

If you only have 15 minutes ...

Writers look for the most-effective way to present their stories. One of those ways is to organize a story around problems and solutions. That’s one way to think about this article. “Is the Sky the Limit for Thy Gambia’s Groundnuts?” presents several different problems that have been affecting peanut farming and the peanut industry in this West African nation. The article goes on to identify possible solutions that are being tried there. Use the graphic organizer below to help you visualize the difficulties, and some of the ways they are being addressed.

The boxes in the left-hand column of the table identify broad categories of problems. In each of these boxes write a phrase or two that identifies or explains specific problems that the article presents. In the right-hand column, write a phrase or two that describes one or more solutions you have read about in the article. Note that some problems and solutions may appear in more than one category. For example, the uncertainty of crop success, exacerbated by climate change is also an economic and worker problem. As you note these overlaps, think about how multilayered problems can be and how complicated the solutions.

Problems	Solutions
Climate and Weather Problems »	
Technology and Equipment Problems »	
Economic Problems »	
People/Worker Problems »	

Common Core Standard(s) Met:

CCRA.SL.5 Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

CCRA.R.1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.