?
7. The male structure involved in pollination
9. The female flower
11. During this stage, the pecans mature in September and early October

## DOWN

All DOWN answers can be found in the, "DID YOU KNOW?" Pecan Trivia Sheet

2. Pecan fossils show us that pecans are \_\_\_\_\_, meaning that they were around before the first arrival of any human.
4. The first record of pecans came from this Spanish nobleman.
6. What is the name of President Thomas Jefferson's home where he planted pecan trees?
8. Where did George Washington mention that he planted pecan trees?
10. What is the only nut taken aboard space missions Apollo 13 and Apollo 14?
12. The African-American slave gardener whose accomplishments led to the start of the commercial pecan nursery industry

## ANSWERS

### Across

1. southeast
3. seventy
5. dormantstage
7. catkin
9. pistillate
11. nutfill

### Down

2. prehistoric
4. cabezadevaca
6. monticello
8. mountvernon
10. pecans
12. antoine

# PECANS

## Language Arts Lesson Plan 1

**Suggested Grade Level:** 1

**Objective:** The learner will demonstrate an understanding that parts of words can be used to decode and to gain meaning of larger words.

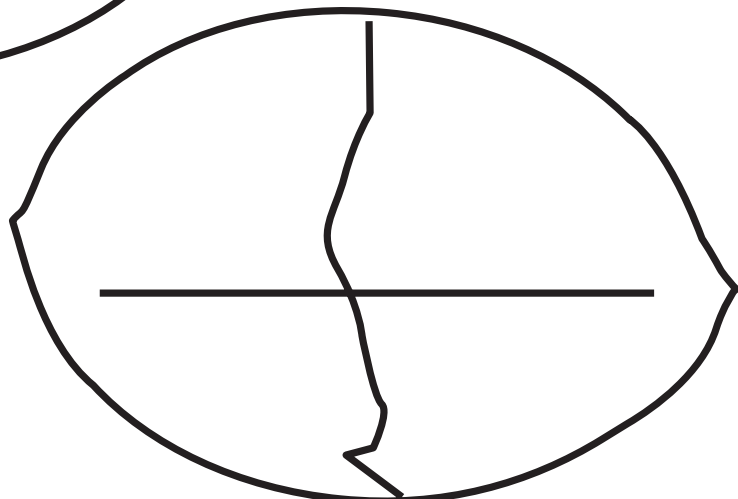
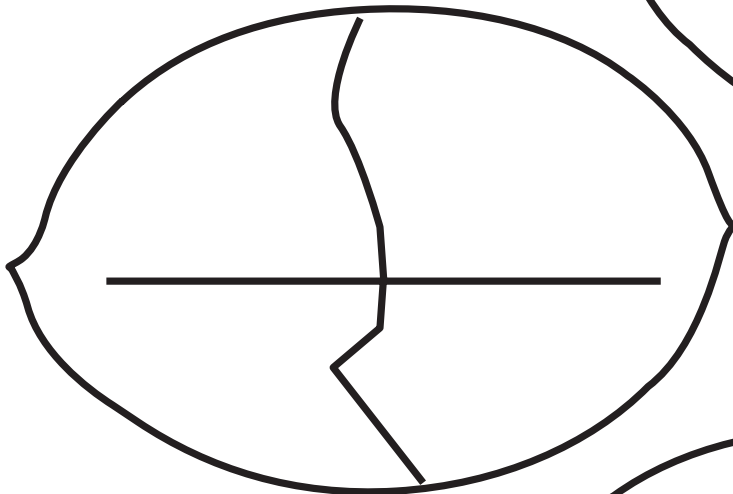
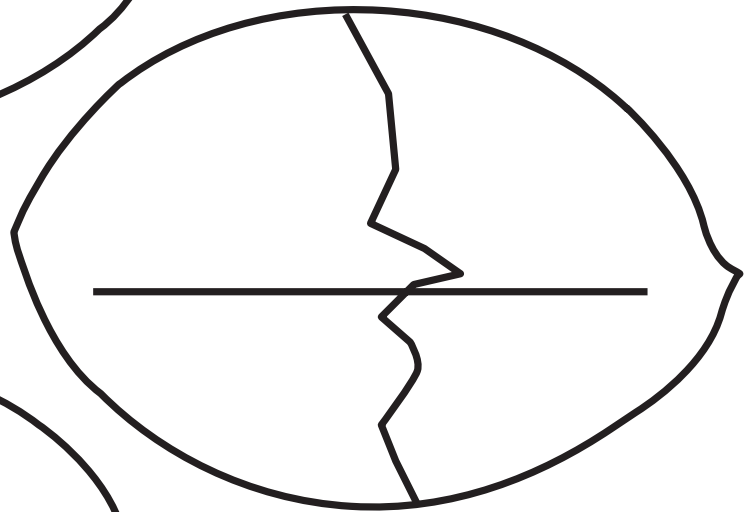
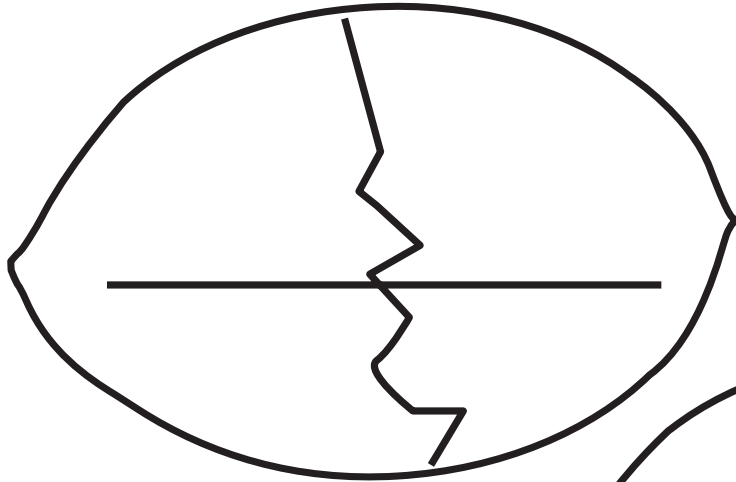
**Materials Provided:** Teacher directions and "Cracking Up" patterns

**Materials Needed:** Bank of known vocabulary words, Bank of new vocabulary words, Copies of "Cracking Up" patterns, scissors, pencils/pens and markers

**Activity:**

Using magnetic letters, chalkboard, or whiteboard demonstrate that some words can be decoded by looking for smaller, known words inside. As the first example, show students the word "pecan". Allow students to reveal that the word "can" is inside the word. Next, demonstrate that the word "can" can also be found at the beginning of the word "candy". Parts of the words may be written on the shell halves of the "Cracking Up" patterns for students to manipulate. Repeat the demonstration using the following agricultural commodities as examples: peanut/nutbread, popcorn/cornbread. Write these on patterns. Work as a group to generate more examples. Then put patterns, scissors and markers in a classroom learning center for students to use as they generate more examples of smaller words that help to decode larger, unknown words.

# CRACKING UP



# PECANS

## Language Arts Lesson Plan 2

**Suggested Grade Level:** K-1

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate the ability to state likenesses and differences between pecans and peanuts, both agricultural products of North Carolina.

**Materials Provided:** We're Going Nuts pattern for Venn Diagram

**Materials Needed:** Pencils

### **Activity:**

Provide students with background information about pecans and peanuts. Point out how they are grown, nutritional facts, popular uses, etc. Allow students to discuss favorites and share personal information about pecans and peanuts. Distribute copies of the Venn Diagram or use an enlarged chart for a whole group activity. Ask students to complete the diagram listing likenesses and differences between the two products.

Suggested responses might include:

- ▼ One is a nut, one is not.
- ▼ Both provide important nutrients.
- ▼ One grows in the ground, one grows on a tree.
- ▼ Both have shells.
- ▼ One is easy to crack, one is difficult.

Suggested websites for background information

[www.ncpecans.org](http://www.ncpecans.org)

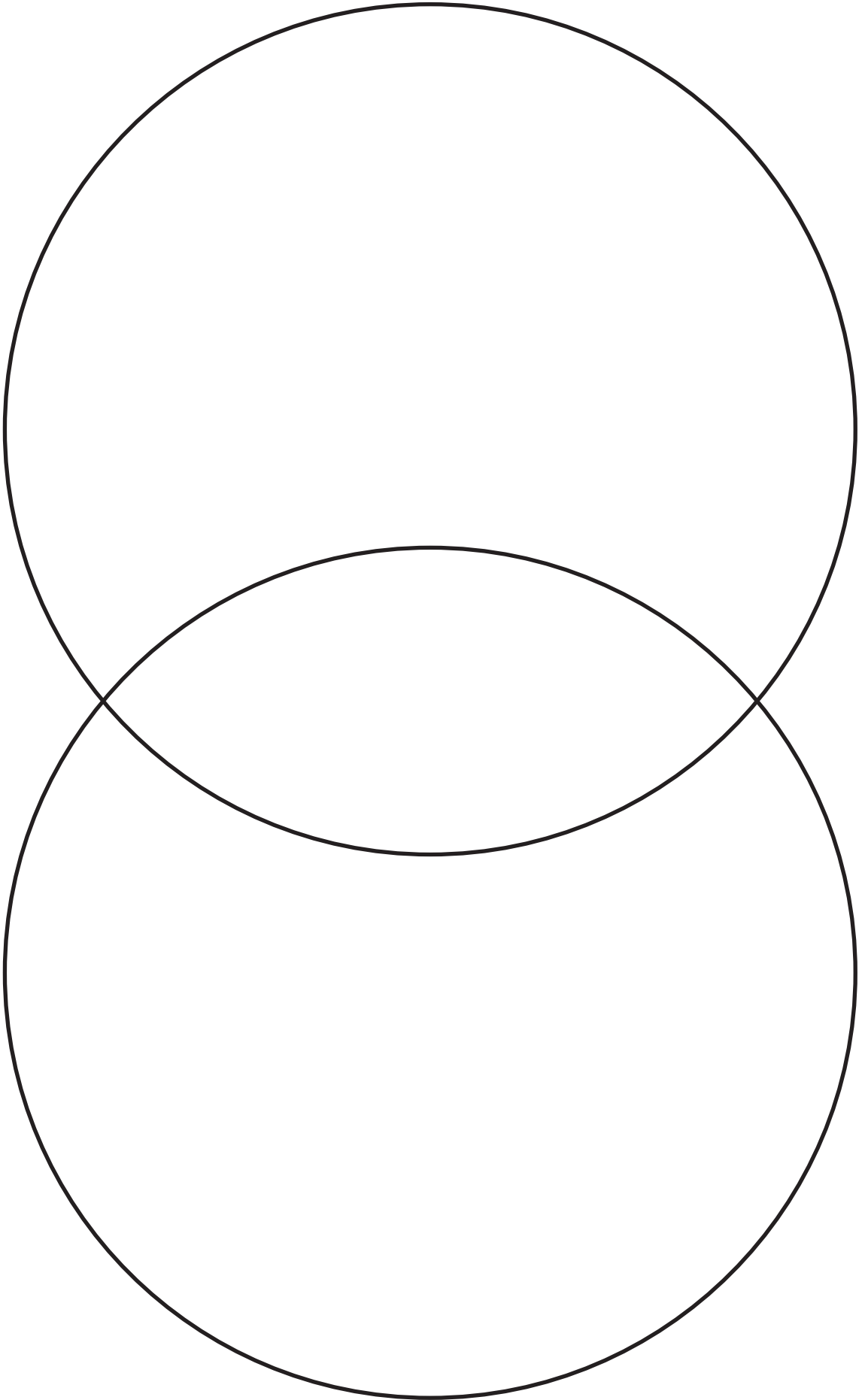
[www.ilovepecans.org](http://www.ilovepecans.org)

[info@aboutpeanuts.com](mailto:info@aboutpeanuts.com)

# WE'RE GOING NUTS

Peanut

Pecan



# PECANS

## Language Arts Lesson Plan 3

**Suggested Grade Level: 3**

**Objective:** Students will be able to describe the action of shelling a pecan in an informational writing assignment.

**Materials Provided:** Graphic organizer for writing assignment and prompt sheet

**Materials Needed:** Pencils, pecans, nutcracker

**Activity:**

Demonstrate for students the process of shelling a pecan. Allow students to discuss the action including cautions that are needed to remove the nutmeat intact. Allow students to try their hands at shelling nuts. Discuss the process used and the sequence of activities.

Distribute graphic organizers and ask students to complete them with phrases or pictures that represent each step of the process.

Distribute prompt sheets and ask students to write an informational narrative describing the process of shelling a pecan.

# GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

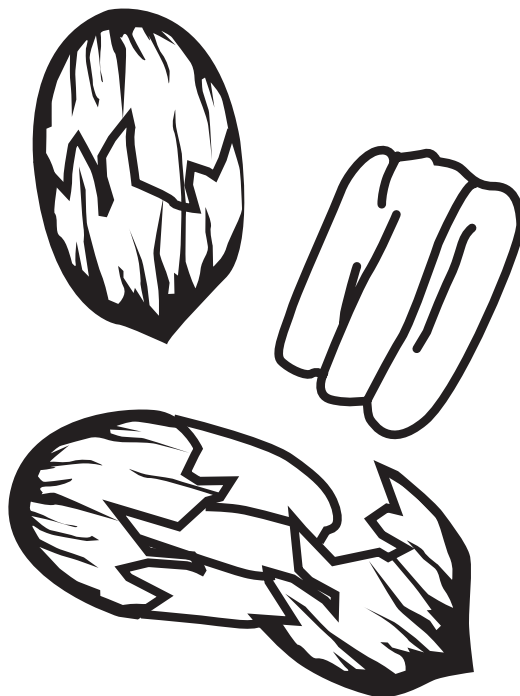
## Shelling a Pecan

First \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Next \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

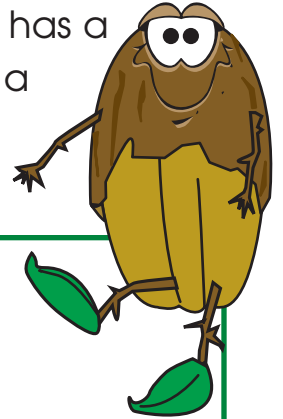
Finally \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# PECANS PROMPT SHEET

Draw a picture of someone shelling a pecan. Write a story that tells what happens when a person shells a pecan. Be sure that your story has a beginning, a middle, and an ending. Tell about the things that a person must do to shell a pecan.





# PECANS

## Math Lesson Plan 1

**Suggested Grade Level:** 3

**Objective:** The learner will demonstrate the ability to estimate similar volumes using agricultural commodities.

**Materials Provided:** "In a Nutshell" worksheet

**Materials Needed:** Pecans, a one-cup measuring cup, dried peas, rice, raisins, dried corn, soybeans

**Activity:**

Display a single pecan in its shell. Ask students to guess the amount of water the shell might hold. Place enough pecans in the measuring cup to equal the one-cup measurement. Calculate with the class..."If 8 ounces equals the volume of \_\_\_\_ pecans, how many ounces would equal the volume of one nut?"

As a whole class activity or as a learning center task, allow students to "pour out" the amount of rice, raisins, peas, etc. that would be able to fit inside a given nutshell. Allow students to compare and discuss their estimates.

# IN A NUTSHELL WORKSHEET

How many nuts did it take to fill the measuring cup? \_\_\_\_\_

How many raisins do you estimate will fit inside one nutshell? \_\_\_\_\_

How many grains of rice? \_\_\_\_\_

How many soybeans? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kernels of corn? \_\_\_\_\_

How many peas? \_\_\_\_\_



Crack your pecan and remove the contents.  
Compare each portion of peas, corn, rice, raisins, and soybeans to the contents of the shell.

Did you estimate too much or too little of each commodity?  
Explain your answer.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# PECANS

## Math Lesson Plan 2

**Suggested Grade Level:** 2-3

**Objective:** The learner will use information, reasoning, and a calculator to solve a math calculation related to age.

**Materials Provided:** “How Old Will You Be?” worksheet

**Materials needed:** Calculators, pencils

**Activity:**

Show students a picture of a pecan tree or visit the site of a pecan tree in the neighborhood. Tell students that trees take many years to grow. You may wish to discuss how the age of a tree can be determined by counting its rings,

Tell students it will take 7 years for a newly replanted pecan tree to bear fruit.

Distribute worksheets and allow students to calculate the correct answers to the problems posed.

# HOW OLD WILL YOU BE?

## Pecans Worksheet

If a pecan tree was planted on the day you were born, how old would you be when you could eat the first nuts that grew on the tree?

---

---

If Ted was seven years old when the tree was planted, how old would he be when he could eat the first pecans?

---

---

If Jenny planted her pecan tree five years ago, how much longer must she wait before she can enjoy the first pecans from her tree?

---

---

Grandma's pecan tree was planted 50 years ago. How many years has she been able to pick up nuts in the fall?

---

---

### CHALLENGE

Plant a pecan in a coffee can. Leave it outdoors and make sure that it gets light and water. Record the dates when you first see a sprout; when a stem or leaves appear; when the seedling is too large for the coffee can and needs to be planted.

# PECANS

## Math Lesson Plan 3

**Suggested Grade Level:** 2-3

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate an understanding of the fraction  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

**Materials Provided:** "Aunt Betty's Cake" worksheet

**Materials Needed:** Shelled pecan halves, pencils

**Activity:**

Explain to students that many bakers make delicious chocolate cakes and top them with designs made of pecan halves. Shell a pecan and show that each nut contains two halves. Allow students to use the worksheet to calculate how many nuts would be needed to produce certain designs on the top of a cake.

# AUNT BETTY'S PECAN CAKE

## Worksheet

Draw some circles on a sheet of plain paper.

Create some designs that could be made using pecan halves.

Count the halves used for each design

Calculate how many pecans would be needed for each cake based on the number of halves needed to create each design.

If 2 dozen cupcakes were topped with one pecan half each, how many pecans would be needed?

## CHALLENGE

Work with your class to bake a chocolate layer or sheet cake. Top the cake with pecan halves. Enjoy!



# PECANS

## Math Lesson Plan 4

Suggested Grade Level 1-2

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate the ability to study shapes and match like objects.

**Materials Provided:** None

**Materials Needed:** Unshelled mixed nuts (can be found in bins or bags in the produce section of the grocery store, especially around the holidays), cans of shelled mixed nuts

**Activity:**

Allow students to study shelled and unshelled mixed nuts. Then have students try to match each shelled nut with the unshelled nut of the same variety. Remove the shells of the unshelled nuts to verify.

# PECANS

## Science Lesson Plan

**Suggested Grade Level:** K-3

**Objective:** Students will demonstrate the ability to classify a set of objects based on physical attributes.

**Materials Provided:** None

**Materials Needed:** Bags of unshelled mixed nuts (usually found in the produce section of the grocery store around Thanksgiving and Christmas)

**Activity:**

Allow students to handle the mixed nuts. Challenge students to classify the nuts into only two categories. Then tell or write reasons why each nut belongs in its assigned category. Challenge students to reassign the nuts into different categories based upon different attributes.

You may wish to allow students to handle nuts with plastic food service gloves on paper plates so that they can enjoy eating the nuts at the end of the lesson. Be sure to check for allergies.

# PECANS

## Social Studies Lesson Plan

**Suggested Grade Level: K-3**

**Objective:** The learner will explore various worldwide communities.

**Materials Provided:** None

**Materials Needed:** Unshelled Mixed Nuts

**Activity:**

Display pecans for students and locate geographic areas in which pecans are produced. Discuss community life in these locales and how it might be the same or different from community life in “our” hometown.

Repeat the process with other nuts found in the mixed nut assortment.

# PECANS

## Computer Skills Lesson Plan Ideas

### Suggested Grade Level: K-3

- ▼ Any comparison that has been done as a part of this set of lesson plans can be typed on a computer.
- ▼ Type the production sequence writing assignment from Language Arts.
- ▼ Type the description of how to shell a pecan.
- ▼ Make a spreadsheet to show the comparative volumes found in the “In a Nutshell” activity for Math.
- ▼ Type descriptions of the categories created in the classifying activity.
- ▼ Use email to find out information about other communities where pecans and other nuts are produced.
- ▼ Use the Internet to learn about other nut producing regions around the World.

### Pecan CHALLENGE

- ▼ Use the Internet to find information about the nut producing regions.
- ▼ Email local governments or chambers of commerce to get additional information.
- ▼ Use the Internet to find recipes using each nut from the assortment.
- ▼ Take a field trip to a pecan grove, a farmers market, a grocery store, restaurant, or a bakery.

# PECANS

## Healthful Living Lesson Plan 1

**Suggested Grade Level:** K-3

**Objective:** The learner will demonstrate understanding of proper nutrition by researching, preparing, serving, and eating healthy dishes prepared with pecans.

**Materials Provided:** None

**Materials Needed:** Recipes, ingredients, and cooking facilities  
Teachers can find pecan recipes at [www.ncpecans.org](http://www.ncpecans.org)

**Activity:**

Work as a class to find recipes containing pecans that can be served for each course of a meal. For example, a Waldorf Salad might serve as an opening course, etc.

Locate recipes for a main course, vegetable, soup, and dessert.

Find assistance to prepare the meal. This would be a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving and perhaps invite parents or other special guests.

# PECANS

## Healthful Living Lesson Plan 2

**Suggested Grade Level:** K-3

**Objective:** The learner will demonstrate understanding and practice of healthy habits.

**Materials Provided:** None

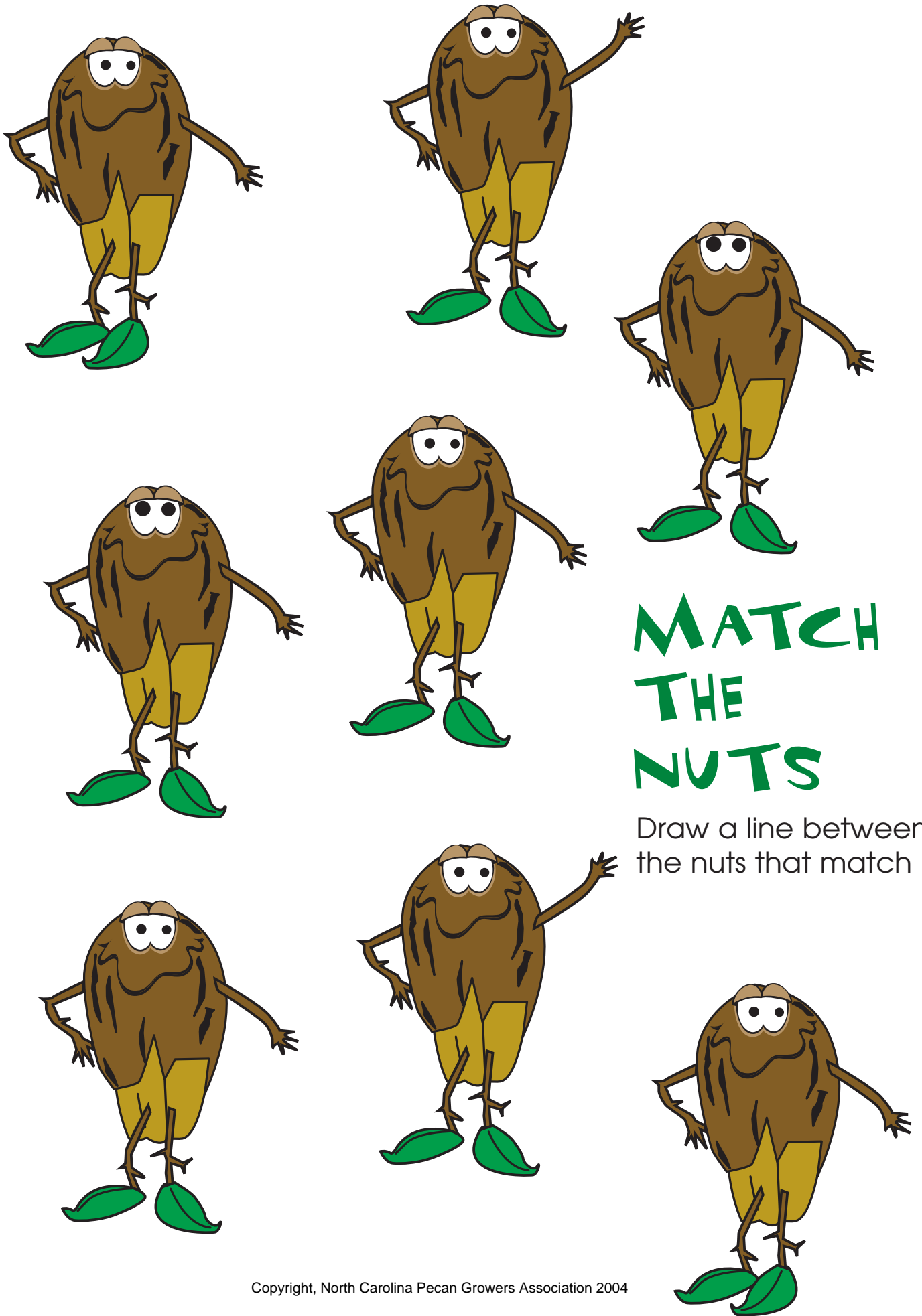
**Materials Needed:** None

### **Activity:**

Remind students that pecans must be picked up from the ground when they fall. Producers have machinery to handle this task, but homeowners usually pick up the nuts manually. Ask students to research and demonstrate ways to collect the nuts that will prevent back strain.

### CHALLENGE

Hold an Invention Convention in which students invent and demonstrate work-saving devices for harvesting pecans or other agricultural products.



# MATCH THE NUTS

Draw a line between  
the nuts that match

# "PHONUTS"

short vowel sounds

long vowel sounds



Cut out each word and determine if it has a long vowel sound or a short vowel sound. Then paste each word in the correct column of the "Phonuts" sheet.

plant

bake

tree

shell

pick

pie

grove

hot

prune

nut

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Pecan Trivia - Fun Facts About Pecans

The pecan is native to the rich, fertile river and stream valleys of part of the Southwest, Midwest and Central-Southern United States and part of Northern to Mid-Central and South-Central Mexico, and no other area of the world.

Pecan fossil remains show that the pecan tree and nut were prehistoric and predated the arrival of any human on the North American Continent.

The first written record of the pecan came from Cabeza de Vaca, a Spanish nobleman, who was shipwrecked on the Galveston Island and was a captive of the Indians from 1529 to 1535. He documented that a number of Indian tribes would congregate in the Guadeloupe River Valley in the fall and be sustained by eating pecans and nothing else for two months.

Pecans were favored by Indians and pre-colonial residents because they were accessible to waterways, easily shelled, and great tasting.

"Pecan" is a Native American word from the Algonquin language, which was used to describe all nuts requiring a stone to crack.

By 1762 Decourset, a Frenchman serving with George Washington in the American Revolution, observed that "the celebrated general always had these nuts and was constantly eating them."

President Washington mentioned in his diary of 1794 of planting "several poccon, or Illinois nuts" on the grounds of his Mount Vernon home. President Thomas Jefferson likewise planted pecans at his home at Monticello.

In 1847 Antoine, an African-American slave gardener on Oak Alley Plantation in Louisiana, grafted 16 pecan trees to some highly regarded native pecans. His accomplishment led to the opening of the commercial pecan nursery industry.

In the 1970s, Texas Desirable pecan halves were selected the first and only fresh food to nourish our astronauts to the moon and back on Apollo 13 and Apollo 14-pecans continued to be used on other space flights. No other nut on our planet has earned this high nutritional honor.

There are over 19,900 US farms and thousands of yard and landscape trees that grow pecans. Eleven varieties contributing significantly to the agricultural economy in 24 to 50 states, comprising states from North Carolina to California. Annual production of pecan nuts is about a pound for every citizen of the United States.

Can you imagine a pecan skyscraper? It would take 11,624 pecans, stacked end to end, to reach the top of the Empire State Building in New York City.

Texas adopted the pecan tree as its state tree in 1919. In fact, Texas Governor James Hogg liked pecan trees so much that he asked if a pecan tree could be planted at his gravesite when he died.

Pecans in space: it would take a trail of over 10 billion pecans to reach the moon!

Albany, Georgia, which boasts more than 600,000 pecan trees, is the pecan capital of the U.S. Albany hosts the annual National Pecan Festival, which includes a race, parade, pecan cooking contest, the crowning of the National Pecan Queen, and many other activities.

Would you go nuts for a refreshing dip in the pool? You'd need a lot of pecans—144 million to be exact—to fill an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

It takes a magnificent tree to produce a great tasting nut. Pecan trees usually range in height from 70 to 100 feet, but some trees grow 150 feet or higher. Native pecan trees—those over 150 years old—have trunks more than three feet in diameter.

That's one heavy nut: it would take 5,640 pecan halves to equal the weight of a standard watermelon.

Pecans come in a variety of sizes — mammoth, extra large, large, medium, small, and midget. They also come in several forms including whole, halves, pieces, granules, and meal.

There are over 1,000 varieties of pecans. Many are named for Native American Indian tribes including Cheyenne, Mohawk, Sioux, Choctaw, and Shawnee.

Some of the larger pecan shellers process 150,000 pounds of pecans each day. That's enough to make 300,000 pecan pies!

The U.S. produces 80 percent of the world's pecan crop. The United States Department of Agriculture predicted that approximately 324 million pounds of in-shelled pecans were to be produced in 1999 alone.

Before a shelled pecan is ready to be sold, it must first be cleaned, sized, sterilized, cracked, and finally shelled.

Between 1986 and 1996, pecan export sales rose almost 900 percent!

# PECAN TIMELINE

1500s	1600s-1700s	1800s
Native Americans utilized and cultivated wild pecans	Spanish colonists cultivated orchards (late 1600s - early 1700s)	Pecans exported by French to the West Indies (1802)
	English settlers planted pecan trees (1700s)	Pecan budding technique discovered (1822)
	George Washington planted pecan trees (1775)	Successful grafting of the pecan tree (1846)
	Thomas Jefferson planted pecan trees (1779)	First planting of improved pecans (1876)
	Economic potential for pecans realized (late 1700s)	Commercial propagation of pecans begins (1880s)

# NUTTY SONGS AND RHYMES FOR BEGINNERS

## P-E-C-A-N

*(to the tune of BINGO)*

I know a nut that grows on trees and pecan is it's name-o

P-E-C-A-N

P-E-C-A-N

P-E-C-A-N

And pecan is it's name-o!

## Crack, Crunch

*(to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star")*

Crack, Crunch, Crack, Crunch, please hand me

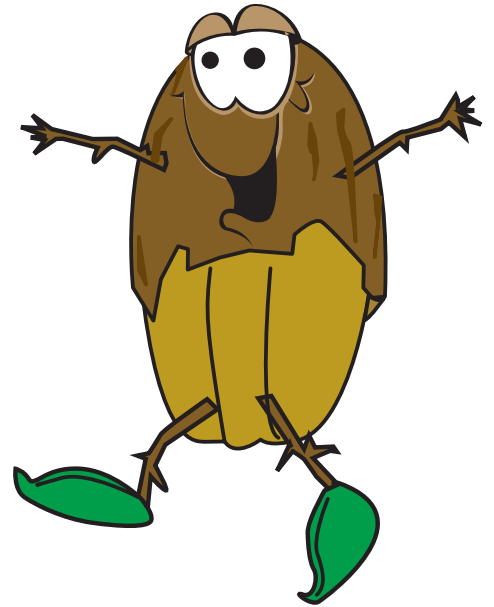
Another pecan for my belly

They taste so good and they're healthy too

I will even share with you

Crack, Crunch, Crack, Crunch, please hand me

Another pecan for my belly.



## Did You Ever Eat a Pecan?

*(to the tune of "Have You Ever Seen a Lassie?")*

Did you ever eat a pecan, a pecan, a pecan?

Did you ever eat a pecan, a pecan pie?

It's crunchy, it's chewy, it's yummy, it's gooey.

Did you ever eat a pecan, a pecan pie?

## One Pecan, Two Pecans...

*(Hand action rhyme, played holding 2 whole pecans in small circles like "One potato, Two potatoes").*

One pecan, two pecans,

Three pecans, four.

Five pecans, six pecans,

Seven pecans, more.

## Five Little Pecans

*(Finger Action Rhyme)*

Five little pecans hung in a tree,  
One fell down and said, "Hee Hee."

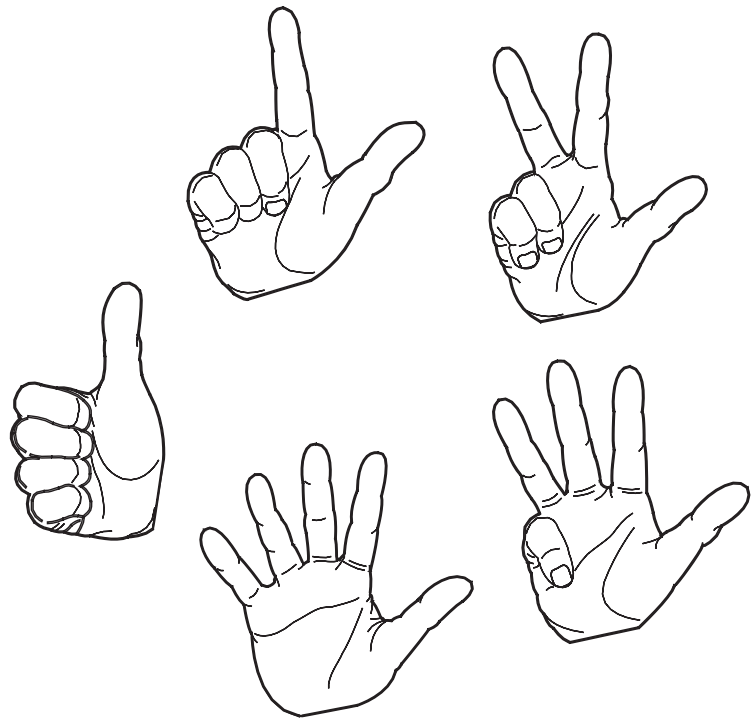
Four little pecans hung in a tree,  
One fell down and laughed with glee.

Three little pecans hung in a tree,  
One fell down and broke his knee.

Two little pecans hung in a tree,  
One fell down and yelled, "I'm free!"

One little pecan hung in a tree,  
He fell down, no more in the tree?

No little pecans hung in the tree,  
Mama's gonna bake a pie for me!



## Pecan, Pecan, Pecan, PIE!

*Play this game as you would play "Duck, duck, GOOSE!"* Have the children sit in a circle with one person being the "Pecan Picker." This child will walk around the outside of the circle, patting each child on the head saying "Pecan" or "Pie." When the child pats someone with the word, "Pie," he or she will get up and try to tag the "Pecan picker." If the child makes it back to their seat before being tagged, the other child is the new "Pecan Picker."

**Hey kids!** Are you handy around the kitchen? Do you want to make some absolutely YUMMY snacks for you and your family? Here are some no-bake recipes that you should try out. You don't need to use the oven, though you may need to use the microwave or a knife to cut things up. **MAKE SURE YOU ASK YOUR PARENTS** for permission and help when needed.

### **CARAMEL APPLE DIP**

8 ounces cream cheese  
1/4 cup chopped pecans  
1 cup brown sugar  
Apple slices  
1 teaspoon vanilla

Beat cream cheese, pecans, sugar, and vanilla together until smooth. Serve as a dip with fresh apple slices. YUM!

### **PECAN FRUIT CHEWS**

1 cup chopped pecans  
2 cups crispy rice cereal  
1/2 cup butter  
1 egg  
1 cup chopped dried apricots  
1 cup coconut  
1 cup sugar

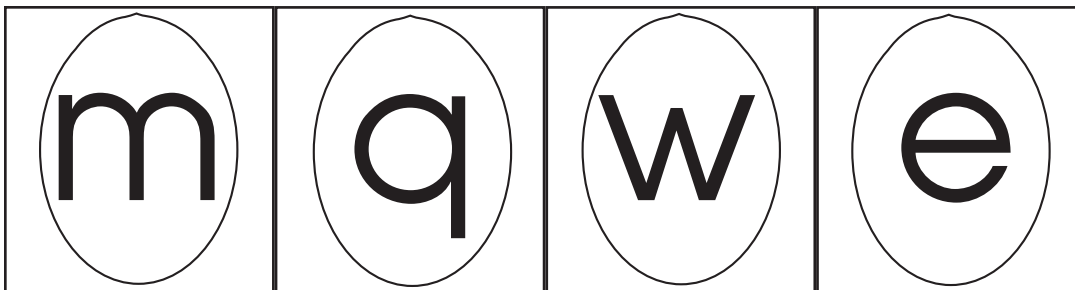
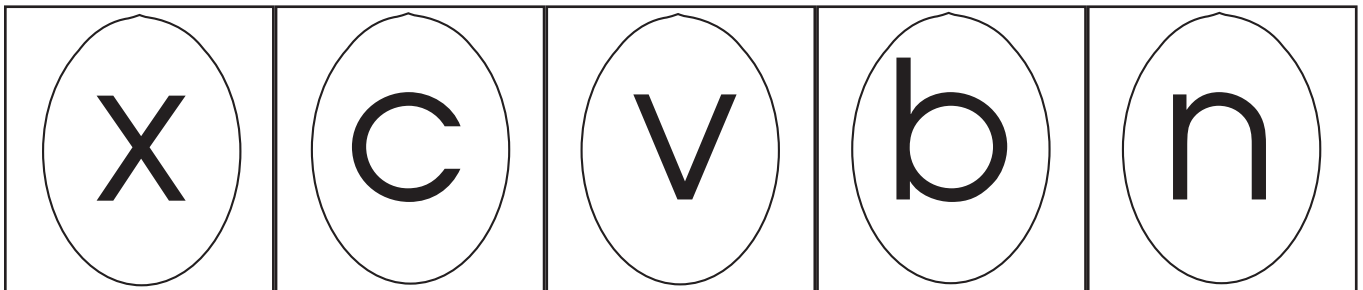
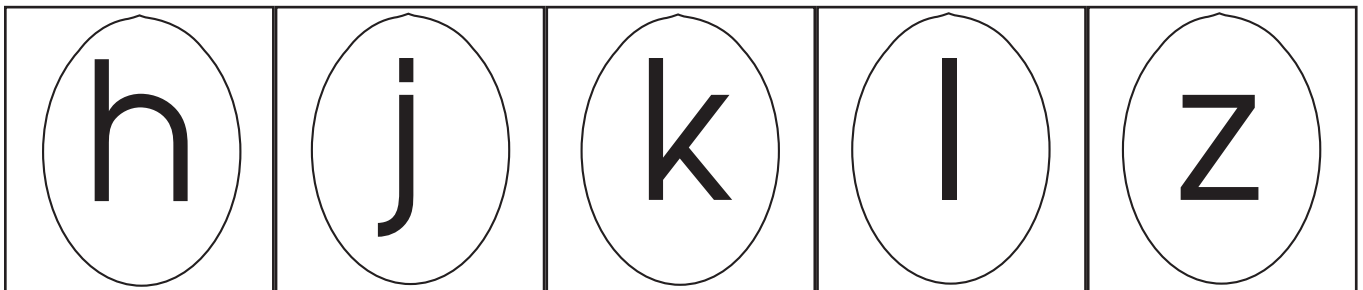
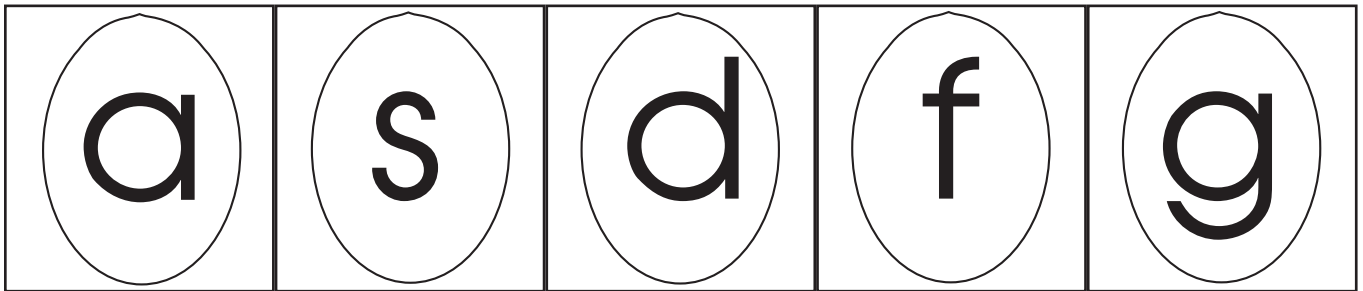
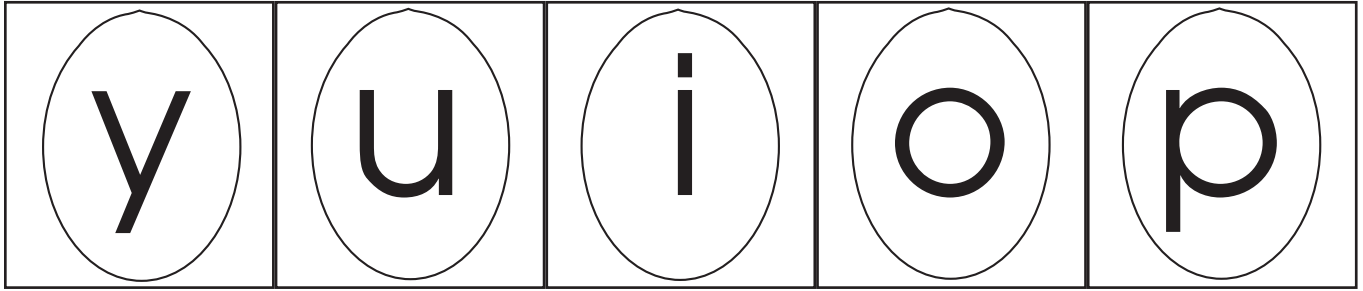
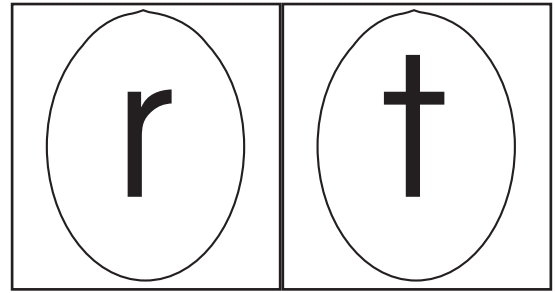
Melt butter in a 2-quart bowl. Add sugar and apricots, then eggs. Cook 5 minutes in microwave, stirring every 2 minutes. Cool. Add cereal and pecans. Cool completely. Shape into logs and roll in coconut. Makes 30 logs.

### **TORTILLA PECAN ROLL-UPS**

3 large flour tortillas  
2 tablespoons picante sauce  
8 ounces cream cheese  
1/2 cup chopped pecans  
4 ounces chopped chilies  
Garlic to taste

Combine cream cheese, chilies, picante sauce, pecans, and garlic. Divide and spread over the 3 flour tortillas. Roll up and place in the refrigerator. Can be frozen. Slice before serving. Yields approximately 45 pieces.

# ABC'S MIXED UP



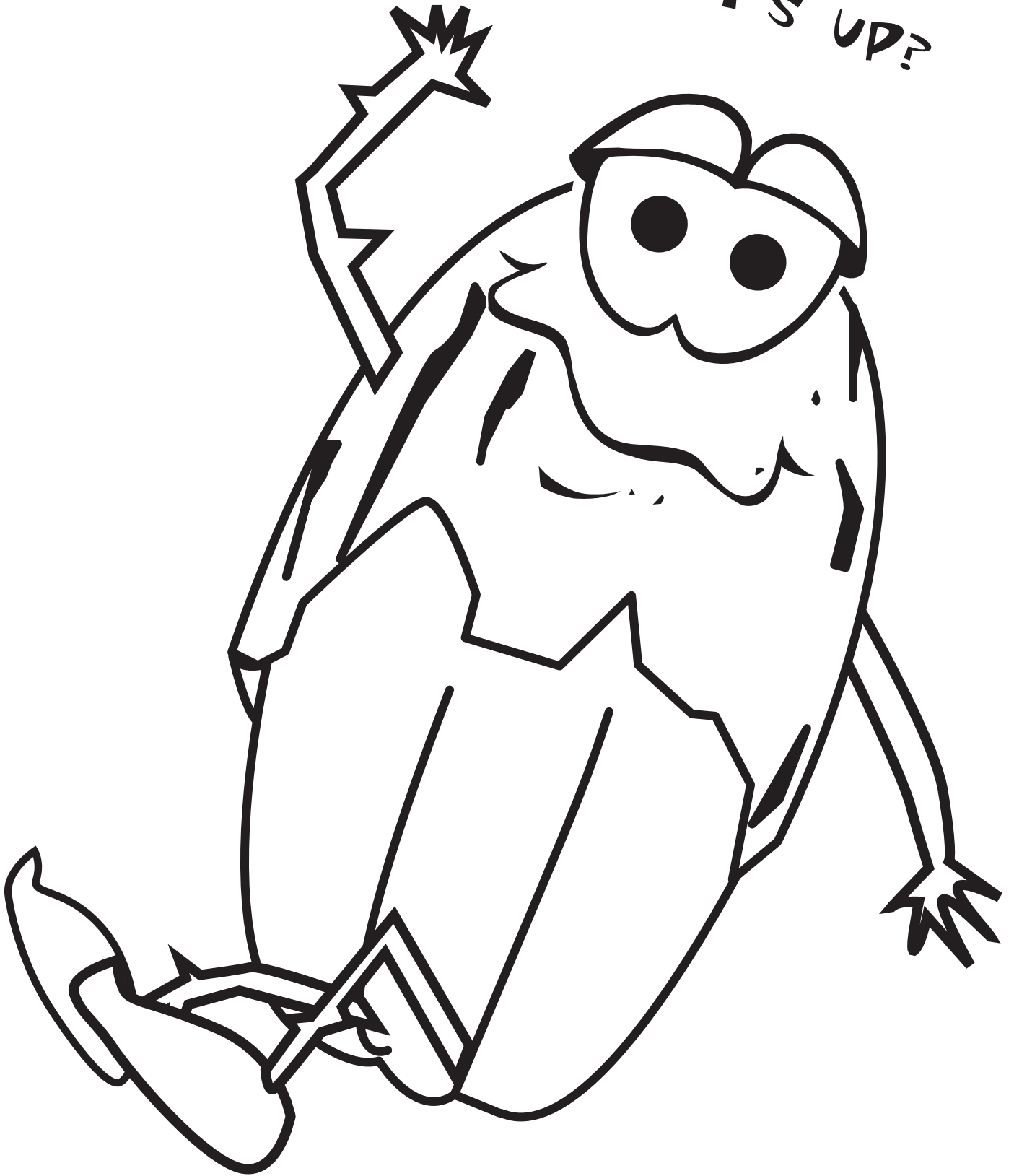
Cut out and paste  
on a tagboard  
sentence strip in  
alphabetical order



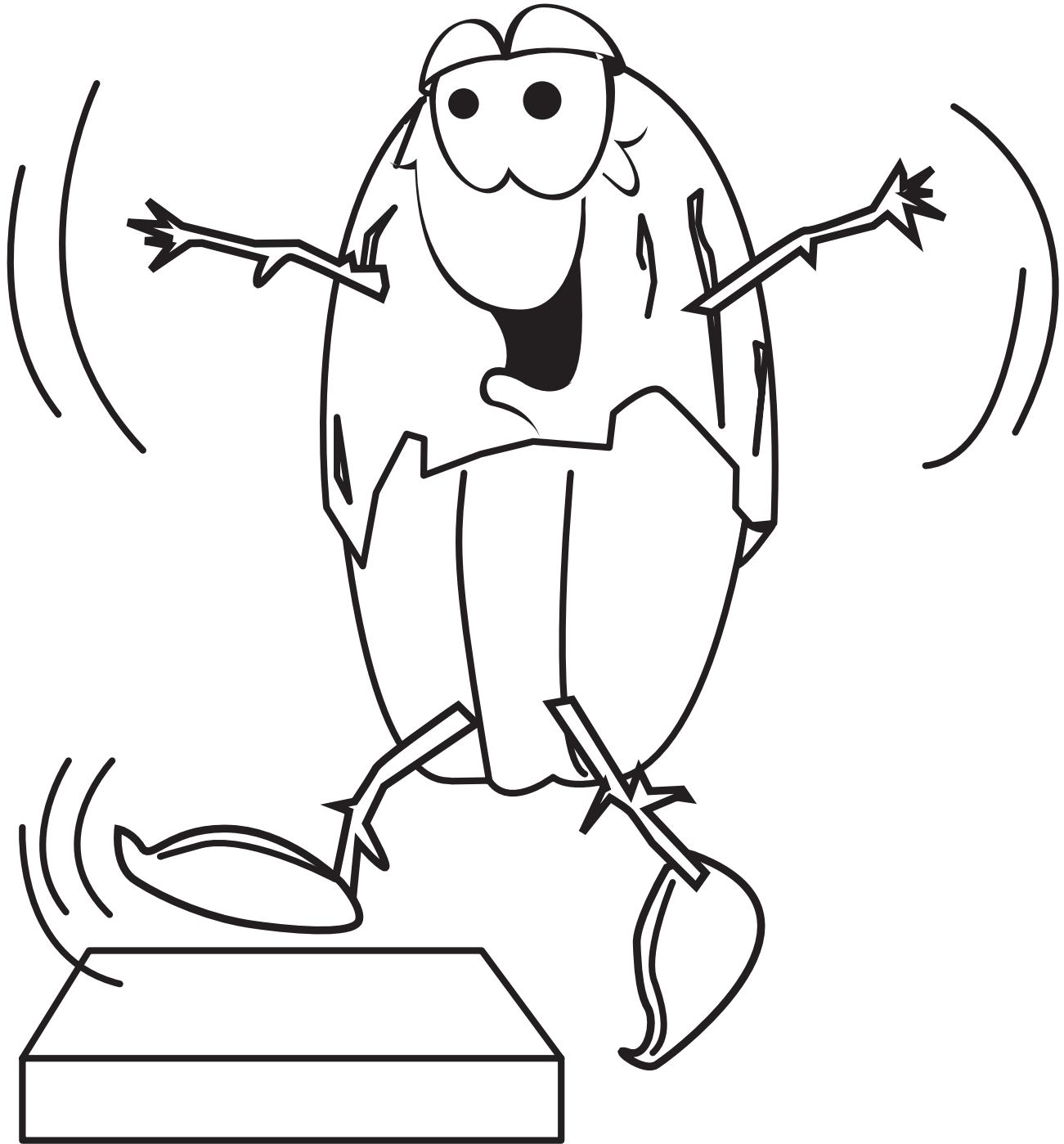
LOOKING GOOD!



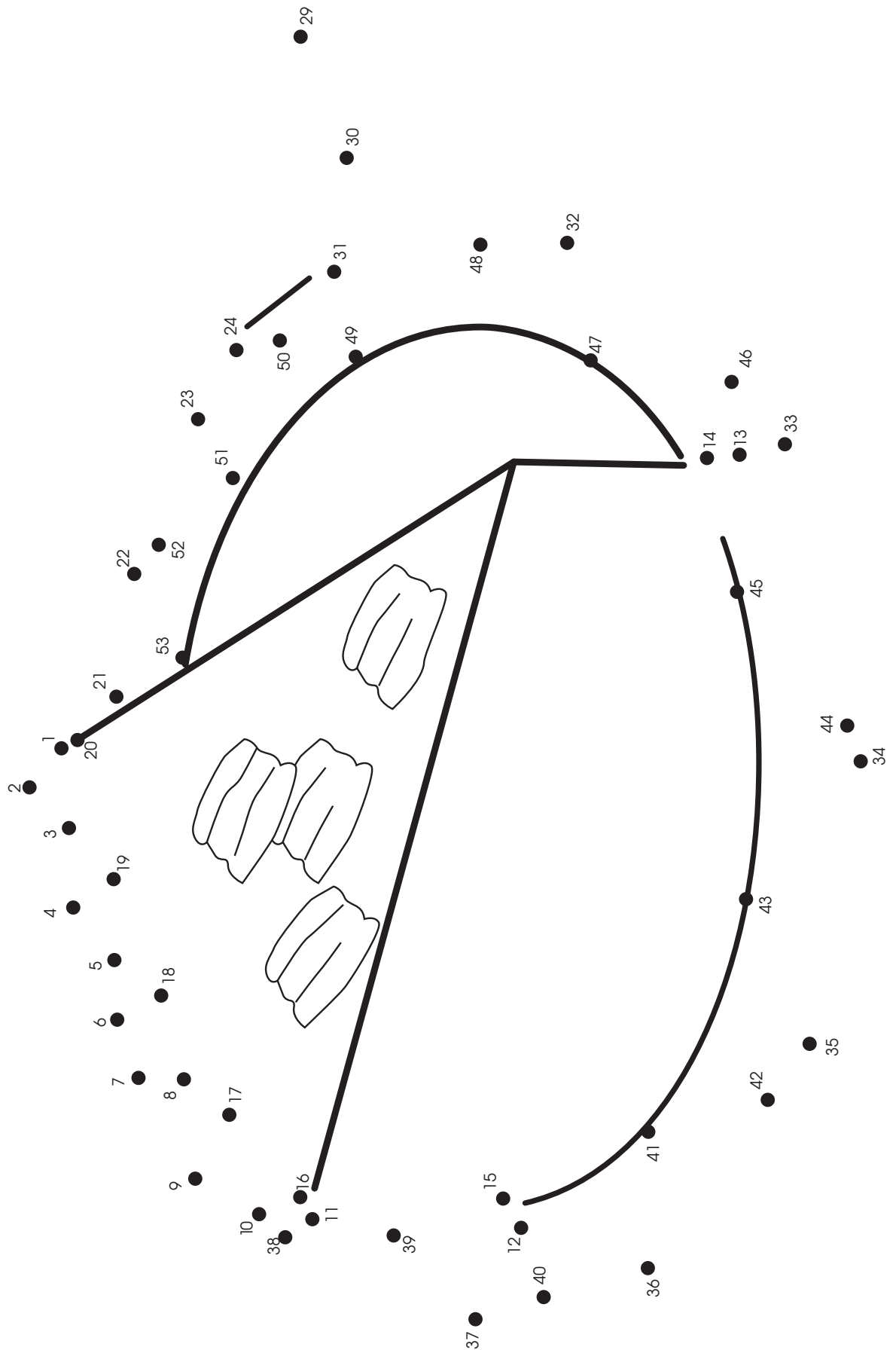
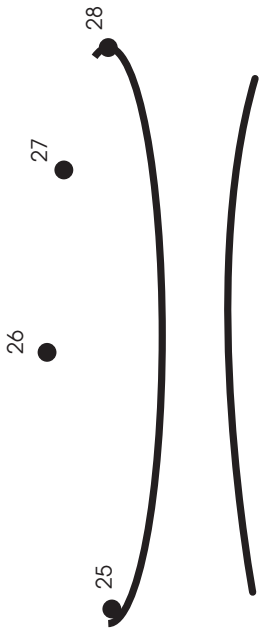
WHAT'S UP?



# PECAN AEROBICS STEP CLASS



# CONNECT THE DOTS TO SEE A SUPER TREAT



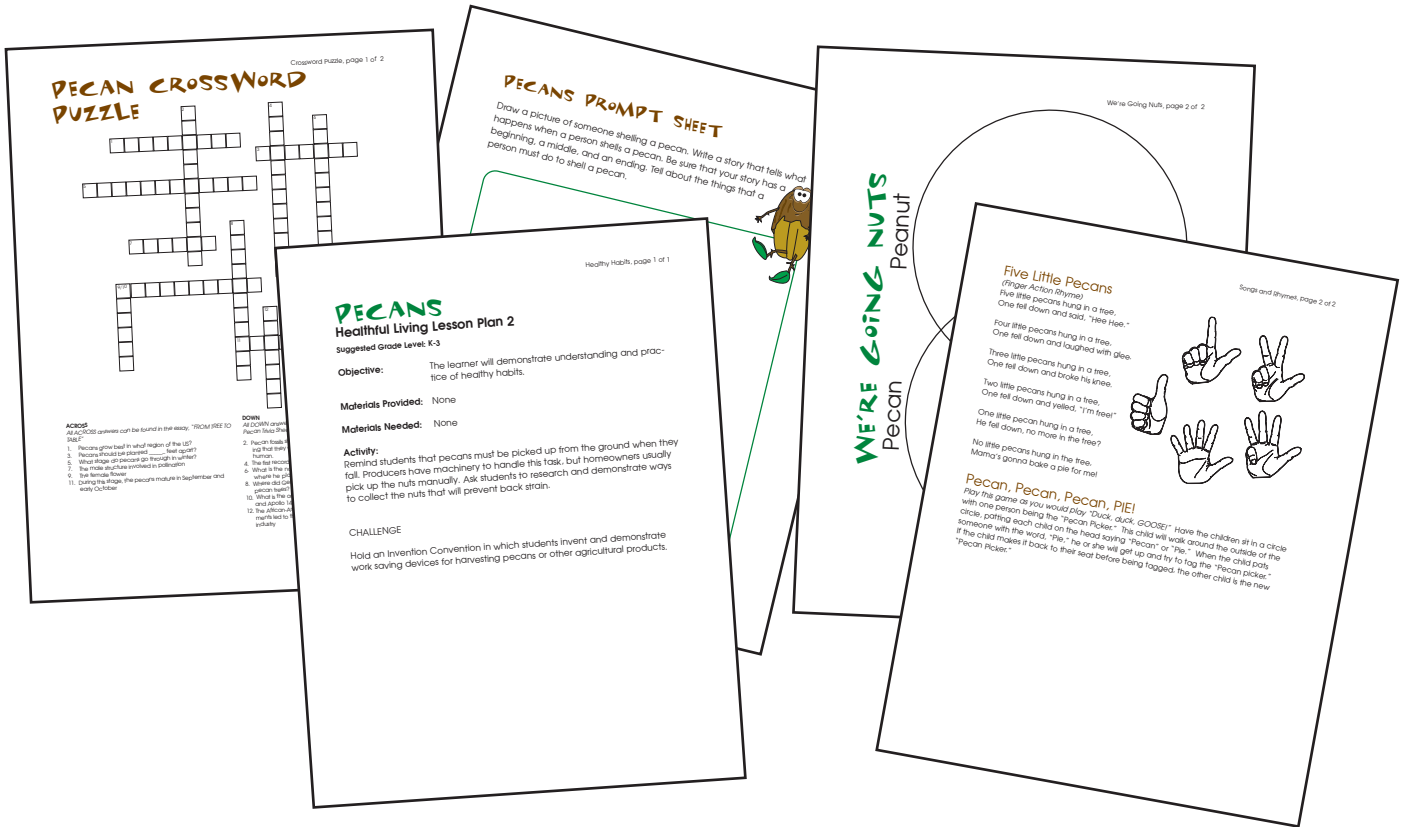


# PECAN BAG PUPPET

Color and cut out the pecan. Cut along dotted line and paste the pecan head on the top fold of a closed brown lunch bag. Paste the body part on the bottom of the lunch bag so that it matches up with the top. When it dries, put your hand in the bag and move along the fold to make the pecan talk!

# FREE PECAN LESSON PLANS AND ACTIVITIES!

Sponsored by the NC Pecan Grower's Association



The NC Pecan Grower's Association has teamed up with NC elementary school teachers to develop lesson plans and related activities that will help you meet your curriculum requirements in a fun and unique way! Plans range in suggested grade level from kindergarten through third grade.

## Lesson Plans Available:

- Computer Skills
- Healthful Living\*
- Language Arts\*
- Math\*
- Science
- Social Studies
- Plus fun additional worksheets, games, and activities for young learners

\* indicates multiple lesson plans available for this area

## Dear Teachers,

Whether you teach in a public or charter school, a private academy, or in your own home, we salute your efforts to provide the best quality educational experiences for the students you serve. We wish you every success and seek to support you with our newly-developed lesson plans, activities and ideas provided for download free of charge from [www.ncpecans.org](http://www.ncpecans.org).

Our goals are to assist you in planning and delivering interesting, fun, and appropriate learning experiences and to heighten the awareness of today's youth to the importance of pecans and agriculture in our state, nation, and global community. We hope that all students can appreciate the work of the farmer and all who provide support from the agricultural industry. We also hope that many will see a career in agriculture as a truly desirable and fulfilling vocation.

Feel free to modify any lesson or activity to best meet the needs of your students. We hope that you will be led to develop more lessons as an extension of those located on our site, and that you may be able to adapt many of the activities as you study other agricultural commodities or topics of interest. Again, we wish you all the best and hope that the lessons and activities found on this site will serve you well.

The NC Pecan Grower's Association

## HOW TO GET NC PECANS LESSON PLANS IN JUST 3 FREE CLICKS!



1. Log onto [www.ncpecans.org](http://www.ncpecans.org) and click on "Education."



2. Click on "Lesson Plans."



3. Click on "Download All" to download all lesson plans and related activities. (If you prefer, you may select individual lesson plans and only download the ones you want.)

# FROM TREE TO TABLE

Eating a piece of grandma's delicious pecan pie doesn't take very long, but growing the pecans that are in the pie took a very long time! Let's spend a few minutes learning how pecans make the journey from the orchard, to your dessert table.

## The Orchard

When a pecan grower decides to grow pecan trees, he or she needs to have patience and be willing to make a long-term commitment. The first step is to determine where to plant the orchard. While pecan trees can grow in many places in the United States, the best area to grow them is in the Southeast. The top three pecan producing states are Georgia, Texas and Alabama. North Carolina is usually in the top ten pecan-producing states, and is on the northern edge of the commercial pecan-producing region in the US. Pecans like a hot and humid climate, lots of water, and deep, well-drained, sandy-loam soil. Because of the specialized climate necessary, most pecan trees in North Carolina are grown in the coastal plain.

## Planting the Trees

The best month for planting new pecan trees is January. But, before trees are planted, the orchard owner needs to choose which varieties of pecans he or she wants to plant. In order for the pecan nuts to be properly pollinated, at least three different varieties should be planted. Though they are only about five to seven feet tall when planted, pecan trees get very big over time, so they need to be spaced about 70 feet apart. About 6-9 trees are planted on one acre. Each year the tree will grow about 10 to 12 inches, and pecans will only develop on the new growth, so it's important to make sure that the trees are well cared for each and every year.

## Wait, wait, wait...

It takes several years before pecan trees start producing pecans. Most new and improved varieties begin to produce pecans within five to six years, but older, traditional varieties take longer. During this waiting time the orchard owner isn't just sitting around, there are a lot of tasks to be accomplished. Pecan trees will need to be watered very frequently, especially during the first year. They will also need to be pruned, fertilized and monitored to make sure that insects and animals aren't damaging them. There are four main insects that hurt pecan trees. They are: pecan weevils, twig girdlers, stink bugs, and aphids. In addition, deer, squirrels, crows and blue jays can also "steal" the pecans and harm the trees.

## The Growing Season

Once a pecan tree is mature, it will go through different stages throughout the year. The growth stages are:

The Dormant Stage: Pecan trees are dormant during the winter months. This is kind of like a rest period for the tree.

During dormancy, the tree doesn't appear to be growing, but many important things are happening. In order for pecan trees to produce pecans during the next year they need at least 200 chill hours during this period. (A chill hour is an hour where the temperature is between 32°F and 45°F.)

Bud-break/Pollination: During late April and early May, pecan trees pollinate. Pecan trees are monoecious, which means they have separate male structures (catkins,) and female flowers (pistillates). The catkins are long, golden tassels and produce pollen. The female flowers receive the pollen and nut growth begins. During this time, the pecan grower spends a lot of time making sure the trees are free of problems with insects and diseases.

Nutlet Stage: The young pecans continue to grow in June and July and are called nutlets.

Nut-Fill Stage: Pecans mature during the nut-fill stage in September and early October. Some varieties of pecan trees produce many small clusters of pecans, and others produce fewer large clusters.

Shuck-Split Stage: After a 200-day growing period, the pecan shuck opens, allowing the nut to drop.

## Harvesting

Pecan growers are very busy during harvesting time. The size of a pecan orchard will determine how an individual grower will harvest his or her pecans. Commercial growers with large orchards have special machines that shake, pick up, and process the pecans to prepare them for customers. Smaller orchards usually just pick the pecans up by hand.

## What's Next?

Once the pecans are harvested, the grower is ready to sell them. Some growers sell their pecans to grocery stores, some sell their pecans to food companies who will use them in recipes, and some sell them at the Farmer's Market and roadside stands. Customers buy pecans from those places, take them home, and eat them all kinds of great ways! While people eat the most pecans during the holiday season, they are available all year long and are a super snack. In fact, many doctors and scientists are learning that eating more pecans can help people stay healthy too. So the next time you eat pecans, whether it's in Grandma's delicious pecan pie, or a quick handful as a snack, remember that what you eat in two minutes took years and years to make it from the tree to your table.