



Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

The processing of harvesting crops has not really changed over the years. For example, the wheat still needs to be cut, winnowed and baled. However, nowadays machines, such as the combine harvester, make it much easier and quicker.

What do you think about machines replacing people doing jobs? What are the pros and cons?



Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

There are many different harvest festivals around the world including the Chinese Moon Festival, Vendage and Thanksgiving.

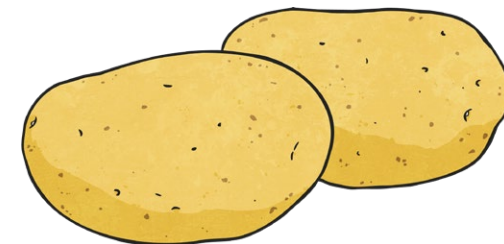


Why do many cultures and countries celebrate harvest and have done for many, many years? (Think what it was like before we had supermarkets everywhere.)

Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

Did you know that school holidays are based around harvesting jobs? October half-term used to be known as 'potato picking week' or 'tattie picking week', where children had a week off school to work on farms gathering in the potato harvest.

Do you think the school holidays should change? Are you happy with them as they are? Would you like a shorter summer holiday?



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Corndolly making as a traditional craft is linked to harvest. The belief was that the spirit of corn lived in the crops and when they were chopped down it lost its home. So, from the last sheaf of corn, corndollies were made to keep the spirit alive throughout the year. Corndollies are still made today using some of the techniques you may already know from making friendship bracelets.

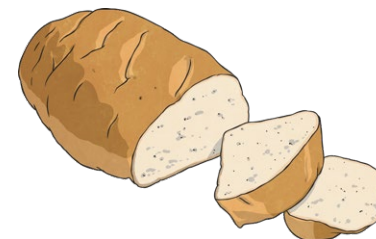
Why do you think people had or have beliefs such as these? How important was the harvest?



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In Anglo-Saxon times, harvest was called Lammas (and still is by some people). The word is thought to come from the phrase 'loaf mass' where, on the 1st of August, the first loaf of bread of the new harvest was taken into church and blessed.



Why is Lammas only on this date in the northern hemisphere? When would Lammas and other harvest festivals happen in the southern hemisphere?

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Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

The Harvest Mouse is the smallest rodent in Europe. It is a mammal that grows between 5cm and 7cm long. It is the only mammal with a prehensile tail – that means a tail that it can move like an arm to be able to grab onto things, such as wheat stalks or grass.

What do you think about the effect of farming on nature and the landscape? What would it look like without farming? Is it necessary?



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Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

'Harvest for the World' is a famous song. It was originally by the Isley Brothers in 1976, but has been covered many times.

It includes lines such as:

'Half of us are satisfied, half of us in need'.



What do you think is meant by the term 'harvest for the world'? Why would this song be used in charity campaigns? How does it make you feel about our abundant harvests in this country?

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Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

A ten acre field (about the size of five football pitches) makes approximately 1000 bales of straw and approximately 371 000 000 kernels of wheat. This will make around 190kg of flour, which is roughly 380 loaves of bread!



Do you think people picking up bread off the supermarket shelves really think about how much effort goes into making it? What about other foods? Should people complain about prices?

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Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

15 million pumpkins are grown every year in the UK.

Do you think it is a waste to grow pumpkins just for people to make into lanterns?



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Harvest Fact and Discussion Cards

Apples are a traditional British fruit with its own harvest time, but you may be surprised to learn that 70% of the apples in the UK shops are imported!



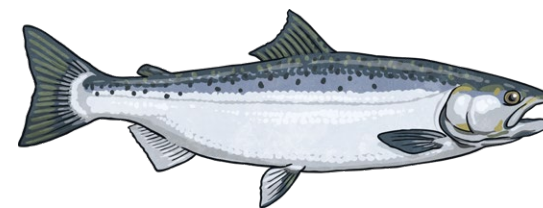
Why are we importing so many apples when it is a traditional British fruit easy to grow in this country? Should this change or is this OK?

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It's not all about crops though...there are many fish Harvest Festivals in the UK. The Harvest of the Sea in Billingsgate, London is celebrated annually in October and also the Blessing of the Salmon Fishery in North Shields.

Are you surprised to hear about fish Harvest Festivals? What else can you think of that would be 'harvested'?



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