

# Watermelons - More Than Meets The Eyes!

Reading/Language Arts Grades 5-6

Read the passage below. Answer questions and complete the sentences.

## Watermelons Without Seeds?

Seedless watermelons were invented over 50 years ago. They have very few or no black seeds. These watermelons often contain white seed coats where seeds did not mature. Seedless varieties are more difficult to grow than their seedier cousins.

Seedless varieties produce very little pollen. These melons need seeded watermelons in order to pollinate and **set** fruit. Growers usually plant 25% seeded watermelons with 75% seedless varieties in a field. Beehives are then placed in fields to cross-pollinate from the seeded plants to the seedless plants.

1. What might you find inside a seedless watermelon?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Are seedless or seeded watermelons easier to grow?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. According to the passage, seedless watermelons do not produce a great deal of: (Check all that apply.)

pollen    seeds    vines    water

4. What do you think the word **set** means in this passage? (Check the correct answer.)

place    adjust    produce    arrange

5. Why are beehives placed in watermelon fields?

\_\_\_\_\_

Review the chart of popular watermelons below and answer the questions.

Types	Oblong	Round	Brown Seeds	Black Seeds	Dark Seeds	Seedless	Weight (lbs.)
Jubilee	✓		✓				20 - 45
Crimson Sweet	✓	✓	✓				16 - 35
Allsweet	✓		✓	✓			18 - 30
Triploid Hybrid	✓	✓				✓	10 - 20
Ice Box		✓			✓		5 - 15
Seeded		✓		✓			10 - 30
Seedless		✓					10 - 30
Red Flesh		✓				mostly	1 - 7
Yellow Flesh		✓				mostly	1 - 7

1. How many watermelon types are round? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name the types of watermelons which have black seeds. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Which watermelons have brown seeds? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name the melons which may be round or oblong. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Which types of watermelons weigh the least? \_\_\_\_\_

Complete each analogy with an appropriate word. A word analogy expresses the relationship between words by using comparison.

1. Seed is to plant as baby is to \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Sweet is to watermelon as sour is to \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Farmer is to crop as teacher is to \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Bee is to hive as human is to \_\_\_\_\_.

