



ACTIVITY: Surviving on Rutabagas



Guiding Question:

Do you have what it takes to survive on rutabagas as WWII soldiers did? What is significant about rutabagas in the war?

Developed By: Amie Huff

Subject(s): Family and Consumer Science

WWII Veteran: George Mills

Duration: 45 minutes

OVERVIEW:

Watch the interview of George Mills as he recounts him being a POW in Germany.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

The Battle of the Huertgen Forest began in September 1944 and culminated in mid-February 1945. It lasted nearly five months and it cost the U.S. Army more than 34,000 casualties.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Describe the significance of a rutabaga during WWII
- Explain the taste of a rutabaga

STANDARDS:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.7

Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table).

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.9

Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

NASAFACS 9.3 Evaluate nutrition principles, food plans, preparation techniques and specialized dietary plans.

MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS:

- Document A: "George Mills" the Soldier" graphic organizer
- Document B: 'This Ordinary Man Did An Extraordinary Thing' Article

- Document C: Lab Sheet
- Computer with Internet access

PROCEDURES:

ACTIVITY ONE:

- Show the video of George Mills and have students read the article “This Ordinary Man Did An Extraordinary Thing”

https://www.army.mil/article/65937/this_ordinary_man_did_an_extraordinary_thing

- Have students fill in the graphic organizer about Mr. Mills

ACTIVITY TWO:

- Students will answer questions about rutabagas.

<https://www.thelandconnection.org/blog/whats-a-rutabaga/#:~:text=Not%20only%20do%20rutabagas%20have,in%20Europe%20had%20access%20to.>

ACTIVITY THREE:

- Students will taste test rutabagas cooked in various ways as listed in Activity Two article.

DOCUMENT A:

Why did
Mr. Mills
join the
army?



What training
did Mr. Mills
have before
going to war?



George Mills

What
happened
physically
during his
time
serving?



Where all
did Mr. Mills
go during
the war?



Document B:

What is a rutabaga?

1. Rutabagas are a cross between what
2. During WWII they provided the only _____ many POWs and residents of various ghettos in Europe had access to.
3. Explain the nutritional facts of rutabagas.
4. What kind of skin do rutabagas have?
5. Rutabagas grow better in what kind of climate?

Document C:

Cooking Method	Appearance How does it look before you even taste it?	Aroma Does it smell like the flavor?	Texture Is it bumpy? Smooth? Shiny?	Taste
Raw				
Steamed				
Boiled				
Roasted				
Fried				

Mashed

Pureed

