



VIDALIA ONION LESSON PLAN

Middle School

Title: From Farm to Table: A Lesson on Vidalia Onions

Time length: 50 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be able to identify Vidalia onions and describe their unique flavor and characteristics.
- Students will understand the agricultural practices and production process involved in growing Vidalia onions.
- Students will learn about the economic impact of Vidalia onions on the local and regional economy.

Materials:

- Vidalia onions (enough for each student to have a sample)
- Whiteboard and markers
- Handouts with onion facts and recipes
- Computer or tablet with internet access (optional)
- Writing materials (pens, pencils, paper)

Procedure:

- **Introduction (5 minutes):** Begin the lesson by introducing Vidalia onions and their unique flavor and characteristics. Show students pictures of Vidalia onions and ask if anyone has tried them before.
- **Agricultural education (25 minutes):** Explain the agricultural practices and production process involved in growing Vidalia onions. Discuss the special region in Georgia where they are grown, the soil and weather conditions required for their growth, and the harvesting and packaging process. Use visuals like videos or photos to help illustrate the process.
- **Economic impact (15 minutes):** Discuss the economic impact of Vidalia onions on the local and regional economy. Explain how the crop provides jobs and income for farmers, packers, and other workers in the industry. Share statistics on the economic impact of Vidalia onions, such as the number of jobs they create and the revenue they generate.

- **Recipe ideas (5 minutes):** Share some recipe ideas with the students that incorporate Vidalia onions, such as onion rings, onion dip, or onion soup. Provide handouts with recipes and onion facts for students to take home.
- **Conclusion (5 minutes):** Review the main points of the lesson, including the unique flavor and characteristics of Vidalia onions, the agricultural practices and production process involved in growing them, and the economic impact of the crop. Encourage students to appreciate the hard work of farmers in producing healthy foods and to think about the economic impact of the foods they eat.

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed based on their participation in the class discussion and their ability to identify the unique flavor and characteristics of Vidalia onions, as well as their understanding of the agricultural practices and production process involved in growing them and the economic impact of the crop.
- Teachers can also provide a writing assignment, such as a short essay or reflection, where students can discuss what they learned about Vidalia onions and their importance in agriculture and the economy.

Learn more about how Shuman Farms grows, packs, and ships Vidalia onions throughout the United States

