



Oranges

Where do Oranges Come From?



Oranges, and all citrus fruits came from Southeast Asia. Now, more than 600 different kinds of oranges are grown around the world. It is believed that Christopher Columbus was the first to bring orange seeds to America during his second trip to the region in 1493. Today, Brazil is the largest producer of oranges, followed by the United States, Mexico, China, India, Spain and Egypt. In the United States, California and Florida are the largest producers of oranges.

Test yourself: Can you find all of these countries on a map?

How do Oranges Grow?

Oranges grow on flowering evergreen trees. They grow best in sub-tropical areas that have lots of sunshine and moderate to warm temperatures (15.5 - 29 degrees C). Orange trees can reach heights of 5 to 15 metres and have a lifespan of over 50 years! Oranges can also grow on shrubs or dwarf trees. After planting, it takes 4-6 years for an orange tree to produce fruit. First beautiful white-coloured flowers called orange blossoms appear on the tree. Once pollinated, the flowers develop into fruit. It takes almost a full year for a ripe orange to grow from a flower. Oranges are picked by hand when ripe and won't continue to ripen after picking. Oranges that are to be eaten fresh are transported to packing houses where they are washed, graded and packed.



Check out this 7.38 minute video from True Food TV
Oranges: How does it grow? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pmql-zeRJqM>

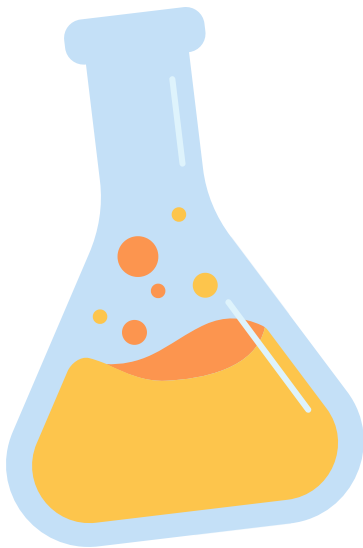
Did you know?

- There are 3 main types of oranges: juicing, eating and sour oranges.
- About 85% of all oranges are used to make orange juice.
- Orange jam is known as marmalade.
- There is usually 10 segments inside an orange.
- Oranges have more vitamin C than any other fruit. Vitamin C helps us grow, helps our bodies heal wounds and fight infections.
- The orange skin or rind is called “orange peel”. It is leathery and shiny. The colour of the peel does not indicate level of ripeness so don’t worry if the rind is off-colour or even green.
- Choose oranges that are firm and heavy for their size.
- Oranges are juicier when stored at room temperature but will only keep for a few days on the counter. To store oranges longer, keep them in a plastic bag in the fridge.



Joke corner

- What rhymes with orange? No, actually it doesn't.
- What is orange and rhymes with parrot? Carrot!
- Did you hear about the orange who got sunburned? It peeled!



Activity

Discover the science of acids and bases by making your own fizzy orange juice or lemonade.

Visit the Ontario Science Centre’s website and check out the experiment on making a fizzy drink. Use fresh squeezed orange or lemon juice.

<https://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/science-at-home/diy-science-fun/make-fizzy-lemonade>