

**Lesson Title:** Anansi and the Talking Melon**Time:** 35-40 minutes (Allow 10-15 additional minutes for prep, and clean-up)**Grade Band:** 2nd-3rd

Objective(s): Increase students' awareness of the importance of healthy eating and the MyPlate guidelines. Students listen to and discuss the fictional story, *Anansi and the Talking Melon* by Eric Kimmel. Students will have the opportunity to work with a group to follow a recipe to create and eat Maple and Cinnamon Glazed Cantaloupe Salad.

Content Standards:

2.RL.10 3.RL.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend a variety of literary texts. 2.RI.10 By the end of the year, read and comprehend a variety of informational text. 3.RI.10 Read and comprehend grade level informational texts. 1.2.1 Describe healthy behaviors that affect personal health. 1.5.1 Describe why it is important to participate in healthy behaviors.

Materials: Hard copy or online version of the book [Anansi and the Talking Melon](#) by Eric Kimmel [My Plate Poster](#), [How to Wash Your Hands Poster](#), [Cantaloupe Images](#), [Cantaloupe Activity Sheet](#), [Glazed Cantaloupe Salad Recipe](#), (recipe may need to be doubled or tripled, depending on class size), cantaloupe(s), red grapes, lemon, maple syrup, cinnamon, cutting boards and knives (1 set per group), small bowls and forks for each student, a large mixing bowl and mixing spoon, medium sized bowl, whisk, measuring cups and spoons (1 set for the teacher's station), coloring utensils, pencils

Online Resources: [Anansi and the Talking Melon](#) by Eric Kimmel

Instructional Outline: Students should be in groups of 4 to 5 for the preparation portion of the lesson. A teacher's station will be needed to mix each group's fruit together and add the dressing. Before beginning the lesson, have cantaloupes sliced into portions for each group, grapes washed and ready to go as well as all other ingredients and supplies for each group. The plates can be used to carry items for each group.

1. Introduce the fictional story (myth), [Anansi and the Talking Melon](#) by Eric Kimmel to the students. Explain that this story is about a clever spider who persuades his fellow creatures that melons can talk. Many cultures have trickster stories and this one is from West Africa and the Caribbean.
2. Share [Anansi and the Talking Melon](#) with the students. After watching/listening to the story, ask the students the following questions: How did Anansi get stuck in the melon? How was he able to get out in the end? Do you think Anansi was very smart? Why or why not?
3. Explain to students that cantaloupe is a type of melon. Share the [Cantaloupe Images](#) with the students and show them the actual cantaloupes. Share the [My Plate Poster](#) with the students, asking them where they think cantaloupes belong.
4. Explain to the students that they will be working together to make [Glazed Cantaloupe Salad](#).
5. Share the [How to Wash Your Hands Poster](#) and have all students wash their hands.
6. Pass out copies of the [Cantaloupe Salad Recipe](#) to each group (or project on screen), along with cantaloupe, grapes, cutting boards and plastic knives.
7. Read the recipe together, then demonstrate how to cut the cantaloupe into small pieces, and how to cut the grapes in half. Have students work with their groups to cut their portion of cantaloupe and grapes.

8. As each group finishes, have them bring their fruit to the teacher's station and add it to the large bowl. While students are waiting, have them work on the [Cantaloupe Activity Sheet](#).
9. After all fruit has been added, call on volunteers to assist you with adding and mixing ingredients for the dressing. Add the dressing to the fruit and gently toss.
10. Call one group at a time to the teacher's station to get a bowl of salad and a fork.
11. When students are finished eating, have them assist with clean-up and work on their activity sheets until all are finished.

Closing:

Have students share what they learned and/or their favorite part of the lesson.

Enrichment:

[How Melon Grows, Learn about Cantaloupe, Honeydew, and Kiss Melon](#) [10 Amazing Facts About Cantaloupe](#)