

SummerReads: Melons - Fun with Melons

by Andrew Funk, Charles Fisher

This text is provided courtesy of Elfrieda H. Hiebert and TextProject.



© 2010 by Caroline Ford.

Watermelon slices for sale at the London United/Rise Festival, London, England, July 2005.

A slice of watermelon on a summer day is a favorite snack for many Americans. Watermelons usually weigh between 15 and 35 pounds. On average, every American eats 15 pounds of watermelon, or one small watermelon, each year!

Watermelons are so popular that they are the source of contests. One is to see who can eat the most watermelon in a short time. Many people claim to have found special ways to win these contests. Some people swallow the seeds. They say that they save time by not spitting out the seeds. Other people take small bites. They claim that they can eat more because smaller bites are easier to swallow than bigger bites.

There are also "seed spitting" contests. In these contests, people try to spit watermelon seeds as far as they can. The person who can spit a seed the longest distance is the winner. People also have contests to grow the biggest watermelon. Some of the winning watermelons have weighed 200 pounds or more! If you want to join in on the watermelon fun, this is probably the least messy of the watermelon contests.

Why are watermelons such a treat in the summer heat? Since watermelons are made mostly of water, a piece of watermelon is like having a cool, sweet drink. But be careful! People are not the only ones who like watermelon. If you leave a slice out at a picnic, you may find that ants have won the eating contest!

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1. What is a favorite snack for many Americans on a summer day?

2. Describe one kind of watermelon contest.

Support your answer with at least two pieces of information from the text.

3. What is the main idea of this text?
