

Farm To Market: Fruit

Assessment of Prior Knowledge:

- How does fruit grow? Have you ever seen fruit growing? Does all fruit grow the same way?

Vocabulary:

Blossom: The flower of a plant, especially of a plant that produces edible fruit.

Harvest: Gathering and picking of food crops.

Vineyard: A field planted with grapevines.

Ripe: When fruit is mature, grown and ready to eat.

Canning: Preserving food by sealing it in cans or jars.

Comprehension Questions:

Growing and Harvest

1. How does a blossom turn into a fruit?
2. What is unique about strawberries?
3. How are most fruits harvested?

Packaging

1. Why do apples float?
2. Why is it important to have humans working, along with machines, to package fruit?

Drying

1. Where are grapes made into raisins? What is important about the way the grapes are laid out to dry?

Canning

1. What does canning do to fruit?

Discussion Questions:

1. Canning fruit is a very old tradition. Why do you think people began canning fruit many years ago?
2. What are the different ways that fruits hold their seeds? Can you think of some fruits that don't have seeds? Why do fruits have seeds and what might be some advantages for fruits that don't have seeds?
3. How do you think is the healthiest way to eat fruit - fresh, dried or canned? Maybe another way altogether.

Follow-up Activities:

- Make an enormous fruit salad for the class. Have students bring in different kinds of fruit. Students can then look at each fruit before it is cut into the salad, and guess how it grows. Does it grow on a tree or a bush or a vine? What do its blossoms look like? Students can even make sketches of their guesses and then look up the true information on the internet or in an encyclopedia.
- Take a trip to see fruits growing. Perhaps there are even fruit trees growing near the school, or in a neighbor's yard. Students can visit the same tree several times to see the different stages of growth throughout the year.



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