

Peanuts

Arachis hypogaea
(Leguminosae)



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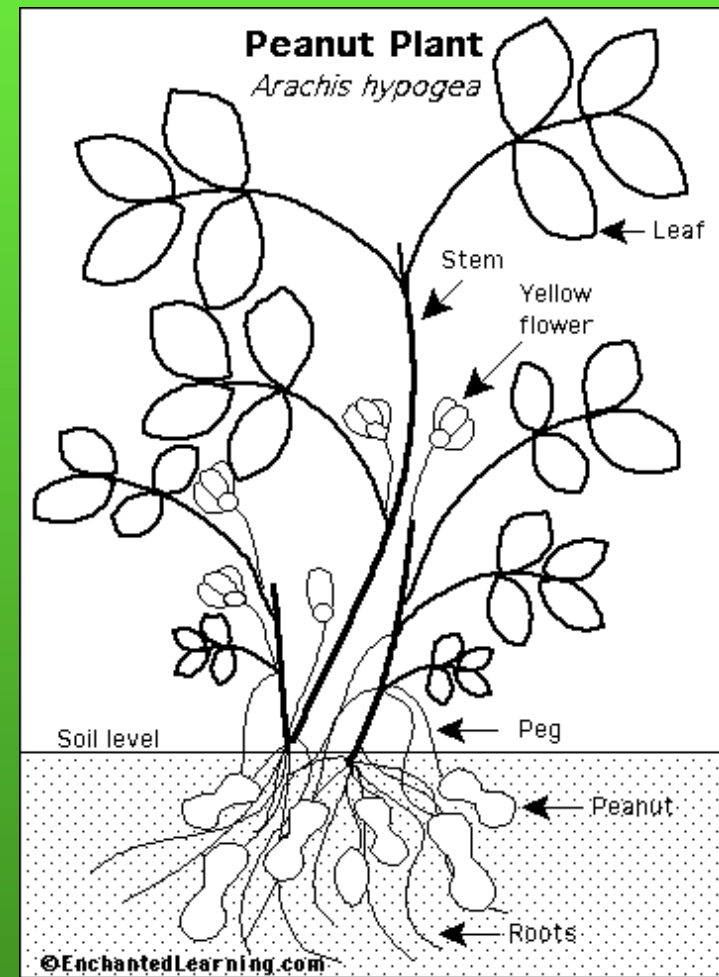
- Plant Structure & Categorization

- Origination & History

- Peanut Products



Plant Structure



Peanut Categories & Types

Categories:

A) Runner

B) Bunch

Virginia-type

Runner-type

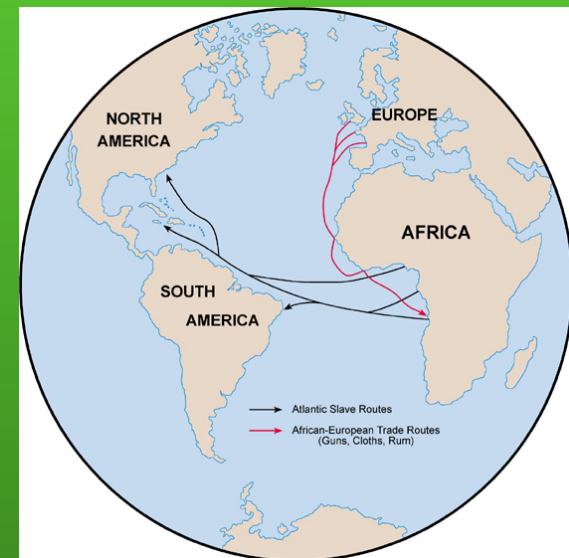
Spanish-type

Valencia-type



Origination

- Originated in present-day Peru & Brazil
- Time of origination disputed, cultivated sometime between 300 BC and 2500 BC
- First cultivated by the Incas
- Spanish & Portuguese explorers arrived in South America around 1500
- Peanuts were spread to Africa, Europe, and Asia primarily by Portuguese traders
- Peanuts were very likely spread to the United States through slave trade



History of US Peanut Production

- Early on, peanuts were viewed as an inferior food
- Used mainly for feeding hogs to produce 'soft pork'
- The Civil War marked a turning point for the peanut as both sides used it as a source of food



The History of US Peanut Production

Two important factors in the early 1900s:

1) Boll Weevil



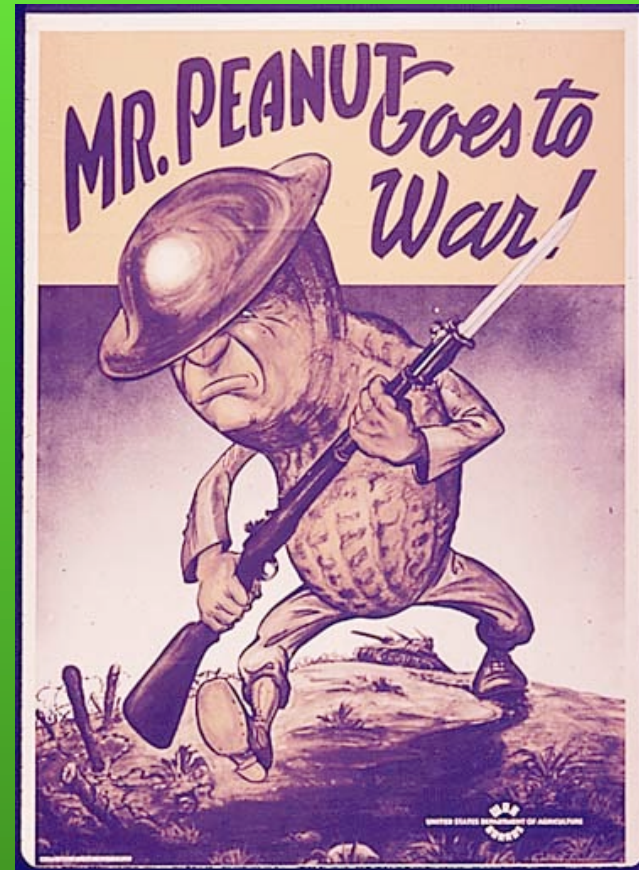
2) Invention of farm machinery



The History of US Peanut Production

World War I and World War II led to an increase in United States peanut production

- Europe's production declined
- Great energy source
- Easily packaged & transported



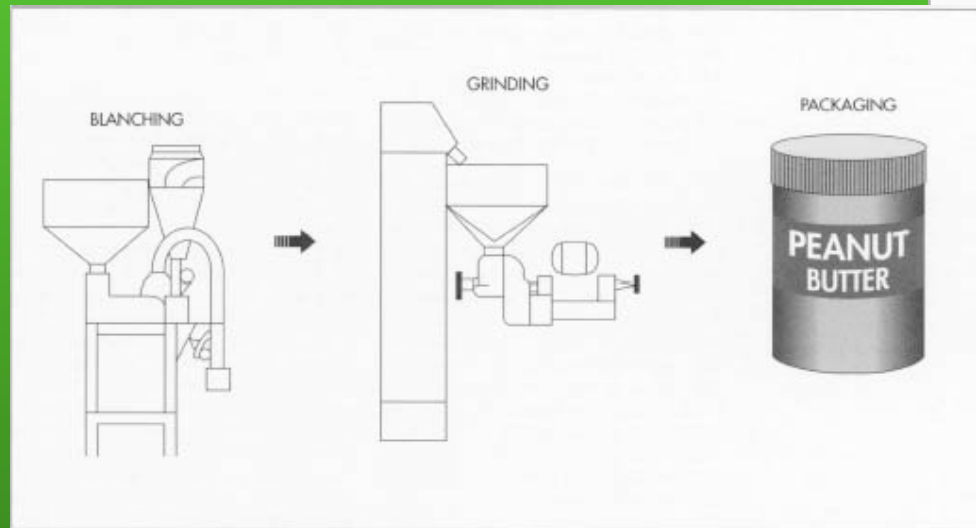
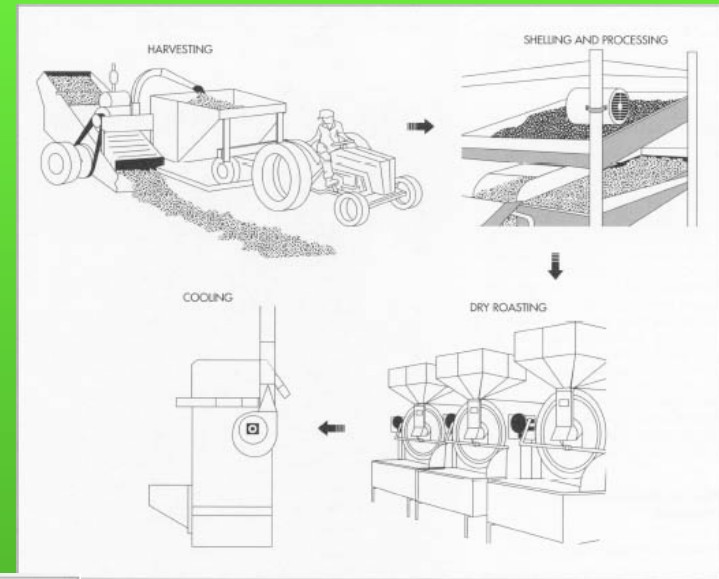
Peanut Products

- Roasted Nuts
- Raw Peanuts
- Cosmetics
- Peanut butter
- Deserts
- Candies
- Peanut Hay
- Peanut Oil
- Meal Feed



Making Peanut Butter

- 1) Harvesting
- 2) Shelling & Processing
- 3) Dry Roasting
- 4) Cooling



- 5) Blanching
- 6) Grinding
- 7) Packaging

Peanut Oil – Viable Fuel Alternative?

- Peanut oil has approximately 132,817 BTUs per gallon
- No. 2 diesel fuel has 140,000 BTUs per gallon
- Very good supplement and substitute



- 32 oz container of Peanut Oil costs \$4.39 at Big Y
- Diesel currently costs around \$2.45 per gallon