



The 38th Georgia Peach Festival, a shared event between Fort Valley and Byron and home of the *World's Largest Peach Cobbler*, returns May 31st - June 1st in Fort Valley and June 8th in Byron!

TWO GREAT CITIES, ONE GREAT FESTIVAL

COME ONE, COME ALL

The Georgia Peach Festival Returns May 31, 2024

The 38th Georgia Peach Festival home of the

World's Largest Peach Cobbler




City of Fort Valley,
Georgia

*On the behalf of
Mayor Jeff Lundy
& City Council Members*

**Welcome All
to the 2024
Georgia Peach
Festival!**

*Have Fun & Be Safe!
Hope you return
next year.*




Join us at the



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Festival!**



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Georgia Peach Festival Peachy Parade Route Saturday, June 1

Come out for the Peachy Parade. Parade starts at 10AM on Saturday, June 1. Depart from The Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence parking lot. East: On Riley, Right: South on Miller, Left: East on College Street, Left: North on Camellia Blvd, Left: West on Persons, Right: North on Miller, Left: West on Riley end at Fort Valley Youth Center of Excellence, Inc.

A Letter From Us to You!

On behalf of the Georgia Peach Festival CEO and Board... This year will be a truly Peachy Celebration! As we embrace the 38th celebration of this beloved event, we couldn't be more "Peachy Excited" as Byron celebrates its 150th Birthday and Peach County turns 100, ooh what a delight! The Georgia Peach Festival is a shared event between two great cities, Fort Valley, and Byron of Peach County. The festival kickoff starts in Fort Valley, May 31- June 1, 2024, and the grand finale is in Byron, June 8, 2024. Come experience and celebrate with us the magic of the Georgia Peach Festival, from juicy peaches to fireworks in the sky, don't let this pass you by. Our Georgia Peach Festival Queens will grace the Peachy Parade with their royal presence charming us with their dazzling crowns and peachy smile down to their heartfelt dedication and hometown charm. As a sanctioned food festival, we have delicious food vendors from savory to sweet and let us not forget the famous world's largest peach cobbler so come hungry and leave happy! Come support and shop from our amazing arts & crafts vendors creativity who came from near and far lined up just for you! There will be fun, exciting activities for children and adults with loads of other events. To our grateful sponsors, municipalities, volunteers, local businesses, and organizations, we are beyond thankful for the incredible support. Your generosity and commitment make everything we do possible. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your unwavering support to help us achieve our goals. Together, we are making a difference! Giving our thanks to our heritage of the festival- Our Georgia Grown Peach Growers, Dickey Farms, Pearson Farm, and Lane Southern Orchards for their contribution to our state's economy and to the food industry nationwide. Without you, we could not be the Georgia Peach Festival, a festival that truly captures the heart and soul of Georgia and Peach County. Join us, Fort Valley May 31 - June 1, 2024, and Byron June 8, 2024.

It's Easy Bein' Peachy!
www.gapeachfestival.com

CEO-Tisa Horton
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Board Members-Sabrina Johnson, Gwen Dodson, Kyshia Redding, Ronnie Daniely,

Georgia Peach Festival Queens



Photo Contributed
2024 Miss Georgia Peach Queens (l to r) Little Miss Georgia Peach - Skye Harris of Claxton; Teen Miss Georgia Peach - Mia Loyd of Bonaire; Miss Georgia Peach - Charleigh Harper of Nashville; Junior Miss Georgia Peach - Kendall Gaines of Buford; (front row) Tiny Miss Georgia Peach - Ellie James Young of Mt. Vernon



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2024 Georgia Peach Festival Schedule of Events

<p>FORT VALLEY FRIDAY May 31 @ 5 PM</p> <p>Georgia Peach Festival</p> <p>Grand Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY FRIDAY May 31 @ 5PM-10PM</p> <p>Georgia Peach Festival Main Stage Friday Kickoff Party AJ the DJ N*Style Express Soul Line Dancers Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 7AM-9AM</p> <p>FVFD "Fill The Boot For Burns" Pancake Breakfast</p> <p>Fort Valley Methodist Church 301 W. Church Street Fort Valley \$8</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 9 AM</p> <p>Open Music By Radio Rumba "Tu Voz Latina"</p> <p>Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 10 AM</p> <p>Peachy Parade Downtown Fort Valley Parade Grand Marshal Rolling Thunder Georgia-3 Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>
<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 11 AM</p> <p>Introduction of the Georgia Peach Queens at the Bandstand Downtown Fort Valley</p> <p>Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 11 AM</p> <p>Historical Society Chicken Salad Lunch McArthur-Saxon House 201 South Miller Street Fort Valley, GA 770-468-3885 \$18</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 11 AM</p> <p>Eat A Peach Contest Big Peach Chair Dunk The Mayor Central Ga Car Scene Georgia Peach Festival Car Meet Up Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 11AM-5PM</p> <p>Main Stage Local Talent and Music Entertainment</p> <p>Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ NOON</p> <p>It's Lunchtime! Dine with our food vendors and shop with our arts & crafts vendors</p>
<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 2PM</p> <p>World's Largest Peach Cobbler with Chef Tip Statham It's so yummy to your tummy!</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 5 PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Concert featuring Mary Kate Farmer</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 7 PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Local Talent</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 8PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Concert Headliner RB Legend ConFunkShun</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>FORT VALLEY SATURDAY JUNE 1 @ 9:30PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Spectacular Fireworks Show Downtown Fort Valley</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities</p>
<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ NOON</p> <p>Grand Opening of all Vendors and Festival Activities</p>	<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ NOON</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Local Talent Helicopter Rides \$60</p> <p>Opening of Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park</p>	<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ 5PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Concert featuring The Lotus Band</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park</p>	<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ 7PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Local Talent</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park</p>	<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ 8PM</p> <p>Main Stage</p> <p>Concert Headliner Boys In The Band Alabama Tribute</p> <p>Vendors and Festival Activities North Peach Park</p>
<p>For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)825-4002</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)825-4002</p> 	<p>BYRON SATURDAY JUNE 8 @ 9:30PM</p> <p>Spectacular Fireworks Show Brings down the curtain on another great festival</p> <p>See you Next Year Fort Valley June 6-7, 2025 Byron June 14, 2025 It's Easy Bein' Peachy!</p>	<p>For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)825-4002</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>	<p>For more information www.gapeachfestival.com (478)825-4002</p>  <p>SCAN ME</p>

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The 38th Georgia Peach Festival, a shared event between Fort Valley and Byron and home of the *World's Largest Peach Cobbler*, returns May 31st - June 1st in Fort Valley and June 8th in Byron!

History of The Georgia Peach Festival Join Us to Celebrate the Sweet Georgia Peach and Our Growers

The Georgia Peach Festival honors peach growers for their contribution to our state's economy and to the food industry nationwide. The annual week-long Festival has attracted as many as 10,000 visitors including church groups, senior groups and charter bus tours. The Georgia Peach Festival splits events between Peach County's two cities, Byron and Fort Valley, each June.

Georgia peaches have a long and storied tradition and Peach County is the epicenter of this fabled industry. The first peaches were planted in the state in the 18th century, and the first commercial production occurred in the mid-19th century.

As of 2017, peaches are commercially produced in 20 states. Georgia ranks third in the nation in the annual production of peaches, with more than 15,000 acres of peach trees yielding more than 1.7 million bushels of peaches annually. More than half of that harvest is cultivated in Peach County alone. Georgia peaches are arguably the sweetest and tastiest grown anywhere in the world.

The Georgia Peach Festival was revived in 1986 to honor peach growers for their contribution to our state's economy and to the food industry nationwide. It also is a great opportunity to showcase all the good things Byron and Fort Valley have to offer. The Peach Festival holds the distinction of being the only state-sanctioned food festival.

The Georgia Peach Festival attracts between 7,000 and 10,000 visitors during festival week, including church groups,

senior center groups and charter bus tours. The festival is celebrated in Fort Valley and Byron with unique events in each city. See the schedule for details.

The idea of a Peach Festival was conceived by Harold Peavy to promote Peach County and the peach industry that has contributed so much to the livelihood of the state of Georgia. Georgia ranks third in the nation in the annual production of peaches, with about 2 million peach trees yielding more than 1.6 million bushels of peaches annually. More than half of that harvest is cultivated by Peach County growers alone.

The Georgia Peach Festival is partially funded by government partners such as the Peach County Board of Commissioners, Fort Valley Utility Commission, the City Governments of Byron and Fort Valley, the Byron Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Peach County tourism committee. In addition, funds are donated by local and regional business sponsors.

Certain annual events staged prior or during the Peach Festival, produce revenue. The sale of t-shirts and festival-franchised merchandise also adds to the festival's income.

The Peach Festival Board of Directors is committed to promoting Peach County, to enhancing the civic pride of the county's residents and sharing the quality of life here with visitors. For four months prior to the start of the Peach Festival, the event is highly publicized with printed brochures distributed to Welcome Centers on I-75 and surrounding Cham-

bers of Commerce and businesses.

The festival also uses radio and television ads, billboards, local newspapers and promotes the festival online at www.gapeachfestival.com. Festival promoters also distribute program books to all visitors during the festival.

Between 1922-26, Fort Valley greeted the first peach blossoms in annual festivals of dance, song, elaborate pageants and delicious barbecue. These elaborate festivals were said to rival Mardi Gras and California's Rose Festival and the events attracted the attention of National Geographic, the New York Times and Hollywood movie studios. Soon thousands from all over the world would make their way to Fort Valley each March. It has been reported that as many as 40,000 people descended on the town during the festival, which was ended in 1926 because it was too successful.

Sixty years later, in 1986, Fort Valley revived the historic festival, moved it from blooming season to harvest season and renamed it the Georgia Peach Festival. It was officially incorporated in 1988 as the Georgia Peach Festival, Inc., and was once directed by the Chamber of Commerce. Today a volunteer board plans, organizes and executes the complex job of putting on the festival.

The festival committee's goal is to make this year's Peach Festival bigger and better than ever, attracting even larger crowds to the area through enhanced activities and more vendors. For more information on the Georgia Peach Festival call 478-825-4002.



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The Nutritional Benefits Of Peaches

Special to

The Leader-Tribune

Pies, cobblers and smoothies might be the first things that come to mind when people think of peaches. Perhaps nutrition needs to muscle its way into that discussion?

Peaches are typically viewed as a sweet treat, particularly in summertime. But peaches also provide a host of health benefits, which can make anyone who enjoys a peach-based sweet treat feel a little better about their indulgence.

Peaches and heart health

Peaches are rich in vitamins and minerals, including potassium. The potassium content in peaches, though moderate, is still significant, as the American Heart Association notes that potassium plays an important role in the management of high blood pressure. In addition, a 2014 animal study published in the Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry found that consumption of peach and plum juice

provided protection against cardiovascular disease.

Peaches and body weight

One of the keys to long-term health is the ability to maintain a healthy weight from childhood through adulthood. The Cleveland Clinic estimates that a single large peach contains just 68 calories. Peaches also do not contain any saturated fats, making them a good low-calorie snacking option that can help people maintain a healthy weight.

Peaches and cancer risk

A report from the American Institute for Cancer Research linked fruits with a lower risk for cancers of the mouth, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, lung, and stomach. Peaches are rich in free radical-fighting vitamin C. That could explain their link to reducing cancer risk, as free radicals are unstable atoms that often contribute to cell damage that is a hallmark of cancer. In addition, MedicineNet reports that peaches are high in poly-

phenols, which studies have found prevent the formation and spread of cancer cells in lab tests.

Peaches and vision

Peaches also can have a positive impact on vision. According to the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station at Rutgers University, a medium-sized peach provides roughly 6 percent of the daily recommended value of vitamin A. That's helpful for vision, as the American Optometric Association notes that vitamin A supports functioning of the conjunctival membranes and cornea. In addition, the AOA reports that vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of preventable blindness in children.

Peaches have a well-earned reputation as a sweet treat. However, the powerful peach is more than just a post-meal palate cleanser, and in fact can play a vital role in promoting long-term health.

Sweeten The Day With Peaches

Special to

The Leader-Tribune

Although many desserts make for a sweet ending to delicious meals, there's something so inviting about a moist and tender cobbler to add that yum factor. Cobbler consists of a fruit filling covered in a biscuit batter of sorts. When baked, the ingredients blend together to form a spoonable treat that is tender but with the right amount of bite.

Enjoy this recipe for "Peach Cobbler" courtesy of Taste Better From Scratch and contributor Lauren Allen.

Peach Cobbler

Servings: 9

5 peaches, peeled, cored and sliced (about 4 cups)

3/4 cup granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon salt

For the batter:

6 tablespoons butter

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup granulated sugar

2 teaspoons baking powder

1/4 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup milk

Ground cinnamon

1. Add the sliced peaches, sugar and salt to a saucepan and stir to combine. If using canned peaches, skip steps 1 and 2 and follow the directions starting at step 3.

2. Cook on medium heat for just a few minutes, until the sugar is dissolved and helps to bring out juices from the peaches. Remove from heat and set aside.

3. Preheat oven to 350 F. Slice butter into pieces and add to a 9-by-13-inch baking dish. Place the pan in the oven while it preheats, to allow the butter to melt. Once melted, remove the pan from the oven.

4. In a large bowl, mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Stir in the milk, just until combined. Pour the mixture into the pan, over the melted butter and smooth it into an even layer.

5. Spoon the peaches and juice (or canned peaches, if using) over the batter. Sprinkle cinnamon generously over the top.

6. Bake at 350 F for about 38 to 40 minutes. Serve warm, with a scoop of ice cream, if desired.

A Few Facts About Peaches

- Peaches are a great source of vitamins A and C.
- You can buy two main varieties of peaches: clingstone and freestone. It is harder to remove the flesh from the pit on a clingstone peach.
- The flesh of a peach should have a slight give, but use your whole hand vs. fingertips to check.
- A large peach has fewer than 70 calories and contains 3 grams of fiber.
- "The World's Largest Peach Cobbler" is made every year in Georgia. The cobbler measures 11 feet by 5 feet.
- August is National Peach Month
- Peaches are at their peak from June to the end of August.

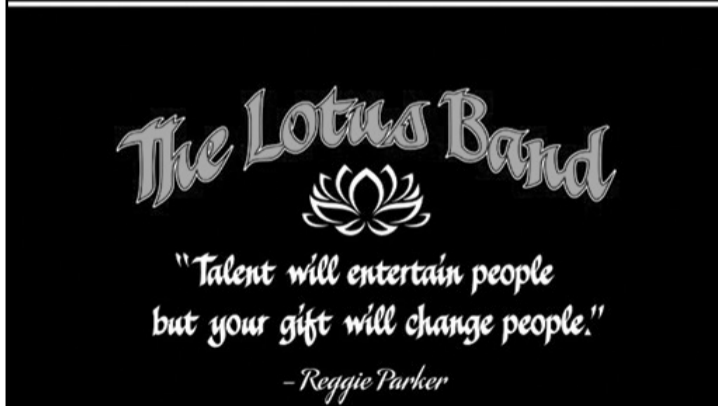


Fort Valley / Mary Kate Farmer



Fort Valley / ConFunkShun

A look at some of the musical talents that will be performing during the GA Peach Festival



Byron / The Lotus Band



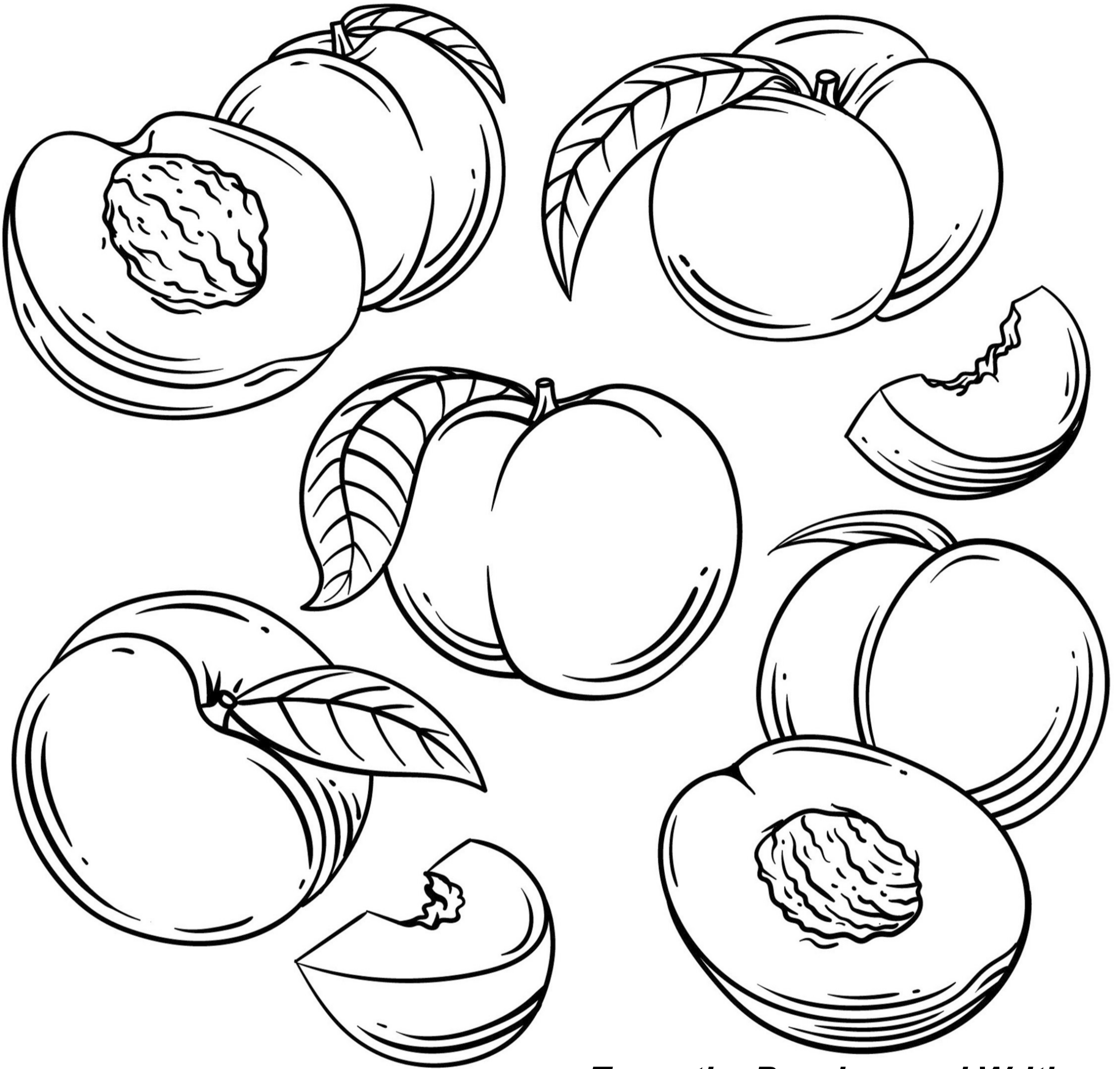
Byron / Boys In The Band Alabama Tribute

A Special Thank You To The Georgia Peach Festival Volunteers!



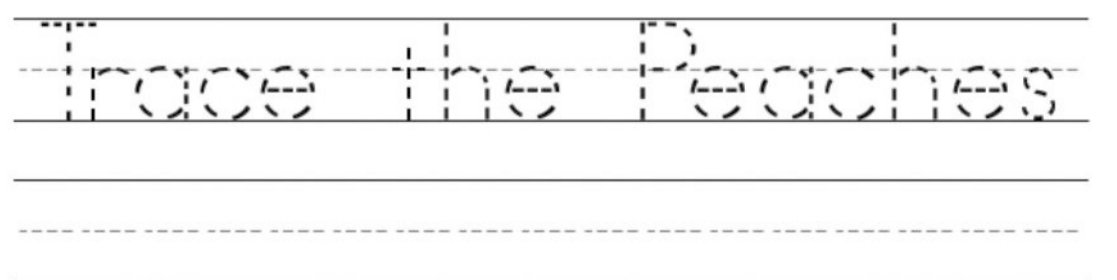
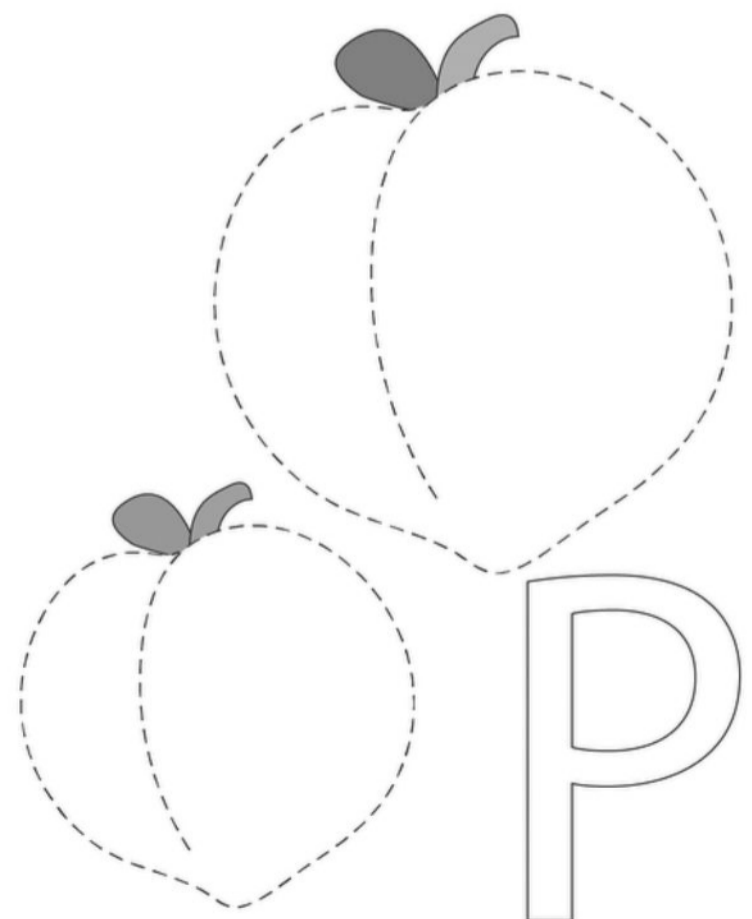
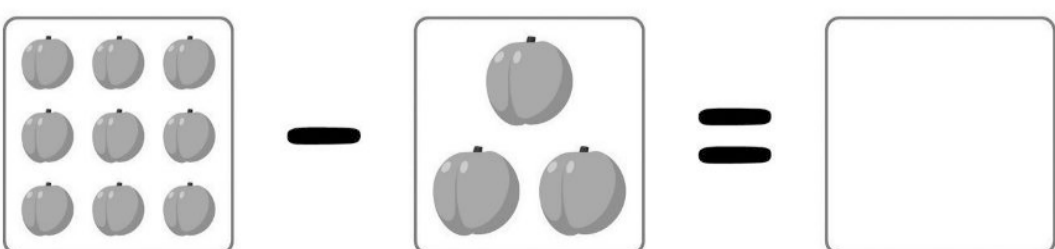
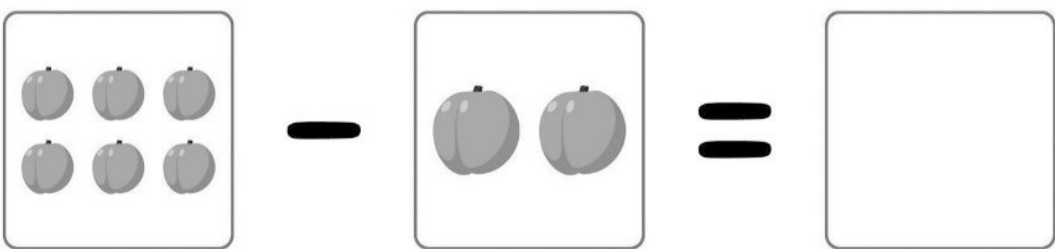
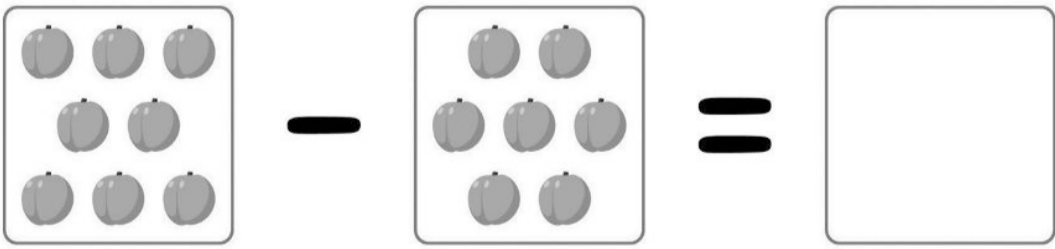


Be Creative When Coloring These Peaches - Make Them Festive!



Trace the Peaches and Writing

How Many Peaches Are There?



Answers: 1, 3, 4, 6

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and the Peach County Sheriff's Department




Peach County comes in first place every time we come together to celebrate our Georgia Peach Festival!

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