

Who Grew My Soup?

One US farm produces enough food to feed 165 people worldwide, but farmers are not the only workers involved in making food available to the consumer. Agriculture employs more than 21 million American workers. These jobs include harvesting, storing, transporting, processing, packaging, and selling the food we consume. It is important to understand that grocery stores are food distribution centers, not the source of food.

Some of the food we eat every day is grown in our own communities, but not all of the food we consume is grown locally. While most states produce their own milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and grains, the availability of certain foods depends upon season. The climate and soil of a particular region determines the types of food that can be grown.

Consumer demands influence the items that stores and restaurants offer. Many people want to be able to eat fresh fruits and vegetables in the middle of the winter or out of season. Exotic fruits, such as star fruit, kiwi, and guava that are not grown in many areas of the United States, are also desired. Grocery stores meet these demands by having food transported from other regions of the United States and even from other countries.

Materials

- *Who Grew My Soup?* by Tom Darbyshire (book) or view a [read aloud](#)
- [Fact Wheel](#)
- Scissors
- Round head fastener (brad)
- [Where Does My Food Come From?](#) activity sheet
- [National Geographic Mapmaker Interactive](#)

Vocabulary

processing: to change a raw product, such as food, to make it into a different type of product

Activity

1. Read the book *Who Grew My Soup?* by Tom Darbyshire or view the [read aloud](#).
2. Cut out and assemble the [Fact Wheel](#). The wheel with the ingredient names goes on the bottom, the information about each ingredient goes in the middle, and the pictures of each ingredient goes on top (cut each dashed line to the center circle on this wheel only). Attach the three wheels with a round head fastener (brad).



3. Match each soup ingredient from the book with the picture and information on the fact wheel.
4. Choose one of the produce items from the story that you already have at home with a product of origin label (the label that tells from which country the food item originated) or you can research the item online to discover which countries produce the item.
5. Complete the [Where Does My Food Come From?](#) activity sheet by using [National Geographic's Mapmaker Interactive](#) to find the distance between the food's country of origin and the town in which you live. Instructions are found on the activity sheet.
6. Write a paragraph to answer the following questions:
 - What are some ways the food could have traveled to your local grocery store?
 - What are some possible reasons the food traveled so far?