



# STRAWBERRY CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

## GRADES 1-4

### MATH ACTIVITY

1. If one strawberry has 200 seeds, how many seeds are on 5 strawberries?
2. If 12 percent of all strawberries at the supermarket are grown outside of California, what percent is grown in California?
3. If one tray of strawberries weighs 11 pounds, how many pounds do 20 trays weigh? How many pounds does  $\frac{1}{2}$  a tray weigh? What about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a tray?



### BERRY QUIZ

#### Questions:

1. How many times would all of the strawberries grown in California in ONE year wrap around the whole world? How many times could these strawberries cross the United States?
2. True or False: A serving of 8 medium strawberries has 93% of the Vitamin C you should need to get in one day?
3. How many towns in the United States are named "Strawberry?"
4. What is the favorite fruit of kids ages 7-9?
5. How much did the biggest strawberry in history weigh?

#### Answers:

1. 15 times around the world, 149 times across the United States.
2. TRUE!
3. Three towns: Strawberry, AR; Strawberry, AZ; and Strawberry, CA.
4. In a recent survey, kids seven to nine years old picked strawberries as their favorite fruit, followed by grapes, apples, oranges and bananas.
5. The biggest strawberry in history weighed 8.17 ounces. That's over half a pound!

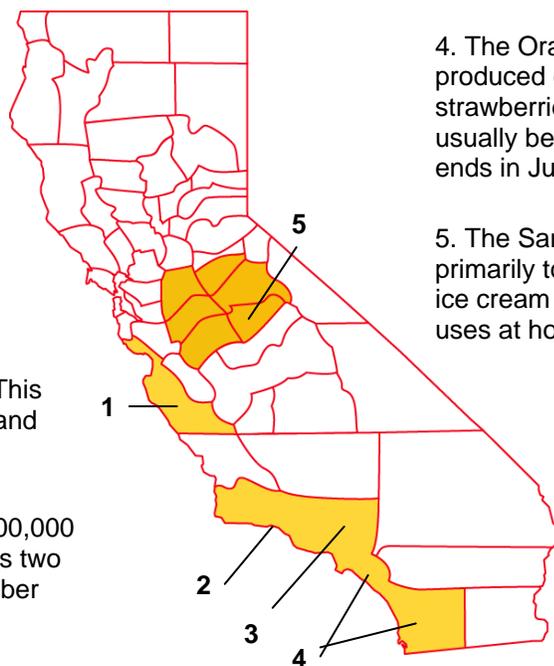
### GEOGRAPHY

California, the land of 31,639 acres of strawberries...

1. The Watsonville/Salinas district produced over 52,000,000 trays\* of strawberries. This area's season usually begins in March and ends in November.

2. The Santa Maria district produced over 19,000,000 trays of strawberries in 2003. This area's season usually begins in February and ends in October/November.

3. The Oxnard district produced over 34,000,000 trays of strawberries in 2003. This area has two seasons: February through June and October through December.



4. The Orange County/San Diego district produced over 8,000,000 trays of strawberries in 2003. This area's season usually begins in late December and ends in June.

5. The San Joaquin district is committed primarily to growing strawberries for jam, ice cream and to be frozen for many uses at home, school and restaurants.

\*A tray of strawberries weighs about 10 pounds and usually contains 12 1-pint containers or 8 1-pound containers.

## AGRICULTURE

### How is a Strawberry Produced?

1. First, strawberry plants are grown in nurseries where a mother strawberry plant grows shoots which become daughter strawberry plants. One mother plant can produce up to 20 daughter plants.



2. These daughter plants are cut off of the main plant, chilled and put into boxes then shipped to strawberry farmers.

3. While the strawberry farmer is waiting for the plants to arrive, he or she begins preparing the ground. Farmers use a tractor to prepare the soil and make beds for the plants. These beds are covered with plastic that will keep weeds from growing around strawberry plants. A special machine then goes through the field and stamps circles through the plastic on these beds, just as a cookie cutter would cut dough.

These holes expose the soil and the farmer places the young strawberry plant into the soil through these holes.



4. After about two months from the initial planting, the small plant turns into a large green plant, and flower buds begin to form. These flowers will become strawberries about 30 days later. The process takes about 3 months from planting to when beautiful red strawberries are ready to be picked.

5. Once this happens, the farmer and the strawberry pickers will pick (harvest) the strawberries off the plant and put them right into the containers that you see in the grocery store.

6. To keep the strawberries fresh before they get shipped, the farmer then sends the containers of strawberries to a giant room called a cooler that chills the strawberries down to 34 degrees F.



7. Within 24 hours of harvest, fresh strawberries are loaded onto refrigerated trucks for delivery across the country, which is why, for most of the year, you can go to any supermarket and buy fresh California strawberries! Strawberries are grown in California almost all year round. The peak season, is April to June.

Create a strawberry patch in the classroom. For information about creating a school garden please visit [www.aggi-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://www.aggi-horticulture.tamu.edu) or [www.agclassroom.org](http://www.agclassroom.org)

### MORE STRAWBERRY LESSON IDEAS

1. Create a map of California highlighting the major counties where strawberries are grown.
2. Write a story about how a strawberry is grown.
3. Invent a machine that could harvest strawberries the way people do.
4. Estimate the number of seeds on a strawberry and devise a method for determining how many seeds there are.

VISIT [WWW.CALSTRAWBERRY.COM](http://WWW.CALSTRAWBERRY.COM) FOR NUTRITION INFORMATION AND RECIPES.