

# Mini Lesson: A U.S. President Who Grew Peanuts (& other Farmer Presidents)

## From a Peanut Farm to the White House

Time Needed: 10 minutes

Grade Level: 3rd–5th

Subject Connections: Social Studies • Agriculture • History

### TEACHER INTRODUCTION (READ ALOUD)

Did you know that one of the Presidents of the United States was also a peanut farmer?

Before he became president, Jimmy Carter worked on his family's peanut farm in Georgia. His story shows that farmers can become leaders and that agriculture is an important part of our country.

He grew up helping his family grow peanuts and learned the value of:

Hard work	Responsibility
Honesty	Helping others

Who Was  
Jimmy  
Carter?



Jimmy Carter was:

- The **39th President of the United States**
- President from **1977–1981**
- A **peanut farmer** before entering politics

### Fun Fact

"Jimmy Carter is the only U.S. President who was a peanut farmer."

### THINK & TALK (DISCUSSION QUESTIONS)

Ask students:

- What skills do farmers learn that help them be leaders?
- Why do you think farming teaches responsibility?
- How does growing food help communities?



Why This Matters

# Who Was Jimmy Carter?

**INSTRUCTIONS :** Read the passage then choose the best answer



Did you know that one of the Presidents of the United States was also a peanut farmer? Before he became president, Jimmy Carter worked on his family's peanut farm in Georgia. Growing up on a farm helped him learn

many important values, such as hard work, responsibility, honesty, and helping others. Jimmy Carter later became the 39th President of the United States and served from 1977 to 1981.

Working on a peanut farm taught Jimmy Carter important life lessons. Farmers must be patient and plan ahead, because crops depend on the weather, care, and teamwork. Farmers also work long days to grow food and help feed others. These lessons helped Jimmy Carter later in life,

especially when he became president and had to make careful and thoughtful decisions for the country.

**Peanuts aren't just food, they are part of American history.**

**This story reminds us that:**

- **Farmers feed the nation**
- **Agriculture builds many skills, like leadership**
- **Anyone can grow up to make a difference**

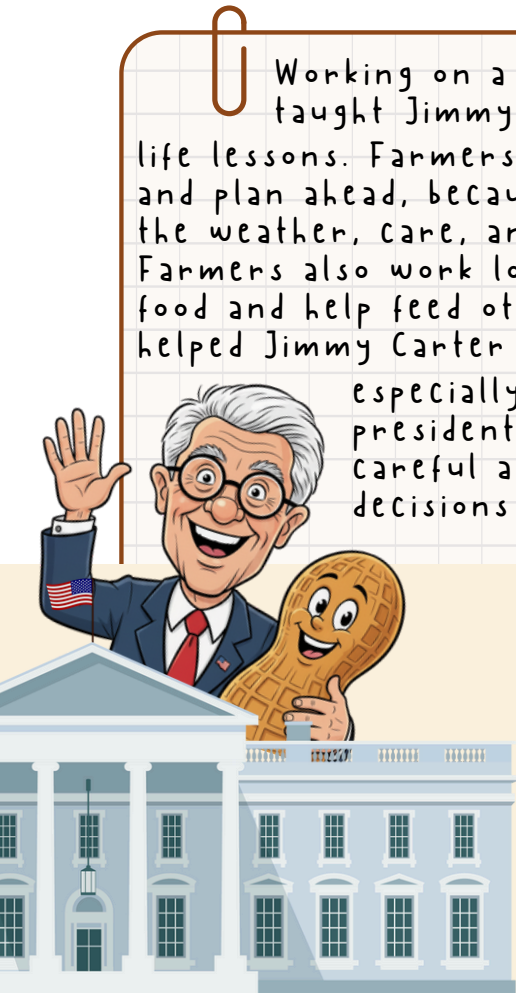
## From Farming to Leading

Working on a peanut farm taught Jimmy Carter important life lessons:

- Farmers must be patient and plan ahead
- Crops depend on weather, care, and teamwork
- Farmers work long days to feed many people around the world

These lessons helped him later as president, when he had to make thoughtful decisions for the country.

Jimmy Carter's story shows that farming helps build important life skills. By working on a peanut farm, he learned patience, teamwork, and responsibility. These lessons helped him become a thoughtful leader. His journey reminds us that caring for the land and helping others can shape future leaders.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS :** Read the passage then Circle the answer you think is correct



1. Jimmy Carter was a:

- A. Doctor
- B. Peanut farmer
- C. Pilot

2. Farmers help people by:

- A. Growing food
- B. Flying planes
- C. Building roads

3. Peanuts are a type of:

- A. Fruit
- B. Protein
- C. Row Crop

4. Which skill is important for farmers?

- A. Patience
- B. Sleeping
- C. Watching TV

5. Jimmy Carter became the:

- A. Mayor
- B. President
- C. Teacher

5. A good leader is someone who:

- A. Is Bossy
- B. Cares for Others
- C. Is Lazy

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**INSTRUCTIONS :**

Draw a line to match the farming lesson with the leadership skill.

Planting seeds

● Responsibility

Taking care of crops

● Teamwork

Working with others

● Patience

Helping on a farm

● Planning

Waiting for plants to grow

● Helping Others

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS :** Fill in the  
blank with your best answer



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jimmy Carter grow on his farm?

What is one skill farmers need?

Why is patience important for farmers and leaders?

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**INSTRUCTIONS :**

Draw a line to match the farming lesson with the leadership skill.

Planting seeds

Taking care of crops

Working with others

Helping on a farm

Waiting for plants to grow

● Responsibility

● Teamwork

● Patience

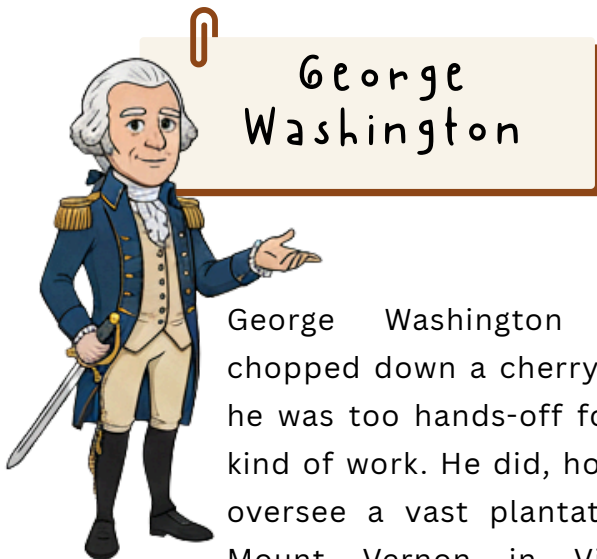
● Planning

● Helping Others

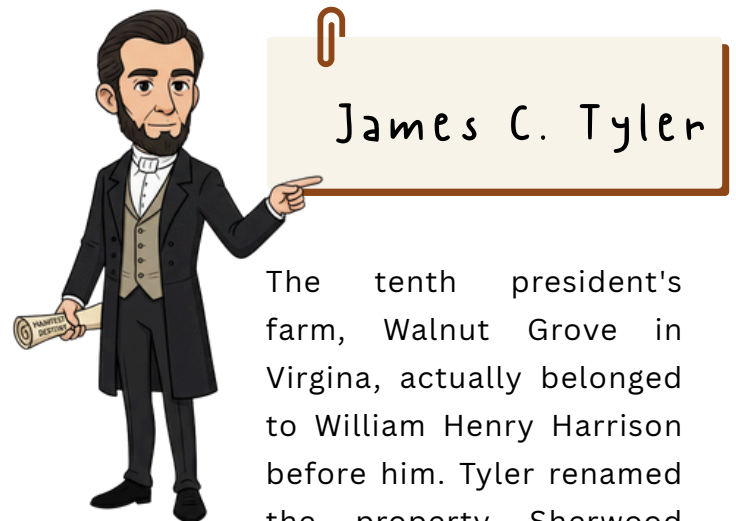
According to Carter's website, our third president was also a peanut farmer and a botanist. Thomas Jefferson is known for being a lover of macaroni and cheese (via Eating Well), but he was also the first U.S. President to grow peanuts and helped them gain popularity in the States during his term in the early 1800s.

To this day, Jefferson's estate is known for its gardens, but it was notably expansive in its heyday, as Jefferson loved fresh-grown fruits and vegetables, per the Monticello website. Food historian Karen Hess even labeled Jefferson "our most illustrious epicure, in fact, our only epicurean President."

Thomas Jefferson was a tinkering farmer. After he was done leading the country, he took to the farm: "From breakfast, or noon at the latest, to dinner, I am mostly on horseback, Attending to My Farm or other concerns, which I find healthful to my body, mind, and affairs." On his extensive Monticello gardens, plus his additional 5,000 acres of nearby farmland, he experimented with 330 varieties of fruits and veggies, including new and old world grapes, over 100 kinds of fruit trees, and then-exotic curiosities like sesame, chickpeas, and kale.



George Washington never chopped down a cherry tree—he was too hands-off for that kind of work. He did, however, oversee a vast plantation at Mount Vernon in Virginia, where he was fairly innovative for his time in implementing crop rotation and introducing grain farming to more tobacco-focused lands.



The tenth president's farm, Walnut Grove in Virginia, actually belonged to William Henry Harrison before him. Tyler renamed the property Sherwood Forest, allegedly because he considered himself to have been "outlawed," Robin Hood-style, from the Whigs.



## James Monroe

The fifth president's farm at Oak Hill has been a working farm since 1724, and is still a privately owned residence and farm. Monroe returned to the farm in 1825 after two presidential terms to kick back for some memoir-writing and casual farming.



## Ronald Reagan

Ronald Reagan wasn't farming, per se, but in the tradition of commanders-in-chief keeping a ranch as a White House getaway, he did really like his horses at Rancho del Cielo in California.



## James K. Polk

The 11th president of the United States, James K. Polk was 10 years old when he and his family trundled across the Appalachian Mountains in a covered wagon from North Carolina to set up a farm on the Tennessee frontier. Despite his rural lifestyle, he was a pretty sickly child, and as an adult wisely chose law over the fields.

Lincoln was a frontier farm boy through and through. From a one-room log cabin in Illinois, first on Sinking Springs Farm and then Knob Creek Farm, he ending up transforming the American agricultural system with the founding of the Department of Agriculture, establishment of the Land Grant system, and passing of the Homestead Act.



## Abraham Lincoln



## William Henry Harrison

Who? Oh yeah, the ninth president of the United States, who was essentially retired at his farm in Ohio until he took office in 1840—only to pass away from pneumonia just 32 days after being sworn in.



U.S. Grant was reportedly a miserable farmer. In between military campaigns, farming was just one of the things he tried his hand at, along with real estate and leather goods. It's certainly not a good thing the country went back to war, but well, career-wise...

Ulysses S.  
Grant



Theodore  
Roosevelt



It was Teddy Roosevelt's commitment to cattle ranching that took him from scrawny East Coaster to the big, burly Rough Rider type we remember him as today. Over the course of his life, he poured much of his fortune into cattle ranching, even losing almost all of his herd during one harsh winter. His deep attachment to the land spurred his later commitment to work in conservation and national parks. "It is certainly a most healthy life," he wrote. "How a man does sleep, and how he enjoys the coarse fare!"

In 1906, when he was 22, the future 34th president quit his bank job and moved back to the family farm in Grandview, Missouri, and worked there for 11 years. He milked cows, fed livestock, and allegedly could "stir up as good a batch of biscuits as any woman."

Harry Truman



George W. Bush

Like LBJ, George W. had a penchant for ranching. His sanctuary of choice is Prairie Chapel Ranch in Crawford, Texas, an almost 1,600-acre property that was known as the "Western White House."



## Lyndon Johnson

LBJ, President #36, grew up helping his uncle on his cattle ranch. When he became president and had his own "LBJ Ranch," he would make daily calls to check up on rain fall and general bullish well-being. The ranch, more than just a bucolic getaway, became a nice party trick for distinguished visitors like President Nixon and West Germany Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

## Bill Clinton



Growing up in Arkansas, Bill Clinton spent a good amount of time on family farms, and even lived for a year on a 400-acre farm with his parents and their many cattle, sheep, and goats. As Bill spilled to Modern Farmer last year, he and his great-uncle Bill had a grand ol' time cooking fresh-harvested produce, cranking homemade ice cream, and seemingly getting into some trouble with rams.

What is the name of the US President who was in office the year you were born?

John Adams's farm in Quincy, Massachusetts, was called Peacefield, which sounds absolutely divine. He and his wife, Abigail, owned 40 acres of orchards and farmland, and passed the land down to sixth president and son, John Quincy Adams.

## John Adams



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wrap-Up Message

Farmers and ranchers don't just grow food, they help grow strong communities and future leaders. From the farm to the White House, agriculture matters.



Draw a picture of your favorite farmer President

President Number

President Name

Hometown

Date Elected

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**INSTRUCTIONS :**

Read each clue carefully.

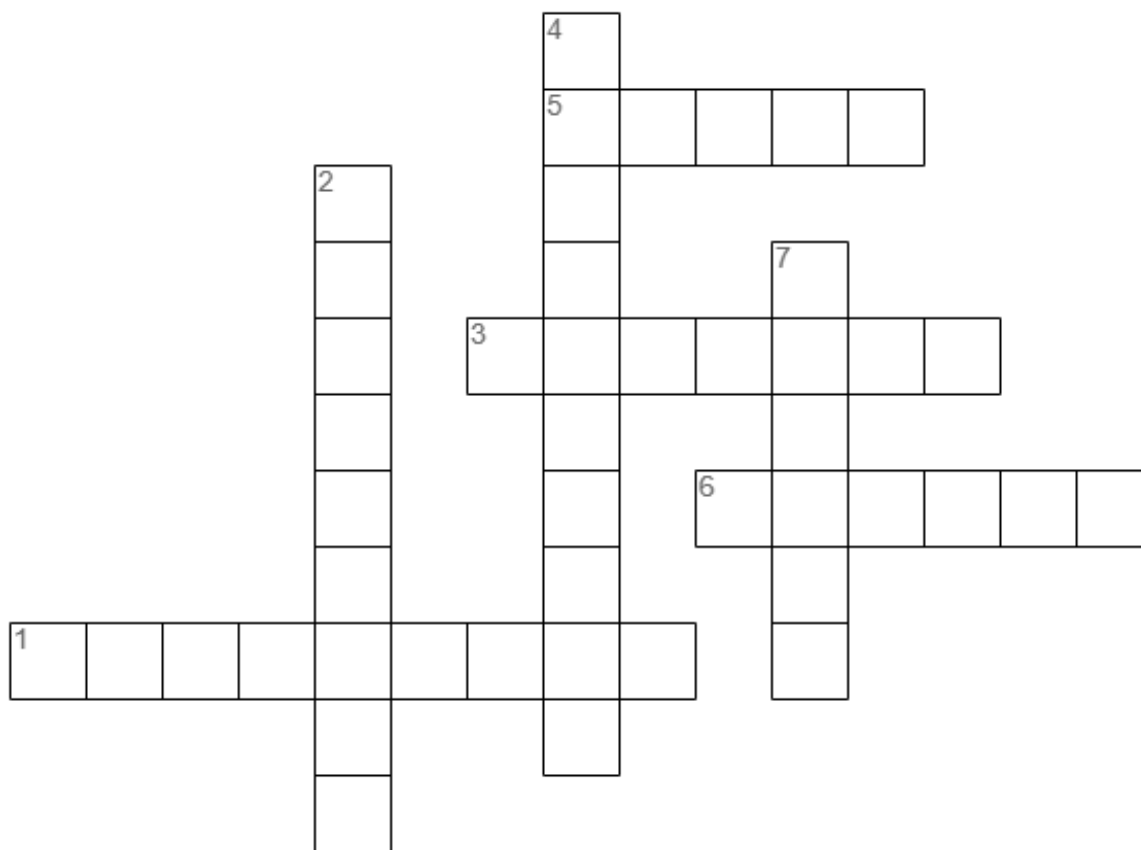
Write the correct answer in the crossword boxes.

All answers are written in CAPITAL LETTERS.

Use the information from the text to help you.

Take your time and have fun learning!

**PRESIDENTIAL  
CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



**ACROSS**

1. President who farmed at Monticello and loved plants.
3. President who grew up on a frontier farm.
5. President whose farm was called Peacefield.
6. President who worked on a Missouri farm.

**DOWN**

2. President who loved cattle ranching and nature.
4. First U.S. president who owned Mount Vernon.
7. President who returned to his farm Oak Hill.

## ANSWER KEY

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWER KEY

The crossword puzzle grid is filled with the following words:

- Across 1: JEFFERSON
- Across 3: LINCOLN
- Across 6: TRUMAN
- Down 1: ROOSEVELT
- Down 2: WASH
- Down 4: M