



# VIDALIA ONION LESSON PLAN

## *High School*

**Title:** The Science and Business of Vidalia Onions

**Time length:** 50 minutes

**Objectives:**

- Students will be able to explain the unique characteristics and flavor of Vidalia onions and identify the factors that contribute to their distinct taste.
- Students will understand the science behind the growing and harvesting of Vidalia onions, including the soil and weather conditions required for their growth.
- Students will analyze 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.
- **The Science of Vidalia Onions (25 minutes):** Discuss the science behind the growing and harvesting of Vidalia onions. Explain the soil and weather conditions required for their growth and how these factors contribute to their distinct taste. Discuss the use of technology and innovation in the farming industry, and how these advancements have impacted the production of Vidalia onions. 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.

- **Debate (5 minutes):** Divide students into groups and have them debate the pros and cons of the use of pesticides in the farming of Vidalia onions. Encourage them to research and discuss the science and economic impact of using pesticides.
- **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 science behind their growing and harvesting, and the economic impact of the crop. Encourage students to think critically about the science and business of agriculture, and to appreciate the hard work of farmers in producing healthy foods.

#### Assessment:

- Students will be assessed based on their participation in the class discussion and their ability to explain the unique characteristics and flavor of Vidalia onions, as well as their understanding of the science behind the growing and harvesting of the crop and the economic impact of the industry.
- Teachers can also provide a writing assignment, such as a research paper or reflection, where students can discuss what they learned about Vidalia onions and their importance in science and business.

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

