

Oranges from Tree to You

by Susan LaBella



Oranges are round, juicy fruits that grow on trees in places with warm weather. How does an orange get from the tree to your refrigerator?

People who work as fruit pickers move through groves filled with orange trees. When an orange is ripe, the picker clips it off the tree. All picked oranges are then carefully moved to a packing plant.

In the plant, oranges are placed on a machine with moving rollers. Special brushes wash the fruit as it rolls along. Next, each orange is dried.

Another machine lines up the oranges in boxes. A computer checks each box. Any oranges with spots or damage are removed. Orange growers want to produce good fruit that people will buy.

Finally, each orange is given a sticker and placed in a box. Full boxes are shipped in cool trucks to stores.

People who work in the store place the oranges on shelves. Then someone from your family comes to the store. Your family member chooses a few oranges, buys them, brings them home, and puts them in your refrigerator.

Then, one day, you open your refrigerator-and there those oranges are, ready for you to eat!

Vocabulary

plant

noun

definition: A plant is a kind of factory. It is a building or group of buildings that have machines and equipment for making things.

A lot of people in our town work at the automobile plant.

Spanish: planta

produce

verb

definition: When you produce something, you make a new thing. You bring it into the world. If a factory produces cars, they make new cars. When a chicken produces eggs, it brings eggs into the world.

One cow can produce a lot of milk.

Spanish: producir

forms: produced, produces, producing

ripe

adjective

definition: When something is ripe, it is finished growing and it's ready to eat.

Spanish: maduro, a punto

forms: riper, ripest

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Where do oranges grow?
 - A. on trees in places with cool weather
 - B. underground in places with warm weather
 - C. on trees in places with warm weather

2. This article describes the sequence of steps needed to bring an orange from a tree to your refrigerator. The first step is when the orange is picked from a tree. What is the second step?
 - A. The picked oranges are moved to a packing plant.
 - B. Any oranges with spots or damage are removed.
 - C. Each orange is washed and dried.

3. Oranges have to be moved carefully, washed with special brushes, and then checked for spots or damage before they are sold.

What can you conclude based on this evidence?

- A. People treat oranges more carefully than they treat apples before they are sold.
 - B. It's important for people to take good care of the oranges before they are sold.
 - C. People who buy oranges are not able to wash the fruit with special brushes.

4. Why might any oranges with spots or damage be removed from their box at the packing plant?
 - A. because people are not likely to buy oranges with spots or damage
 - B. because orange growers like to keep oranges with spots or damage
 - C. because it is important for all the oranges in a box to look the same

5. What is the main idea of this article?
 - A. Oranges are round, juicy fruits that many people like to eat.
 - B. Oranges have to go through different steps to get from a tree to your refrigerator.
 - C. It is important to only choose oranges without spots or damage.

6. Read these sentences from the text.

"Oranges are round, juicy fruits that grow on trees in places with warm weather. How does an orange get from the tree to your refrigerator?"

Why does the author ask this question in the first paragraph of the text?

- A. to hint to readers that the article will give them the answer to this question
- B. to ask readers to do research and find the answer to this question
- C. to distract readers from the main idea of the article

7. Choose the answer that best completes this sentence.

A machine lines up oranges in boxes _____ each orange is washed and dried.

- A. after
- B. while
- C. before

8. Where do oranges get sent after the packing plant?

- 9.** Summarize the steps that an orange goes through from the tree to your refrigerator. Use details from the text in your answer.

- 10.** Why might oranges have to go through the whole picking and packing process before people buy them? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
