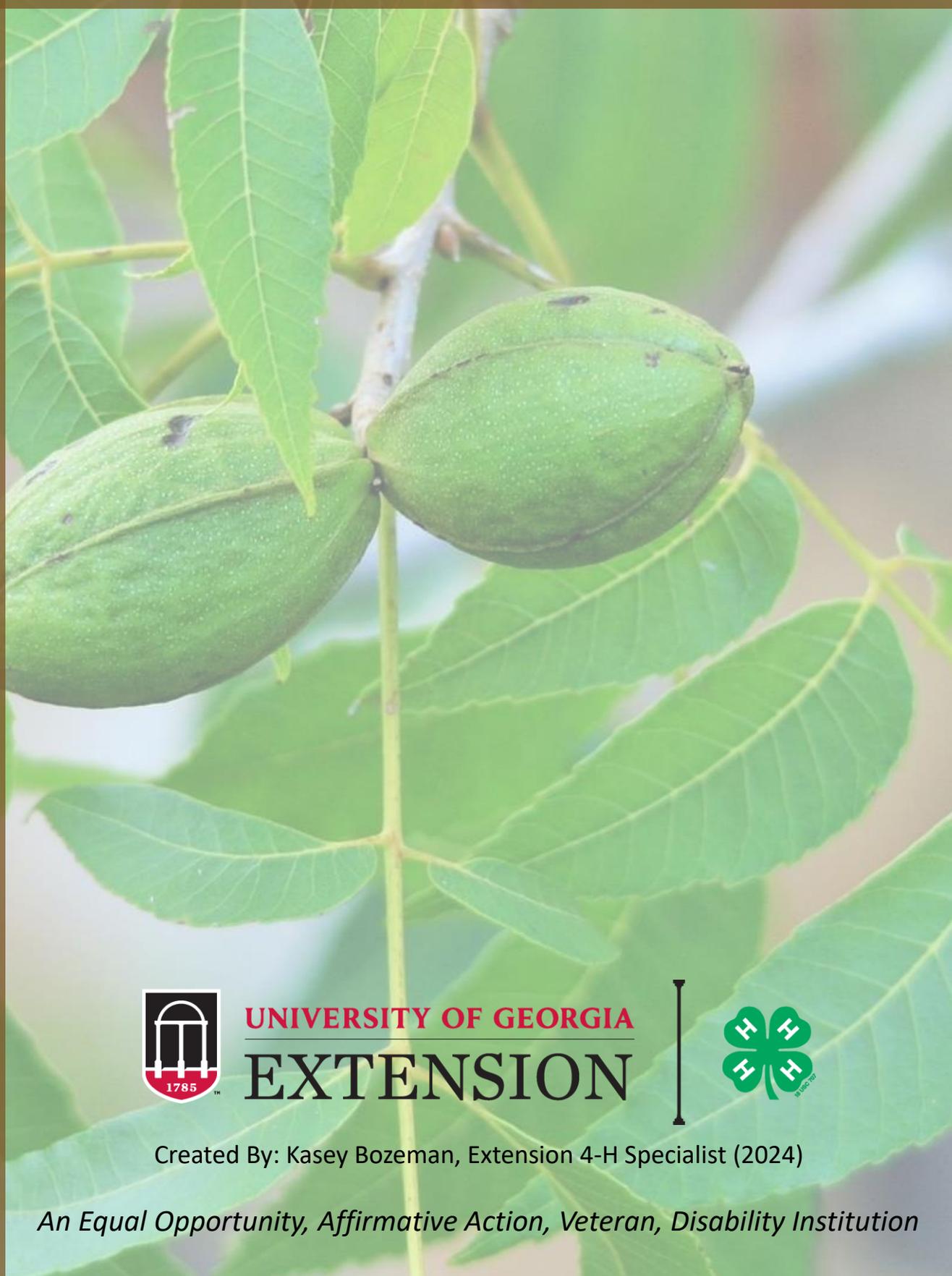
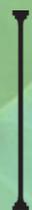


PECANS

GEORGIA AG STORIES



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
EXTENSION



Created By: Kasey Bozeman, Extension 4-H Specialist (2024)

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A STORY ABOUT PECANS

Imagine a time when no supermarkets existed and your snacks had to be gathered from the land around you. In some parts of the country, a crunchy treat awaited, nestled between the leaves of towering trees. This wasn't the average acorn but a sought-after prize ... the pecan! For thousands of years, Native American tribes like the Algonquin cherished the pecan. In fact, the word "pecan" comes from the Algonquin language, meaning "nut requiring a stone to crack." They used pecans for food, trading, and even medicinal purposes, valuing them for their rich flavor and high energy content. Pecans are native to parts of the United States located close to the Mississippi Valley.

European explorers first encountered pecans in the 16th century and were amazed by how delicious and easy they were to crack. For decades, they tried to create pecan orchards to produce enough nuts to send back to Europe. It wasn't until the early 1800s that pecans became a commercial success. This success was due to Antoine, an enslaved person in Louisiana. While he wasn't credited then, historical records show that Antoine was a brilliant cultivator. He was the first person to graft a hybrid, heartier pecan tree that yielded a larger crop.

Others copied Antoine's work, and the commercial pecan industry was born. The pecan industry, in many ways, boosted economic prosperity in a time when cotton was on the decline. By 1936, Georgia produced over 20 million pounds of pecans annually. While pecans may not be native to Georgia, our state is the largest producer of pecans, growing over 100 million pounds annually.

Pecans contain more than 19 vitamins and minerals and are considered heart-healthy. Whether you enjoy them roasted as a snack or baked into a pie, pecans are truly a cherished food source and global culinary treasure!

A STORY ABOUT PECANS

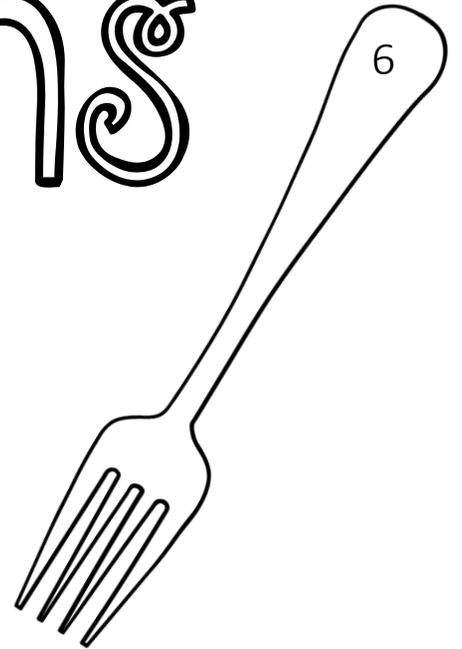
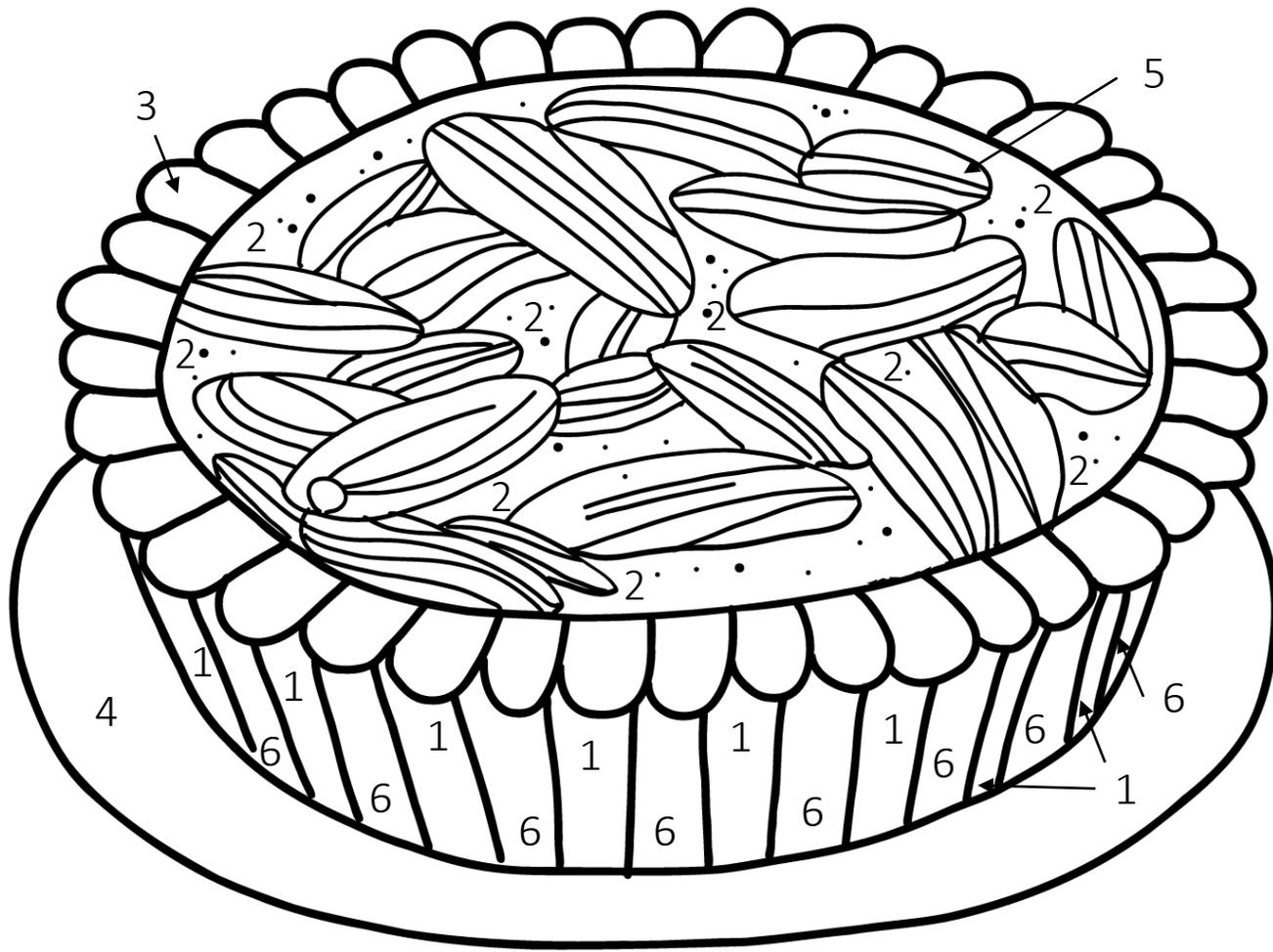
Name: _____

Instructions

1. Read the story about pecans, and answer each of the questions below by selecting option a or b.
2. Cite evidence in the text for the correct answer by following the specific instructions for each question.
3. Then on the coloring page, color each numbered section with the color listed in the correct answer for each question.

Question		Text Evidence
#1	What state produces the most pecans? A: New York – color #1 RED B: Georgia – color #1 BLUE	Find proof in the text and circle it in YELLOW.
#2	What is the translation of the word “pecan”? A: “nut requiring a stone to crack” – color #2 YELLOW B: “brown, wrinkly tree nut” – color #2 BROWN	Find proof in the text and underline it in GREEN.
#3	What technique allowed for the success of commercial pecans? A: grafting – color #3 TAN B: cross-pollinating – color #3 ORANGE	Find proof in the text and put a box around it in BLUE.
#4	Who was the enslaved person who turned pecans into a successful crop? A: Andrew – color #4 LIGHT GREEN B: Antoine – color #4 PURPLE	Find proof in the text and circle it in ORANGE.
#5	Pecans are found growing naturally around what large river basin? A: Mississippi River – color #5 BROWN B: Missouri River – color #5 YELLOW	Find proof in the text and underline it in RED.
#6	What is a health benefit from eating pecans? A: full of vitamins and minerals – color #6 GREEN B: prevent you from getting the flu – color #6 ORANGE	Find proof in the text and put a box around it in PURPLE.

Georgia Pecans



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