



Course Companion

For AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition: Food Provenance

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Teacher's Introduction

This resource is designed to meet the Food Provenance (3.6) element of the AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition qualification.

What it covers

The resource comprises two chapters covering the following:

Chapter 1: Environmental impact and sustainability of food	Chapter 2: Food processing and production
3.6.1.1 Food sources	3.6.2.1 Food production
3.6.1.2 Food and the environment	3.6.2.2 Technological developments associated with better health and food production
3.6.1.3 Sustainability of food	

How to use this resource

The resource covers all aspects of Food Provenance and is designed to increase knowledge of the topic and enable learners to test their understanding and skills through a variety of assessment methods.

Learning Outcomes enable the learner to clearly see what they are expected to know at the end of each chapter.

The **Overview** provides a brief summary of what will be covered in the chapter and the **Key Terms** box provides information on key terms within the resource (key terms are emboldened within the chapter text).

Did you know?	These boxes contain handy tips
Things to think about	These boxes provide learners with a chance to develop cognitive skills, do some research (books, Internet, people) and take part in a discussion
Apply	These boxes provide the learner with the opportunity to further their skills, either through cognitive or practical application
Skills	Based on the 'suggested application and food preparation skills' section of the AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition specifications, these test learners' skills in food safety through practical application
Exam tip	Useful tips to help the learner concentrate on important aspects that may appear in the final assessment
Check your understanding	Six multiple-choice questions and one longer open question, similar to Section A and Section B of the AQA GCSE paper, at the end of each section, to test knowledge and understanding
Quiz-ine	A crossword-style quiz at the end of each chapter to test learners' understanding of key terms used within the resource. When rearranged, the shaded squares spell out a word associated with the chapter text.
Answers	Answers to questions are provided at the end of the resource

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May 2017

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Chapter 1: Environmental impact and sustainability of food

Overview

In this chapter you will learn how to distinguish between grown, reared and caught produce. You will also explore environmental issues associated with food. The third part of this chapter is about the impact of food on local and global markets and communities – here you will learn about climate change and global warming and the challenges of providing a sustainable and secure supply of nutritional foods.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter, you should be able to do the following:

- ☐ know and distinguish between grown, reared and caught produce
- ☐ identify the main environmental issues associated with food production
- ☐ explain what a carbon footprint is and how to minimise it
- ☐ understand the idea behind organic farming
- ☐ list and explain reasons behind local marketing
- ☐ be aware of climate changes in the world and their impact on food production
- ☐ explain why fair trade is important for global development
- ☐ list and explain other challenges to provide mankind with a sustainable and secure supply of nutritional foods

Key Terms

Organic	Grown or reared with restricted use of any chemicals, pesticides or GM feed and GM organisms, under strict conditions
Free-range	Egg production in which hens are let outside of the battery cage
Genetically modified (GM)	When the DNA of a given organism is manipulated by genetic engineering to give it new features
Seasonal food	Food characteristic for a given season of the year
Food waste	Food that is rotten, spoiled or wasted in another way, e.g. food left in the bin
Carbon footprint	How much energy has to be used, and, therefore, how much CO ₂ is emitted, in the production, processing and transportation of food
Sustainability	Ability to maintain the natural environment and produce food for future generations
Fairtrade	Ethical category that enables fair wages and prices for producers in developing countries; designed to prevent human exploitation
Food poverty	Inability to provide oneself with enough food, both in terms of quantity and quality
Food security	A term created by the United Nations, meaning that, at any given place in the world, each person should have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food
Livestock	All animals domesticated and reared to provide food, e.g. cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens
Local food	Food produced locally, in a given region
Food miles	How far the food has to travel from the producer to the consumer
Orchard	Enclosed area of land used to grow fruit or nut trees
Polytunnel	Tunnel frame covered with polyethylene, used to grow vegetables and fruit
Intensive farming	Type of agriculture focused on intensifying food production by using fertilisers, herbicides, GM crops and other methods
Factory farming	Type of agriculture focused on intensifying food production of animals in small areas of land, to increase production and to minimise potential costs
Fish farms	Tanks or enclosed sea areas in which fish or seafood is reared

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3.6.1.1 Food sources

How food is made

For a long time, people were hunter-gatherers, which means that their diet was based on their surroundings. This included wild animal meat, fish, and some fruit and herbs. Agriculture was invented and started to revolutionise humans' diet. Today, most of our food is produced using modern technologies; only a small amount of the food we eat is still gathered from the wild.

Grown foods

Foods may be grown in fields, orchards or polytunnels.

The most traditional way of growing foods includes fields and **orchards**. These are large areas in which roots, bushes and trees are grown to produce vegetables, fruits, nuts and seeds. They are kept under the open sky, which means that they are susceptible to all weather changes, low and high temperatures, droughts and floods, soil overexploitation, pests, rodents, wild animals and birds. Managing a field or an orchard in a certain region also involves deciding what plants are actually capable of living in given conditions. All these factors mean that crops from fields and orchards are very unpredictable and require various treatments to overcome all possible dangers. To increase crops and prevent possible damage, most farmers decide to use pesticides, herbicides and many other chemicals.

The area of land used for growing food is called arable land.

51% of the UK is used for growing food.

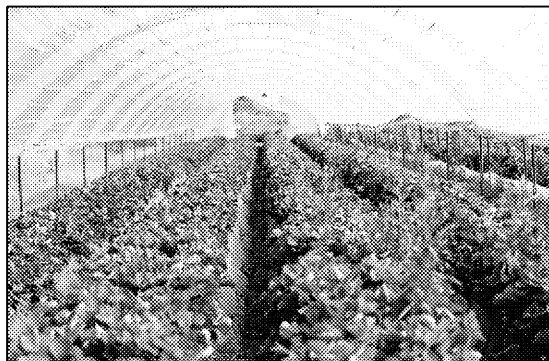


Picking apples in an orchard



Field of crops

Polytunnels were invented in the 1940's to enable the growth of tropical plants. They were created to ensure the warmth and humidity necessary for proper development of crops. Inside polytunnels, we can enjoy strawberries, cucumbers and lettuce all year long. Poly tunnels protect crops from external hazards such as weather changes or insects, and, therefore, it is easier to produce food.



Strawberries in a polytunnel

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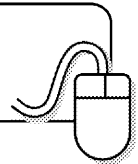


What food is grown there	Examples
grains	cereals such as wheat, rye, rice, maize, oats
oil plants	flax seed, rapeseed, sunflowers, soy
root vegetables, cruciferous plants and brassicas	potatoes, beetroots, cabbages, carrots
mostly hard fruit and nuts	apples, cherries, pears, plums, avocados, olives, walnuts
mainly soft fruit	strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, tomatoes
vegetables	lettuces, radishes, cucumbers
mushrooms	white mushrooms, Portobello mushrooms

? _____
 is lettuce, basil or wasabi may be grown using hydroponics. This means that
 soil, but their roots are put directly in water.



n be grown hydroponically at
www.zigzageducation.com/ArticleLibrary/WhatCanYouGrowHydroponically.html



Hydroponic farming

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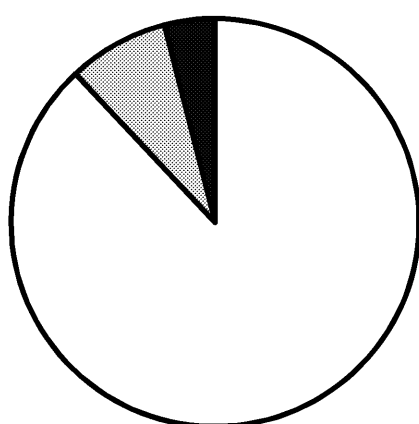


The region in which people live often determines what can be grown and, therefore, decides their diet. This usually is embodied in national dishes; for example, Mexican cuisine uses a lot of sweetcorn because maize grows in Mexico, but traditional British cuisine doesn't have any sweetcorn in it because the grain was introduced to the UK only at the end of the fifteenth century, and for a long time couldn't even be grown here because of the climate.

The charts below illustrate the main three grains consumed around the world – w

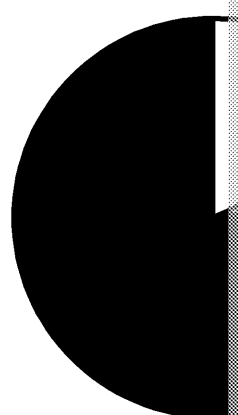
Notice how consumption patterns change with the region and climate of each co certain produce. According to *National Geographic*, the most popular grain in the consumption) and wheat (18% of total consumption). Next, there are vegetable c

United Kingdom



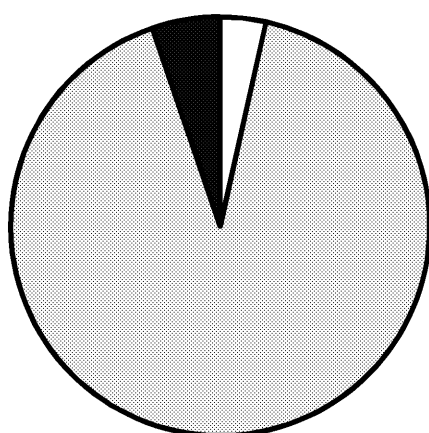
■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Mexico



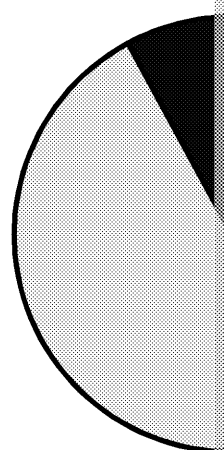
■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Vietnam



■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

Japan



■ Wheat ■ Rice ■ Maize

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All food ingredients can be grown or reared in various ways. Most commonly use **factory farming**, although in the past decade **organic** farming has been gaining popularity.

Conventional (or **intensive**) farming is a kind of agriculture in which the main target is to produce as much food as possible. To achieve that, farmers may choose to use:

- pesticides
- herbicides
- GM seeds which are resistant to poor weather conditions
- artificial fertilisers
- *or all of the above*

Conventional farming usually leads to deterioration in soil quality, which means the land cannot be used for growing any more. Conventional farming may also lead to low biodiversity and compromised ecosystems, since so many chemicals are introduced.

Factory farming

Factory farming is an agriculture method in which a large amount of **livestock** is kept in small areas. This is to increase production of meat, milk or eggs, and to lower possible costs and investment at the same time. Since profit is the most important consideration, factory farms can choose to rear certain breeds of animals (lowering biodiversity) and use antibiotics to prevent potential diseases. Other practices may be even more drastic and include cutting birds' wings or beaks to prevent them fighting with each other, which is often a concern for animal welfare activists and organisations.

Apply

check
from
help
info

Organic farming

As opposed to conventional and factory farming, organic farming is focused on producing food that is good for the environment, soil quality, ecosystems, natural resources and biodiversity. Organic farming is sustainable and it can only use very restricted chemicals – not including artificial fertilisers, pesticides, preventive antibiotics, **genetically modified (GM)** crops or animal feed made with GM ingredients. Organic farmers can sustain their crops by the use of natural methods such as crop rotation and natural fertilisers to support soil health. Antibiotics can only be used in case of disease (to cure it, not prevent it).

More about organic and conventional farming will be covered later on in this chapter.

Reared foods

People have learnt to rear a number of species to satisfy the needs of growing populations (among others) cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits and poultry. Animals are reared for their meat and wool, and for their muscle power (for example, horses are still used as working animals in some countries). Also their excrement is used to produce energy or as a fertiliser. According to local habits or requests, people can rear camels, reindeer or even snails.

The need to maintain economic growth and produce more and more food has led to the creation of **farms**. These are usually large enterprises, rearing hundreds or often thousands of animals, especially to cows (milk farms), pigs (reared mainly for pork) and hens (reared for eggs). Often they often apply the rules of **intensive farming**, to increase production and the profit it generates.

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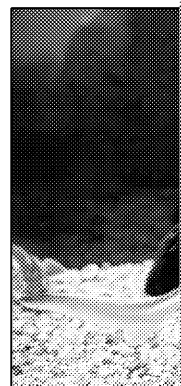


The following table provides a summary of what animals people rear and why.

What people rear...	
Cattle	Leather, beef, milk
Poultry	Meat
Horses	Meat, entertainment
Pigs	Pork, lard

Also, some fish are considered reared foods. These include salmon, trout, cod, carp, catfish and some shellfish raised on **fish farms** that were created especially for human needs. In fish farms, fish are kept in large containers (fish tanks), which are sometimes seriously overcrowded.

Although this might be ethically dubious, fish farms help to prevent and avoid overfishing of the seas and oceans, and help to preserve naturally occurring species. The fish in fish farms is reared for meat and caviar, and leftovers or non-edible parts are used to produce animal feed.



Sturgeon

Research

Read more about fish farming in the UK at <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/farm/fish/farming> and draw steps in fish production. Do fish farms use organic or conventional farming methods?

Poultry, such as hens, ducks, geese and turkeys, is also reared around the world for meat and eggs. The animals are usually kept in henhouses. The birds may be kept in tight cages, or may have access to the outdoors around the henhouse and even be allowed to go outside. The way in which poultry is reared affects the quality of meat and eggs produced. Also, **organic farming** rules may apply here – this is where the animals are not given antibiotics if not necessary.

Nowadays, it is more and more popular to rear animals which were traditionally hunted, such as wild boar.

You may sometimes meet ecologists or animal welfare activists who are protesting about the conditions the animals are kept in or the way they are treated.

An example of this is rearing geese in France using a method in which feed is forced into their stomachs via tubes to increase the growth of liver and fat tissue, for the production of foie gras. This method of rearing has been labelled as cruel and, therefore, banned in the UK, although it is legal to buy foie gras.

Another example is squeezing many animals in tight boxes placed on top of each other, as is the case in battery farms (cage egg farms). The hens can also have their wings cut to prevent them from moving too much and their beaks trimmed to prevent them from fighting with each other.



Force-feeding geese for fattening

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Other concerns include:

- keeping animals in closed buildings, without access to natural sunlight
- cramming in animals so they can't turn around or move (e.g. cows in feedlots)
- using antibiotics to prevent diseases and speed up the growth of animals, which can lead to the development of superbugs (microorganisms which, in the near future, may lead to creation of new, lethal diseases)
- genetically manipulating DNA of animals to produce more muscle tissue, eggs or milk, which can lead to health problems for the animals
- overexploiting animals, which shortens their life (an intensely reared cow lives for around 20 years for one living in the wild)
- transport conditions – when animals are finally transported to slaughterhouses, they are often packed into trucks and often spend a couple of days without food or water before they are slaughtered
- slaughtering conditions, in which animals' throats are slit open and the animals are then bled out

Caught foods

Caught foods include all wild animals that can be hunted and eaten. This includes game and wild fish that live in the seas and oceans (such as tuna, mackerel, herring and shellfish).

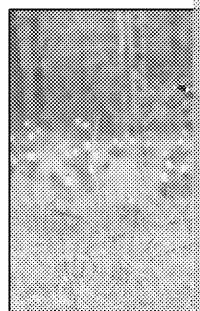
In the United Kingdom, game (or quarry) is defined by the Game Act of 1831 and the Deer Act of 1991. The name applies to such animal species as grouse, ducks, geese, pheasants, hares, rabbits and deer. The deer meat can be also called venison.

People have been hunting animals for centuries – either for food, horns and antlers, sport or entertainment. Since this has led to the extinction of many species, it is now often either forbidden to hunt certain species or it is allowed in certain seasons only.

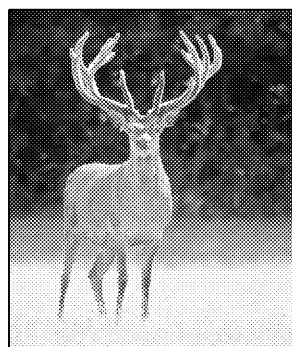
Some wild animals – especially those high in numbers and causing damage to crops – can be hunted all year long with a permit. This applies to wild boar, for example.



Pheasant is often hunted for its delicate meat



Certain breeds of deer can only be hunted outside the breeding season



Some species, such as deer, can only be hunted outside the breeding season. This is to protect the species and prevent its extinction.

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Gathered foods

In some countries and communities, gathering foods is still popular. This includes wild berries and roots.

Herbs such as stinging nettles may then be used for production of herbal infusions, medicines and dietary supplements, cosmetics and even as animal feed.

Mushroom picking is popular especially in Eastern European countries, where various kinds of mushroom are picked from early May (e.g. chanterelles) to late October (e.g. boletus). They are usually dried or pickled and eaten during winter. In parts of France and Italy, it is still popular to gather truffles. This usually requires the use of a truffle hog (specially bred kind of pig, nowadays used rather rarely) or specially trained breeds of dogs, since truffles grow underground. For this reason, it is also known as truffle hunting. Truffles are used to prepare many luxurious dishes, such as truffle risotto or ice creams, and to infuse olive oil.

Berries growing in the wild include blackberries, bilberries, elderberries and wild strawberries. They are used to prepare jams, desserts, fruit yogurts and alcoholic beverages. Elderberries are also used in the production of some medicines.

Gathered roots may include wild horseradish, which is typically more pungent than cultivated horseradish, and parsnips, although the abundance of produce in supermarkets has caused people to lose interest in gathering.



Picking mushrooms and forest fruit is popular in many European countries



Things to think about

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of growing foods in fields.

Apply

List five different foods which can be gathered in your area and, for each, list one advantage and one disadvantage.

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Organic, conventional and sustainable farming

The way we grow and rear our food is very important due to health and environmental

Organic farming means that fewer fertilisers and pesticides are used (under restrictions), and that are naturally based. 'Organic' means:

- fewer pesticides
- no artificial colours or preservatives
- the highest standards of animal welfare
- no routine use of antibiotics
- GM free

It is believed that organic food is healthier for people, but it also requires more resources and is more expensive than conventional foods. Organic farmers often apply crop rotation as well as fertilising the soil, and plant certain species of plants to fertilise the crops and fight off vermin. They also maintain the diversity of species, as farmers often choose to plant many different species of plants over a long harvesting period. Also, as naturally occurring plants have various requirements for soil and warmth, farmers around the world have to use different varieties, as others would not survive in unfriendly conditions.

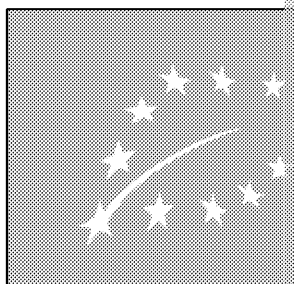
Research

Find out more about organic food at <http://www.organicukfood.com/>

Organic farming in the United Kingdom is promoted by the Soil Association, which sets the standards and is a certification body for farmers. Specific and detailed restrictions are applied across the European Union (EU) to ensure standards are met around the continent.



Soil Association
organic symbol



EU organic logo

Conventional farming (or industrial agriculture) allows the use of fertilisers, pesticides, and genetic engineering to obtain high-yield crops and, therefore, produce a larger amount of food for people. This method is used more and more often since it increases production and reduces costs.

Studies have shown that various pesticides and chemicals used in conventional farming may be harmful for human health. Also, intensive farming includes the choice of certain breeds to increase crops, which may lead to some species extinction. For example, genetically modified seeds are more resistant to water, so will survive during a flood, while naturally occurring seeds will rot. Also, choosing to rear just one breed of cow because it produces more muscle tissue for meat means that all the other breeds will not be reared any more.

Did you know?

The use of antibiotics in pig farming has led to the development of many bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics.

This is dangerous because it means there will be no antibiotics to help people with infections.

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Sustainable farming allows the use of modern technologies but under the condition of maintaining the ability to maintain their populations. It is especially important in fishing, since extensive fishing in many countries and corporations have put many wild fish species at risk of extinction (see page 10). Sustainable farming means that eco-friendly rules are applied in order to maintain the environment, animal welfare and quality of life are maintained, and various resources (such as water and land) are used sustainably.

It is worth noting that sustainable farming and intensive farming can work together to ensure the maintenance of high-yield crops, and keep soil healthy and nutritious for future generations.

Research

Visit the website <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/oceans/what-we-are-doing/seafood/sustainable-seafood-frequently-asked-questions> and list fish species that are endangered due to overfishing. Then try to research fish species which are sustainably farmed.



Things to think about

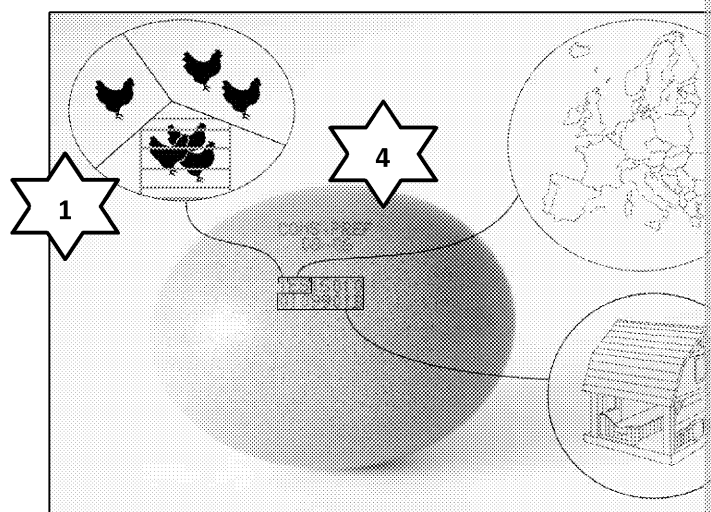
Discuss why sustainable fishing is important for all life on Earth.

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Egg production – cage, barn, free-range and organic

The way eggs are produced affects their safety and nutritional value. In the European Union, we label eggs with a stamp that contains certain information about their origin and method of production.



The stamp on the eggs has to contain the following information: 1) method of production; 2) country of origin; 3) producer's ID; 4) date marks.

1. The first information in the code is **method of production**. That refers to the way the hens were reared and shows whether they were kept in cages, allowed to move around the barn or allowed outside.

The details of egg production methods are specified in the table below.

Did you know?

The advocates of organic egg production claim that organic eggs are tastier, healthier and that the hens are happier and live longer.

Method of production	Description
Cage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens are kept in tight cages placed on top of each other Hens cannot move around the barn Hens often have cut wings to minimise movement Hens may have trimmed beaks to avoid fights The most popular method in Great Britain Very cost-effective
Barn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens can move freely around the barn Hens can have cut wings to prevent them from flying Hens may have trimmed beaks to avoid fights Their activity–sleep time is regulated by artificial lighting
Free-range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hens are let outside for at least part of the day Space per bird is increased (stocking density is nine birds per square metre) Perching space provided for each hen Hens have to access natural sunlight for at least part of the day Second most popular method in Great Britain
Organic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has to respect all criteria for free-range rearing Birds have to be fed organic feed only

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In the United Kingdom, animal welfare can be ensured by following the standards of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA). The logo can be found on foods where animals have had a better life.

The code on the label also indicates:

2. The country of origin is indicated by the letters following method of production and uses commonly recognised country symbols; for example, UK means United Kingdom, ES means Spain, DE stands for Germany and NL is the Netherlands.
3. The farm ID allows you to trace which farm produced the egg; this is especially important if food poisoning occurs, because it can help stop further spread of disease.
4. Best before date.

Some people prefer to buy eggs directly from local farmers. This may affect the safety of the eggs because they often do not perform antimicrobial tests (or don't wash the eggs for example), which puts them at risk of spreading *Salmonella*. Spreading of the bacteria is prevented in the UK by vaccinating hens, following the rules of the British Lion Code scheme.

Did you know?

In 2015, there were 10,020 million eggs produced in the UK. An additional 2.1 billion were imported.

Apply

While shopping, check the labels on eggs and make notes about their origin and price. Which ones are the most popular?

Research

Visit the website <https://www.egginfo.co.uk> and find out differences in the quality of eggs.

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Genetically modified foods

All food comes from living organisms – plants, fungi or animals – and, therefore, each has a unique DNA code. DNA contains genes, which determine all the features of a given organism, such as its colour and nutritional value. Modification of DNA – replacing one or more of the genes – has led to the development of various plant and animal species that grow larger, are resistant to pests and diseases, and have improved tissue.

Why we use GM

- to increase crops and avoid food shortages
- to improve 'shelf life' in foods and lengthen storage time
- to produce biofuel
- to develop resistance to pests in plants
- to decrease the amount of herbicides and pesticides needed
- to increase the amount of eggs, milk or meat produced
- to increase immunity in animals
- to increase the amount of vitamins and other nutrients in food
- to overcome climate challenges
- to prevent malnutrition and fight off hunger
- to improve flavour, colour, appearance or size of fruit and vegetables

The experiments to design and produce GM foods started in the 1980s and, therefore, there is still debate (yet) whether they are safe and healthy to consume, because that requires long-term testing (it takes a long time, e.g. 50 years). European Union law allows for GM crops of cotton, maize, soybean and sugar beet.

Did you know?

The so-called 'Golden Rice' was developed to prevent widespread vitamin A deficiency in some developing countries. However, it wasn't very successful at the beginning because people refused to eat the unnatural-looking yellow rice!

Many people oppose GM foods because:

- there is no scientific proof that long-term use of GM food is healthy and safe
- they believe GM food increases the risk of allergies and cancer
- they may contribute to increased body mass and so to the recent growth in obesity around the world
- they may lead to antibiotic resistance
- GM seeds mix with naturally occurring plants and may cause their extinction (or reduce their numbers)
- genetic modifications often require the use of viruses or bacteria, such as *E. coli*, which can create and spread of new diseases

On the other hand, genetically modified foods have multiple advantages, and scientists around the world work hard to ensure the newly produced species are not only environmentally friendly, but also safe to consume.

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Compared with naturally occurring plants and animals, genetically modified ones

- contain more macronutrients, such as protein, which help to alleviate hunger
- contain more polyunsaturated fatty acids, which may help to lower heart attack rates in some countries
- contain more micronutrients, necessary to prevent malnutrition
- require fewer resources, such as water, and can be grown almost everywhere in almost all weather conditions
- have a longer shelf life, so help to limit **food waste**
- are resistant to pests, so no chemicals have to be used
- produce more meat, milk or eggs, so fewer animals have to be reared and less land has to be devoted to pastures or animal farms
- are resistant to bacteria, so no antibiotics have to be used

GM advocates also claim that for these reasons GM foods are a way of providing food for future generations.

Research

Read about GM crops and foods at <http://www.genewatch.org/sub-568547>

- whether GM crops or animals are grown/reared in Great Britain
- what different forms of GM crops enter Europe
- whether it's easy to find GM-free products in the shops

Seasonal and locally produced foods

Before the development of modern technologies, people had to eat what was available in their environment. This forced them to eat only seasonally growing, **local foods** (for example, no lemons or oranges). Today, some people are turning back to the idea, claiming it is better for the environment.

There are four main seasons of the year, and each can be characterised by different types of food.

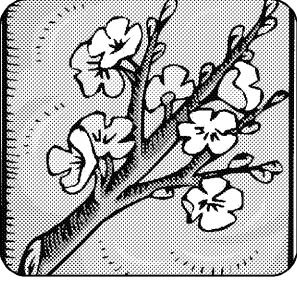
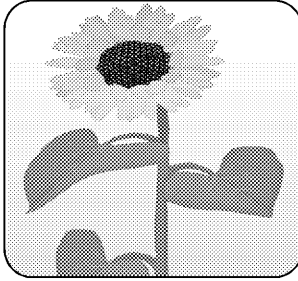

- In spring, most plants start to bloom and produce their first shoots. As June comes, more food becomes available.
- Summer is usually very rich in various fruit and vegetables, because sunlight and warm weather give them with excellent growth conditions.
- In autumn, most root vegetables are harvested. Also, while the crops last, fruit is produced for the winter.
- In winter very few plants produce any food, and, therefore, the diet is based on food stored or kept during the whole year – thus, Christmas pudding is full of dried fruit!

Did you know?

This is close to the Chinese diet, which bases the diet on food that is seasonally available.

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Spring	Summer	Autumn
sprouts rhubarb leeks cauliflowers lettuces kale spring onions	peas berries courgettes cucumbers cherries peaches apricots	aubergines apples pears plums pumpkins celery cabbages

Plant foods characteristic of each season

The development of transportation, increasing imports and new technologies have allowed people to bypass these rules. Thanks to these developments, tomatoes, for example, can be produced in polytunnels and oranges can be brought from overseas, and some fruit and vegetables (such as strawberries) are available all year long!

Seasonality applies also to non-plant foods. It may just as well be linked to fish, meat, poultry and eggs. This is based on the natural cycles of animals' lives – from birth, through growth to maturity and breeding.

Also, cheese production has, for hundreds of years, been linked to the lactation pattern of nature, cows and sheep produce milk between March and October only and, therefore, their milk is tastier then. However, intensive farming methods allow production of milk all year long, therefore, we can enjoy tasty, fresh cheese whenever we wish.

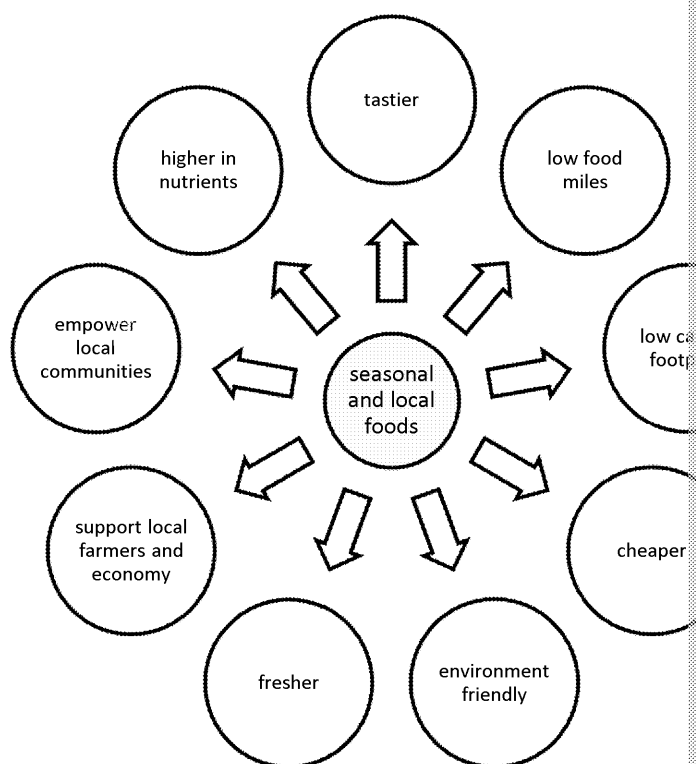
Examples of seasonal animal-based foods are shown in the table below.

Month	Food available
January	Duck, turkey, haddock, halibut, lobster, oysters
February	Hare, partridge, venison, lemon sole, scallops, turbot
March	Mussels, oysters, salmon, mackerel
April	Lamb, wood pigeon, crab, plaice, sea trout
May	Lamb, prawns, sardines, shrimps
June	Scallops, coley, herring
July	Rabbit, pollock, whitebait
August	Beef, lamb, rabbit, venison, monkfish, pilchard
September	Beef, duck, grouse, guinea fowl, crab
October	Goose, venison, mackerel, oysters
November	Mallard, pheasant, turkey, skate, winkles
December	Goose, rabbit, turkey, venison, cod, Dover sole, queen scallops

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As with anything, seasonal and local foods have their benefits and downsides.



Advantages of seasonal and local foods

It is believed that **seasonal foods** are higher in nutrients – that's because they were all grown under natural conditions, with access to water, nutrient-rich soil and natural sunlight. Also, they are produced locally and, therefore, there is no need to pick them prematurely to transport them long distances.

For this reason, the foods are fresher, because there is no need to store them for long periods of time because they don't have to travel long distances from producer to customer.

Because the foods are often left to ripen naturally, they are higher in sugars and other nutrients, making them tastier.

Local production is also environmentally friendly because it reduces the **food mile footprint**.

Low transport costs is a factor that affects the final price of the food, usually making locally produced food cheaper.

Buying locally also enables economic growth, supports local communities and ensures fair wages and prices for local farmers.

The disadvantages of seasonal and local food include:

- narrow choice – because only certain foods can be produced on an area of given land (that applies especially to plants)
- lack of diversity
- unpredictability – weather changes, floods or droughts and vermin may lead to small quantities of crops, which may result in food shortage or food waste and the need for storage)
- loss of convenience – because you can eat or cook only what's just growing or what is available (e.g. you can't have sushi for dinner (unless there are rice crops nearby))
- need for creativity – so that your meals aren't boring (after all, you only have a limited choice of ingredients)

Research

Visit the website <http://www.eattheseasons.co.uk> to list the foods which are in season for the current season. Are any of them produced in your area?

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3.6.1.1 Check your understanding

1. Which of the following statements about organic farming is TRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. It allows the use of herbicides. ☐
 - b. It allows the use of GM feed. ☐
 - c. It allows the use of GM feed. ☐
 - d. None of the above. ☐
2. Which of the following is TRUE about free-range hens? (1 mark)
 - a. They live in cages. ☐
 - b. They are allowed to roam. ☐
 - c. They live in barns. ☐
 - d. They only eat organic food. ☐
3. Genetically modified foods... (1 mark)
 - a. can be grown freely ☐
 - b. need to obtain approval ☐
 - c. need to be labelled ☐
 - d. Both b and c are correct ☐
4. Which of the following is UNTRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. Locally produced foods increase emission of greenhouse gases.
 - b. Locally produced foods are always organic.
 - c. Seasonal foods are often more nutritious than non-seasonal foods.
 - d. Seasonal foods are usually more expensive than non-seasonal foods.
5. Cattle are reared for... (1 mark)
 - a. meat ☐
 - b. milk ☐
 - c. biofuel ☐
 - d. all of the above ☐
6. Eggs laid by hens which can move freely around the barn are labelled with... (1 mark)
 - a. 0 ☐
 - b. 1 ☐
 - c. 2 ☐
 - d. 3 ☐
7. Give three reasons for and three reasons against GM foods. (6 marks)

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3.6.1.2 Food and the environment

Sustainability of food

As the world population grows, more and more food has to be produced to meet the demand. Currently (March 2017) there are 7.5 billion people living on Earth, and the United Nations predicts that the world population will grow to 11 billion by 2100.

The more people there are, the more food is needed – but the area and resources available for food production are limited. Food production and transportation require a lot of resources such as water and energy, and they generate a lot of waste and pollution. Intensive farming and fishing can lead to environmental damage, loss of biodiversity, species and to soil exhaustion. For these reasons, the idea of **sustainable food** is becoming increasingly important. The point of sustainable food is to use the available resources only to the extent that they can be replenished and not overexploit them and allows them to be replenished.

The main principles of food sustainability are:

- reducing waste of food and packaging
- eating more vegetables and fruit, and less meat and dairy to limit the amount of greenhouse gases produced
- buying locally and seasonally to limit the carbon footprint
- choosing fair trade certified products to promote fair wages and prices
- selecting fish from sustainable resources only
- avoid or limit the consumption of sugar, salt and food additives
- growing food yourself if possible

The idea of sustainability is supported by the European Union, which created a 'Resource Efficient Europe'. The aim of the policy is to reduce waste, improve efficiency of resources and reduce resource consumption in order to protect the environment.

Research

Discover more about sustainability of food at <http://ec.europa.eu/environment>

An example of how the policy is implemented is **fish farms**.

Fish is a source of complete proteins, omega-3 fatty acids and vitamins A and D. It is an important part of a healthy diet. Unfortunately, the growing need for them and illegal fishing has led to the depletion of natural fisheries are overexploited. This is not only because a large number of fish are caught but also because destructive catching methods were being used. For example, bottom trawling involves dragging a fishing net along the sea floor, which disrupts the ecosystem. Another method is purse seining where a net is stretched between two boats. This leads to a by-catch, which means catching unwanted species and other sea creatures. Also, the size of fishing nets plays a role, as using openings with

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the catching of very small fish, which won't be used for food and also won't be able to regrow their population.

For this reason, the Common Fisheries Policy was implemented. It states the way in which fish should be caught (especially in wild fisheries) and at what rate – this is important to avoid extinction and allow them to regrow their population.

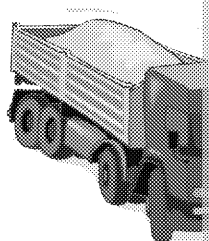
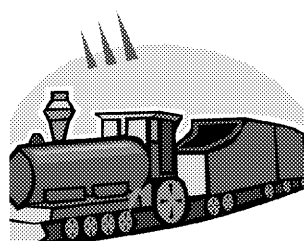
Sustainable fish farms should implement two general rules: ensure the health of the fish and the catching method. Fish farms help to protect wild fish and other species that are also caught, and produce enough food to feed the growing population.

Other forms of sustainable agriculture include the use of such methods as nitrogen fixation or soil steaming. They allow the maintenance of high-yield crops as well as the use of natural resources necessary for the proper growth of plants.

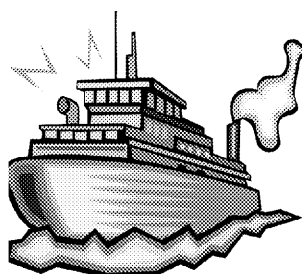
Transportation and carbon footprint

Food can be transported even from very distant countries by trains, lorries, ships or planes. All means of transport need a lot of energy – from either carbon, petrol or wood. Combustion produces dust, exhaust gases and carbon dioxide. They contribute to general air pollution of the air and ground (especially near main roads and motorways).

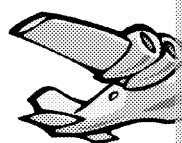
Transport by land



Transport by water



Transport by air



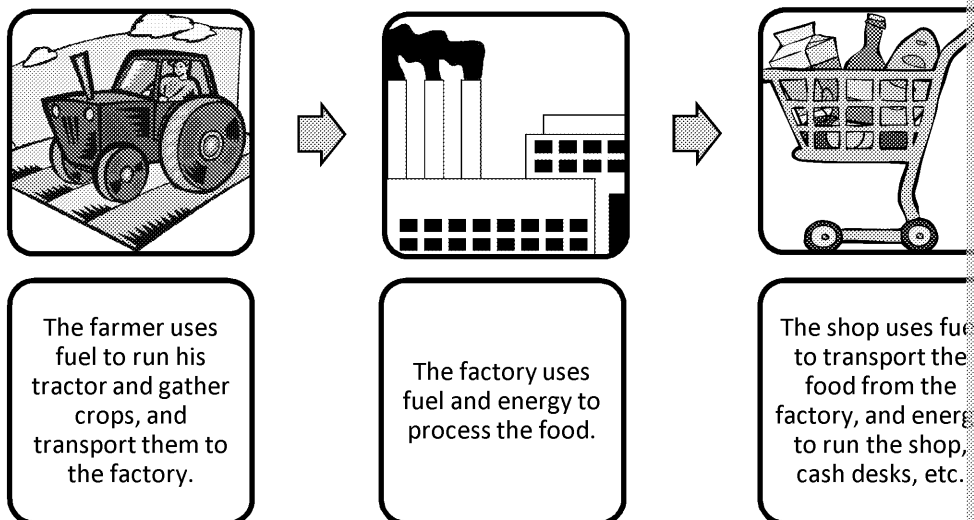
Foods and other goods are transported by different means. Which do you think produces the most carbon footprint?

An important effect of rising global transportation (and consumption of fuels) is climate change. This is because large amounts of greenhouse gases are produced during the transport of foods. Greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. They are produced in large amounts by households (e.g. when heating the house and using gas) and by transport (e.g. buses and cars). All the greenhouse gases produced as a result of something are called a **carbon footprint**.

Buying locally reduces the need for transportation of produce, and, therefore, is a good way to reduce your carbon footprint. It also reduces **food miles** – the distance which food has to travel.

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Food miles and carbon footprint are built up all the way from the field to the shop.

Reducing the amount of greenhouse gases produced during production and transport is important for saving the Earth. It can be achieved by:

- using alternative sources of energy such as wind or solar panels to run factories
- using more effective ways of transportation and improving exhaust filters in cars
- choosing local foods to reduce the need for transportation at all
- planting more trees and stopping deforestation

Research

Visit the website <http://footprint.wwf.org.uk/tips> and discuss how YOU can reduce your carbon footprint.

Food waste

Food waste is, in general terms, all the food that is rotten, spoiled or wasted, and thrown away. It can be created by food producers, retailers and households. Food waste is one of the major problems of rich, developed countries. In 2012, in the United Kingdom alone, the amount of food waste produced by households was about seven megatons, and by manufacturers – 3.9 megatons.¹

Here are five reasons why food waste is wrong:

1. **Wasting food is unethical.** We live in a world of large social inequalities, where over one third of the population is obese, while another billion people suffer from famine.^{2,3}
2. **Wasting food is environmentally unfriendly.** Many resources – water, electricity – are used to produce and transport it. Not only were they used, but, in the meantime, a lot of greenhouse gases are produced.
3. **Wasting food is uneconomical.** Many people were involved in the process of producing the food, and they were paid for it. The Waste and Resources Action Programme estimates that each year we could save £1.3 billion simply by avoiding food waste.⁴

¹ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/UK%20Estimates%20October%2015%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>

² <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs311/en/>

³ <https://www.thelifyoucansave.org/Causes/Hunger-and-Nutrition?gclid=CPPwk4nlvNACFUNmGv>

⁴ <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>

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4. **Wasting food requires organisation.** After all, someone has to pick up the rubbish from your home and either recycle it or store at a rubbish dump. That, again, contributes to the carbon footprint and increases the social cost of food waste.
5. **Wasting food creates pollution.** The food had to be produced (carbon dioxide), transported (greenhouse gases), packed (plastic) and cooked (carbon dioxide again). All the by-products of food production and consumption find their way into the environment and contribute to the overall pollution of the planet.

Did you know?

The top five wasted food items in the UK are:

- bread
- potatoes
- apples
- meat and fish meals
- vegetable meals

A number of policies were designed to help prevent food waste:

- **Recycling** – of both food and food packaging. The leftover food can be used in many ways, e.g. as animal feed.
- **First in, first out** – rotation of stock helps prevent food waste by controlling 'use by' dates.
- **Storing the food in proper conditions** – helps prevent food spoilage by either vermin or environmental factors.
- **Redistribution** – giving away anything that cannot be sold. Some of the large charities have programmes which help distribute the food to those who are in need.

Food waste in food production

There are several reasons why food may be wasted before it even gets to a shop:

- **Crop failure** – poor weather conditions, drought, flood, vermin, pests – all these factors can cause a lot of food to go to waste before it is even harvested.
- **Overproduction** – sometimes good weather conditions support growth of fruit and vegetables so efficiently that too much is produced and, as a result, farmers can't sell the overabundance; in these cases food is often left in the field to rot.
- **Throwing away** – producers may choose to throw away 'ugly', misshapen fruit or vegetables; this is because, in many cases, the produce has to fulfil international standards, as otherwise it can't be sold in shops.
- **Faulty methods** – faulty methods of production, e.g. in factories, may lead to the waste of many foods.



These are some of the reasons why food is wasted before it even gets to a shop.

Limiting food waste at these stages might not be easy, as it may require legal changes, but there are a couple of ways which can help to limit the wastage.

- Farmers may choose to use pesticides or herbicides, or to grow foods in polytunnels to prevent crop failure caused by pests, vermin or weather conditions.
- Farmers can choose GM crops which are resistant to weather conditions.
- Farmers can try to sell the food more cheaply for freezing or canning.
- Factories can adjust their processing methods to minimise wastage.
- Factories can sell the food waste to produce natural fertilisers or animal feed.
- At all stages of production – when transporting, cleaning, sorting, cooking, packing or storing the food – producers can maintain proper conditions to prevent spoilage caused by microorganisms or rodents.

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- Factories can use packaging to protect food from external factors – modern modified atmosphere packaging or vacuum packaging can help to extend the shelf life without affecting nutritional value.
- Producers can use preservatives – although this might be socially unacceptable, it can extend the shelf life of food products.

Food waste in retailers

Smaller and larger shops struggle with large amounts of food which are not sold.

- not paying attention to date marks
- not storing the food in the correct conditions
- improper management and over-ordering

Shop managers may need to implement a couple of strategies to reduce food waste, such as:

- Daily check of date marks, especially of fresh produce – a food past its date mark cannot be sold.
- If a food is past its 'best before' date, it is usually still edible, so can be donated to food banks or even given for free to the shop workers and customers.
- Control storage conditions, both in the storeroom and in the sales hall – this applies especially to temperature and sunlight, as many foods will be packaged at this stage so will be protected from other external factors.
- Lower the price for foods which are close to their 'use by' date as they won't be safe to eat beyond that date.

What can you do to stop wasting food?

Food waste in homes is usually caused by buying too much, cooking too much, not paying attention to date marks or improper storage conditions. Food may also be wasted due to lack of skills or knowledge, for example, when a person buys a new product and doesn't know what to cook with it or when a person can't cook and burns the meal.

Reducing food waste at home can include:

- Planning your meals and writing a shopping list – buy only the foods you need, in the amount you need. That applies especially to fresh foods, which cannot be stored for a long time.
- Using leftovers – you can use cooked vegetables to prepare a salad (or a cream soup), leftover mashed potato can be used to prepare fish cakes, and stale bread is great for a pudding (or simply for breadcrumbs).
- Freezing foods that you cannot eat right away – that applies especially to meat and fish, and to cooked meals. Vegetables have to be blanched or pre-cooked before freezing.
- Serving only as much as you need. If there is too little, you can always ask for an extra helping.

If your food unfortunately gets spoiled or goes rotten, don't worry – store it in a compost (or give it to someone who owns a garden).

Research

Visit the website <https://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com> and try to list five ways you may contribute towards lowering food waste.

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Packaging and environment

Packaging as we know it became very popular after World War II – before that people used glass or paper containers to carry all kinds of food. Plastic bags gained popularity in the 1950s for their strength and convenience.

Food can be packed in various types of container: bags, sacks, boxes, bottles... Food packaging can be made from:

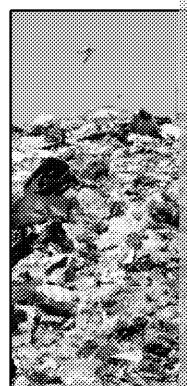
- paper and/or cardboard
- plastic
- glass
- steel
- aluminium (tins and cans)
- wood (baskets and crates)

The materials can also be combined; for example, to insulate cardboard boxes so that the contents stay at a constant temperature.

They are specially designed to:

- protect the food from external factors (such as light, oxygen, dirt or microorganisms)
- inform the consumer about the product (information)
- attract consumers to the product and tempt them to buy it (marketing)
- increase the shelf life of a given product

Packaging has a big impact on the environment – from the moment it is produced to the time it is discarded or destroyed. Production of packaging – no matter what material is used – entails the use of water, electricity, detergents, labour and other resources. Then, the packages have to be transported to the factory, where the food is packed – that contributes to the carbon footprint. After the food is eaten, packages are discarded – ideally, into recycling containers.



Landfill

British people buy 22 million metric tonnes of food every year – and all that food comes in packaging. It is important to dispose of the packaging properly, so it can be recycled or destroyed in a controllable, environmentally friendly way. This is because materials such as glass or plastic will not decompose at all or the process will take a long time (see table below). For this reason, the government and many international organisations strongly encourage the recycling of plastic bags used (introducing the 5p payment per bag has already halved the number of plastic bags used).

Did you know?

In 2013, British consumers took home 7.4 billion plastic bags from supermarkets.

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plastic-bag-numbers-rise-for-the-fifth-year>

Material	Time taken to decompose
Paper	2–6 weeks
Food	1–6 months
Milk cartons	5 years
Cigarette butts	10–12 years
Batteries	100 years
Aluminium cans	80–200 years

⁵ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-34346309>

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3.6.1.2 Check your understanding

1. Which of the following statements about food sustainability is UNTRUE?
 - a. It encourages people to limit food waste ☐
 - b. It helps use resources more efficiently ☐
 - c. It overexploits natural resources. ☐
 - d. It limits the carbon footprint ☐
2. Which of the following can be used in organic farming under certain conditions?
 - a. GM feed ☐
 - b. fertilisers ☐
 - c. herbicides ☐
 - d. antibiotics ☐
3. Food waste is produced by... (1 mark)
 - a. households ☐
 - b. retailers ☐
 - c. food producers ☐
 - d. all of the above ☐
4. Which of the following is TRUE about packaging? (1 mark)
 - a. It causes food spoilage.
 - b. It contributes to animal extinction.
 - c. It is used to pack perishable foods only.
 - d. Most of packaging cannot be recycled.
5. Food miles is the distance... (1 mark)
 - a. from the farm to the factory
 - b. from the farm to the shop
 - c. from the factory to the shop
 - d. from the farm to the consumer's home
6. Which of the following is UNTRUE about greenhouse gases? (1 mark)
 - a. They are released during food production and transportation.
 - b. They are harmless.
 - c. They can cause climate changes.
 - d. They include carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
7. Explain how deforestation and globalisation contribute to the increase in food miles.
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3.6.1.3 Sustainability of food

Sustainability of food concerns scientists, governments and ecologists all around the world. Climate change and growing population, may affect food availability in the future. New technologies can come to the rescue, keeping the most pessimistic visions at bay.

Climate change and global warming

Earth's climate changes in cycles – just like seasons. Temperatures on Earth have varied over thousands of years, causing the ice to form or melt, depending on the stage of a given cycle. But in the last century, we have experienced six glacial periods!

For centuries, climate change was caused by variations in Earth's orbit and in solar radiation. The amount of warmth determined the amount of warmth the planet received from the Sun. The Sun's rays pass through the atmosphere and are then reflected by Earth's surface. In normal conditions, the heat is reflected back into space without further consequences. Unfortunately, greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide) are trapped in Earth's atmosphere which traps the warmth. Therefore, Earth's surface and the atmosphere become warmer.



How do we know that global warming is not just part of Earth's cycle?

Thanks to modern technologies, scientists can measure and compare the amount of carbon dioxide in various ice layers in glaciers, and what they have found is undeniable. They have proved that carbon dioxide levels have varied over time, but they have never been as high as for the last 100 years. This means that the global warming we're experiencing now is not caused by nature alone, but by human actions. The massive production of greenhouse gases came about because of the Industrial Revolution, and although increased automation allowed people to produce many different goods in large amounts and ship them all over the world, the price for all this convenience is increased carbon footprint and global warming.

Did you know?

The level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by over 40% since the 1950s. This is a significant increase.

Source: <http://www.ourworldindata.org>

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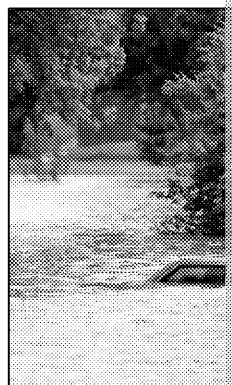
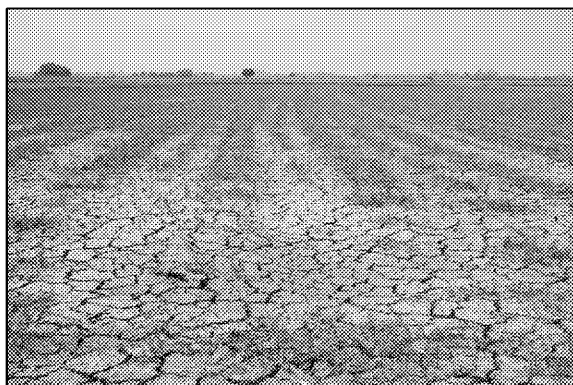


The main reasons for rising carbon dioxide levels are:

- burning coal, oil and wood to obtain energy, and also for food production and transport in many countries
- deforestation to obtain fuel and land for agriculture

Global warming is dangerous. It can lead to:

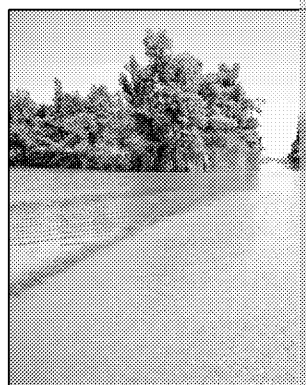
- melting of glaciers and a rise in sea levels
- a rise in global temperatures
- warming of the oceans
- extreme events such as hurricanes, intense rainfall, heatwaves, droughts and
- acidification of the oceans



Droughts and floods are both the effect of climate change and have a devastating impact on the environment.



A flooded farm



A farm which is so badly flooded that it's a farm at sea.

How does climate change affect food production and availability?

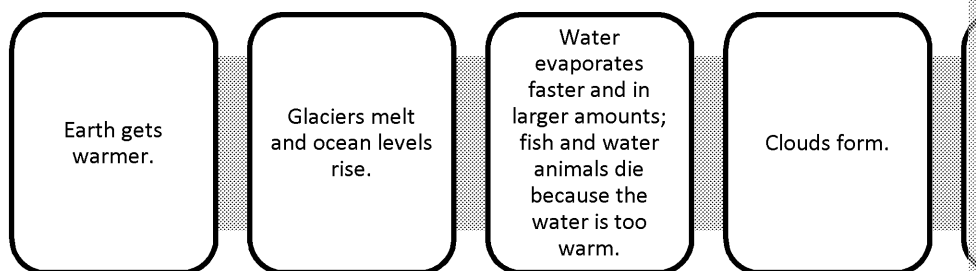
The effects of global warming that have been observed over the past 50 years are:

- They cause the mass extinction of many animal and plant species, as many of the new conditions (such as high temperatures or lack of water).
- They lead to the disappearance of land and whole countries under water, significant land which can be used for planting crops or grazing farm animals.
- They can cause food shortages and famine by causing crop failure (due to both droughts and floods).
- They change the pattern of the seasons, which can affect plants' life cycles and the timing of harvests.

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How does this work?



How can we ensure food availability when facing climate change?

Climate change is a global problem. It affects individuals, communities and whole countries. Around the world are involved in the fight against carbon dioxide emissions. An example is the Paris Agreement, which obligates 197 countries to undertake certain actions to help reduce global warming. Actions have to be taken to:

- mitigate (stabilise and reduce) levels of CO₂ released into the atmosphere, e.g. by switching from fossil fuels to water or solar power, limiting transportation and using more energy-efficient buildings, limiting the use of packaging, lowering food waste, recycling and reusing goods
- adapt to the changes that have already happened – this involves making the most of the experience, such as a prolonged summer which allows more crops to grow



Things to think about

Discuss how food waste, transportation and packaging contribute to climate change.

Research

Visit the website <http://climate.nasa.gov> and list things you and your family can do to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and lower your contribution towards climate change.

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Availability of food

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), at any given time and place, any person should have access to sufficient amounts of food. The growth of the human population means that more and more food has to be produced.

What makes food available?

- Sufficient production – means that enough food is made; intensive farming and genetic modification (as GM) have made it possible, but unfortunately almost all that food stays in the fields.
- Access to retailers – means that shops or farmers are close enough for people to get food from them
- Price – means that a person has enough money to buy the food she or he needs.

What threatens food availability?

- Climate change and the effects of global warming
- Droughts, which make growing plants impossible
- Floods, which damage the crops
- Pollution caused by production and transportation of goods
- Insufficient land for growing food – there are more and more people to feed
- Lack of resources, such as water or fossil fuels
- Overexploitation of soil, which decreases its usefulness for growing plants
- Poverty and lack of money

What does 'nutritious food' mean?

Food should not only fill you up and stop you feeling hungry – it is also a source of important macro- and microelements, which are crucial for the proper growth, development and functioning of the body. The food should, therefore, be rich in nutrients such as proteins, fats, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals. The abundance of cheap, low-quality food in developed countries has led to the situation where 1.9 billion people worldwide are overweight or obese,⁹ and at the same time 30% of them are undernourished.¹⁰

Food poverty

Food poverty means that a person or a family doesn't have enough money to buy (healthy and nutritious) food. In many areas, especially in developing countries, this leads to diseases and deaths. UNICEF states that half of the deaths among children under five are due to undernutrition.¹¹ Food poverty is not restricted to poor countries only. Even rich countries like the United Kingdom struggle with the problem. According to OXFAM, 2 million British people live in food poverty while another 500,000 rely on food parcels from charities to feed their families.¹²

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⁸ http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/sustainability/Presentations/Availability.pdf

⁹ <http://hungerreport.org/2016/infographics-2/>

¹⁰ <http://drhyman.com/blog/2012/02/29/how-malnutrition-causes-obesity/>

¹¹ <http://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

¹² http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/inequality/food-poverty#contentprimary_0_ctl00_

What can be done to make food available?

- Many international organisations, such as the Red Cross, deliver free food to war zones
- Increase salaries – although this is not easy to do, since it depends on many factors
- Decrease prices and make food more affordable for people, especially those in need, done by supporting local farmers
- Food vouchers – which are a way of helping people financially without giving money from being misused, because it can be spent on food only, and not on other things
- Create food banks – places where food can be given for free to those in need
- Avoid food waste – and give what you don't eat to those who might need it
- Use modern technologies, such as GM crops, to induce more efficient agriculture
- Improve storage conditions to enhance the shelf life, e.g. by the use of modified atmosphere and vacuum packaging.

Research

Read the report on

<http://www.manchesterfoodpoverty.co.uk/sites/default/files/Facts%20and%20Figures%20Report.pdf> and the reasons and outcomes of food poverty in Great Britain

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How much land is needed to make food?

37% of land in the world is used for agriculture. In some countries, fields and orchards cover a large proportion of a country's surface, while in other countries the area dedicated to agriculture is much smaller.

Country	% of area used for agriculture
United Kingdom	70%
Switzerland	60%
Spain	50%
Norway	3%
Libya	0%
Brazil	12%
Algeria	1%

There are various reasons which determine how much land is used to grow food:

- Climate – if it's too hot or too cold, the food cannot be grown (compare Libya, which is mostly desert, and Norway, which is mostly covered in snow)
- Possibility of droughts and floods – usually, land in high-risk areas is not used for agriculture
- Landform – e.g. high mountains are usually impossible to use for agriculture (this is mostly in the Alps), but flat areas of land are good for the purpose (look at Spain)
- Access to water – water is necessary to grow plants and feed animals, so its availability is important (look at Brazil and Libya again)
- Quality of the soil – nutrient-rich soil in Spain or Great Britain allows plant growth, while the soil in Algeria doesn't.
- Government policy – if a government supports local farming, more land area will be used for agriculture.

Land is used to rear animals and grow plants in order to produce meat, milk, eggs and animal feed.¹⁴ Research shows that the lacto-vegetarian diet is the most efficient in terms of fossil energy use. To produce food for a vegetarian, less than 0.4 ha of land is needed, while to produce meat and products eaten in a conventional diet, the area needed is 1.4 ha. The area includes the land used to grow plants, vegetables and fruit to feed the people and the area used to grow animal feed.

Since the world population is on the rise and the land surface isn't expanding (quite the opposite, due to climate change), it is important to use the remaining resources in a clever way. The Vegetarian Society, a cow needs 7 kg of grain to produce 1 kg of beef, while a pig needs 3 kg of grain to produce 1 kg of pork. 70% of all the land used for agriculture is grazing land.¹⁵ A simple change in diet (reducing the amount of meat eaten) can contribute to food sustainability.

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¹³ <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/AG.LND.AGRI.ZS>

¹⁴ <http://ajcn.nutrition.org/content/78/3/660S.full>

¹⁵ <http://www.vegsoc.org/document.doc?id=524>

Fairtrade

Although slavery was banned in 1833, modern societies tend to overexploit their resources – including labour – in order to produce more goods and create a bigger profit. In many countries, children are forced to work, and people are not paid fairly for their work – which leads to high poverty rates in such countries as China, Indonesia and India.¹⁶

Fairtrade is, therefore, a way of stopping modern slavery. It has the following benefits:

- fair prices and wages for producers and farmers
- decent working conditions (such as working hours, breaks and tools)
- ends child labour and forced labour
- empowers local farmers, their families and communities – having more money allows them to make choices about their lives and send their children to school
- enables local growth and sustainability

Fairtrade rules are designed to enhance the social, economic and environmental lives of producers – not large intercontinental corporations.

The most popular Fairtrade products include:¹⁷

- bananas
- chocolate/cocoa beans
- coffee beans and tea leaves
- cotton
- sugar

Did you know?

The United Kingdom is the largest Fairtrade market in the world!

Apply

While shopping, try to find five products that come from Fairtrade producers.



Research

Research and prepare a presentation on Fairtrade standards are...

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¹⁶ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/overview>

¹⁷ <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/en/buying-fairtrade>



3.6.1.3 Check your understanding

1. Which of the following statements about climate change is UNTRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. It is caused mainly by eruptions on the Sun. ☐
 - b. It leads to global warming. ☐
 - c. It causes mass cataclysms. ☐
 - d. It is caused by greenhouse gases. ☐
2. Which diet is the most efficient in terms of land sustainability? (1 mark)
 - a. vegan ☐
 - b. lacto-vegetarian ☐
 - c. pescatarian ☐
 - d. fruitarian ☐
3. Which statement is TRUE about food poverty? (1 mark)
 - a. It affects only developing countries. ☐
 - b. It does not exist in developed countries. ☐
 - c. It does not exist in developing countries. ☐
 - d. It affects people in both developed and developing countries. ☐
4. Which of the following does not contribute to an increase in carbon footprint? (1 mark)
 - a. using oil as fuel ☐
 - b. using carbon as fuel ☐
 - c. using wood as fuel ☐
 - d. building wind- and solar-driven power plants ☐
5. Which of the following statements is TRUE about Fairtrade? (1 mark)
 - a. It empowers local farmers. ☐
 - b. It allows fair payments for workers. ☐
 - c. It helps stop child labour. ☐
 - d. All of the above. ☐
6. State two factors which can improve food availability, and two factors which can improve food provenance. (2 marks)

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3.6.1 Quiz-ine

Fill in the answers to the questions below and then use the letters from the grey boxes to sustainability of food.

1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
11										
12										
13										

- Animals reared to provide food or other goods (9)
- The distance travelled between a farm and a plate (4,5)
- Grown or reared without the use of chemicals or GM products (7)
- Long plastic construction for growing plants in (10)
- The most popular grain in the world (4)
- The meat of a deer (7)
- Eggs that are labelled with number 1 (4,5)
- Bacteria species found on raw eggs (10)
- The most widespread genetically modified crop (7)
- The practice of reusing items that would otherwise be discarded as waste (9)
- An artificial product that never decomposes (9)
- When they melt, the sea level rises (8)
- Food that provides no nutrients (5,8)

The shaded squares reveal this word:

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Chapter 2: Food processing and

Overview

In this chapter you will learn what primary and secondary processes the food has to go through before finding its way to your plate. You will also learn how the processing affects nutritional and sensory features of the food. Lastly, you will discover how technology helps obtain food that improves health, and what additives in foods are for.

Learning outcomes

After studying this chapter you should be able to

- ☐ describe the difference between primary and secondary processing
- ☐ distinguish between processed and unprocessed foods
- ☐ explain how processing affects the nutritional value of foods
- ☐ list what additives are used in foods and explain their functions
- ☐ explain how technology can help make food safer and healthier

Key Terms

Fortification	A process in which vitamins and minerals are added to food to increase their nutritional value
Additives	Artificial or natural substances that do not usually occur naturally in food to enhance their features or shelf life
Primary processing	All actions applied to food that do not change its features significantly
Secondary processing	Actions applied to food which change its features significantly
Bran	Outer layer of a grain
Pasteurisation	A process in which product is heated to 72 °C to kill harmful microorganisms and enhance shelf life
Sterilisation	A process in which a food is heated to high temperature to kill all microorganisms and spores and enhance shelf life
Fermentation	A process in which sugar is turned into lactic acid or alcohol, often conducted by bacteria and yeast
Coagulation	A process by which proteins aggregate together and form solids, such as yogurt and cheese
Probiotic	Bacteria species that are beneficial for health
Rennet	An enzyme found in calves' stomachs, used in cheese production
Curd	Coagulated milk, a stage in cheese production
Whey	A milky liquid by-product of cheese production
Lactose	Milk sugar
Trans fats	Harmful fats generated as an effect of prolonged heating of oils
Homogenisation	The process of breaking down fat molecules to make them more evenly throughout the mixture
Irradiation	The application of ionizing radiation to food products to extend shelf life by killing microorganisms and insects.

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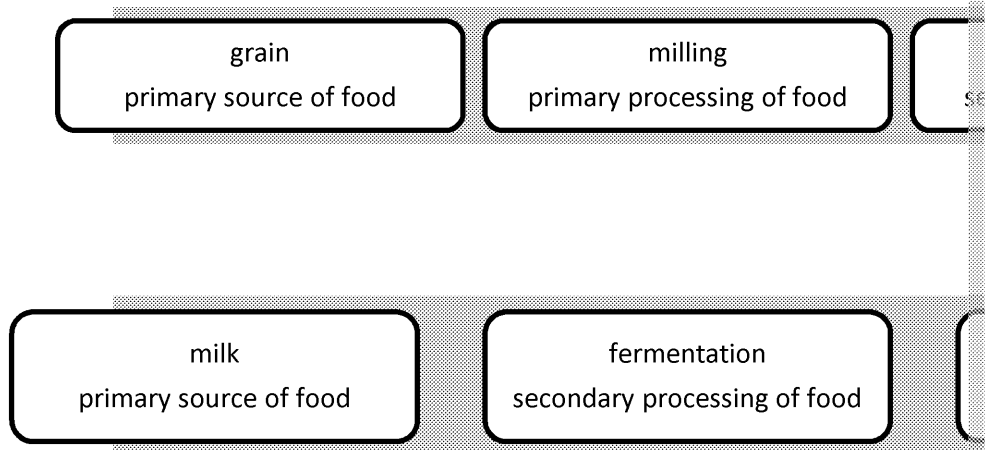


3.6.2.1 Food production

Food production is the process of growing crops and rearing animals, and then ch
appetising meals. Many raw products are edible, but still have to go through some
they can be actually eaten; for example, strawberries have to be washed and potatoes
processed to ensure it's safe to eat, lengthen its shelf life, maintain its nutritional
use, and assure its variety and affordability. Food processing includes two main st

1. **Primary processing**, which makes the food usable
2. **Secondary processing**, to make food more convenient to use and lengthen its

The foods in their natural state are called primary sources of food – they include f
eggs in their natural, raw state. If they are processed in any way, they are called s
can see examples of primary and secondary sources of food on the diagram below



Primary processing of food

Primary processing of food consists of all actions taken to make raw produce rea
does not affect the features of nutritional value of food products in a significant w

Primary processing of plant-derived foods

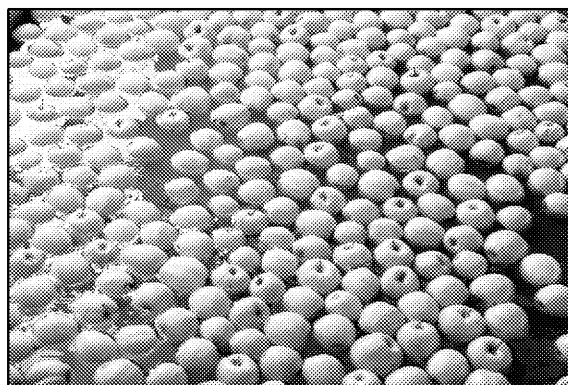
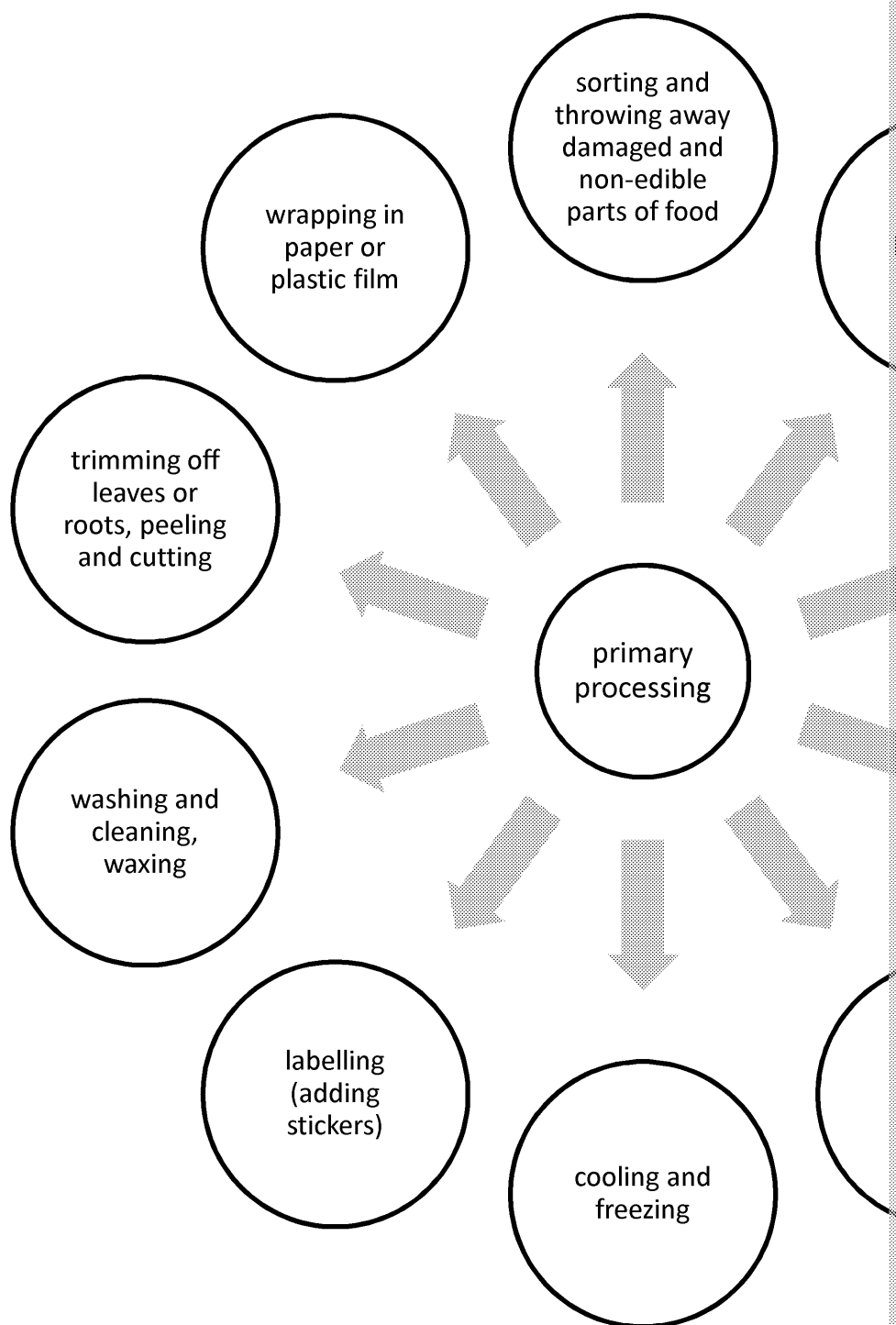
That includes actions taken after the produce has been harvested or picked, such
slicing, bagging, labelling and many other actions taken to make sure the plant-de
eaten or used for further processing.

Primary processed fruit and vegetables are usually sold raw, dried or frozen, eithe
primary processes applied to plant-derived foods are shown in the diagram below

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Apples are washed and waxed before being packed and shipped to shops

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The first couple of primary processes are pretty straightforward – the food has to be washed, trimmed to remove inedible parts, and sorted to separate it from misshapen or damaged items. It can then either be prepared for sale (e.g. by waxing and adding stickers) or processed further to make it safer to use. These stages could include one or more of the following processes:

Blanching is the process in which fruit or vegetables are immersed into boiling water (for around two minutes) and then plunged into ice-cold water. The process is mainly used for vegetables, but some fruit and vegetables before freezing. Blanching prevents the food from being discoloured and preserves its nutritional value.

Cooling includes refrigeration and freezing foods – all the way from the factory to the point of sale. The point of this is to slow down the growth of microorganisms which could spoil the food and reduce its value.

Drying is a process in which most of the water in food is evaporated at high temperature. Lack of water makes food less prone to microorganism growth and, therefore, extends its shelf life. Drying can be applied to foods that are resistant to heat, and helps obtain such products as powdered milk, cereals, potato flakes and powdered soups.

Another way of reducing the amount of water in food is **freeze-drying** (lyophilisation). In this technique, food is first frozen (e.g. in liquid nitrogen) and only then is water removed from it under low pressure (usually in vacuum). The effect is a powder or granules – like instant coffee. Freeze-drying is also used to dry herbs and fruit. Drying and freeze-drying may lower the amount of water-soluble vitamins in the final product, as they may be evaporated together with water.

Storing the food usually means keeping it in coolers, fridges, freezers or other kind of storage for a prolonged period of time. Storage conditions are very important and have to be controlled to protect the product. During storage, the proper temperature, lighting, air quality and protection from pests must be ensured, as otherwise the food could be spoiled and lose its nutritional value, as well as its appearance.

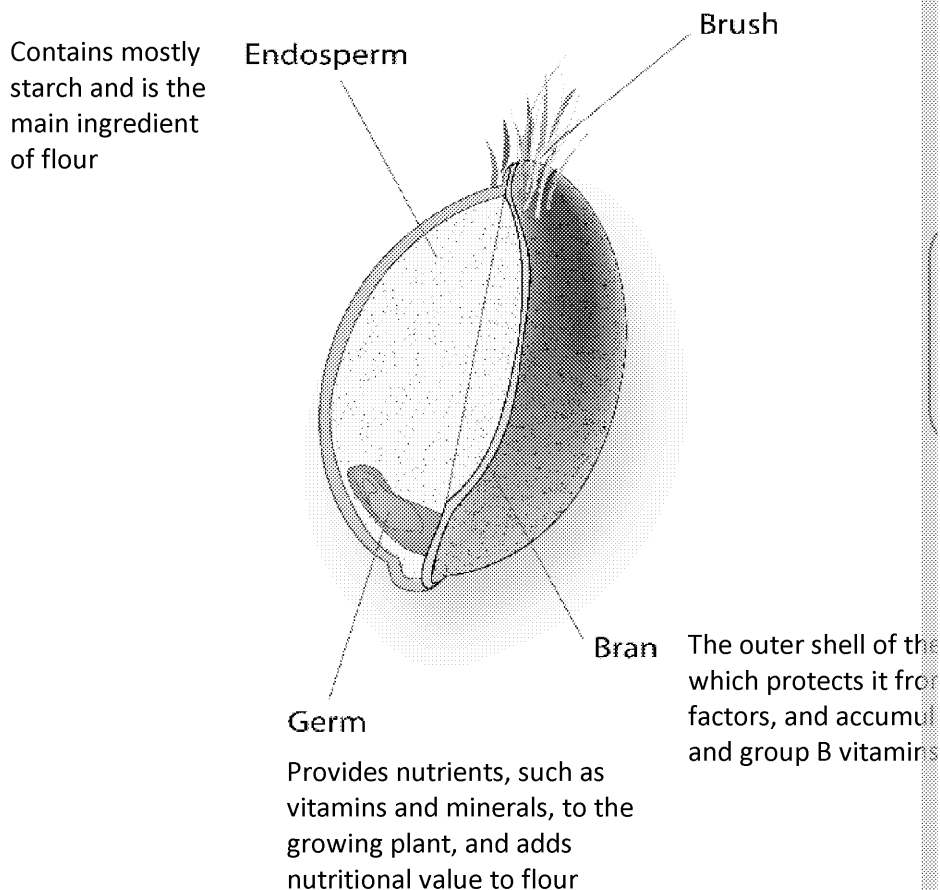
Primary processing also includes **milling** – turning grains into flour, which then can be used in secondary processing – refining of sugar or extraction of corn kernels from the cob.

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How is flour made?

Flour is a powder obtained as a result of milling grains, such as wheat, barley, rye.



After the grains have been harvested, they are sieved to separate dirt, stones, little pieces of metal and other possible contaminants. That stage is called 'purification'.

After the grain has been purified, it is washed in warm water and dried in a centrifuge. This usually increases the amount of water in the grain and makes it easier to peel.

Afterwards, the grain is ground – it goes through breaker rolls, which open it and separate the **bran**. As a result, a 'first break flour', semolina and large pieces of wheat grain are produced.

The 'first break flour' is then removed, and semolina and large pieces of wheat grain are rolled repeatedly a few times (usually up to five) to produce fine flour.

After each reduction roll, the flour goes through metal sieves, which sort the final product into plain flour and germ. If the flour is not separated, it is called wholemeal flour.

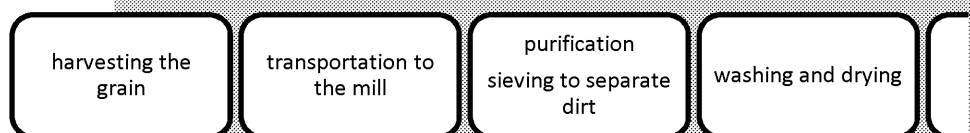
Since most of the micronutrients in grains are located close to the bran, white wheat flour is fairly poor in them, and, therefore, is obligatorily fortified in iron, thiamine, nicotinic acid and calcium carbonate.

The germ that's left from milling can be used to produce wholemeal flour, bran cereals, animal feed or even edible plates!

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The main stages of flour production are presented in the diagram below.



Wh

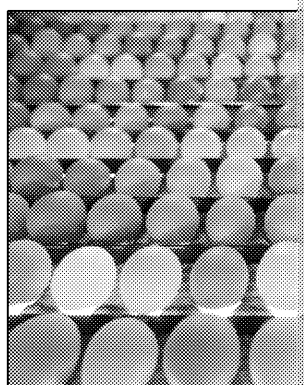
There are many varieties of flour available on the market – many of them are made from other kinds of flour. They differ in gluten content, micronutrient content and use.

Type of flour	Description and
Strong flour	As it is high in gluten, it is best for making
Plain flour	Low in gluten, it is best for shortcrust and in baking (biscuits, cakes, scones, doughnuts)
Self-raising flour	Contains a raising agent, so can be used with scones and biscuits
Wholemeal flour	High in fibre; usually added to bread to improve
Semolina	Coarse flour used to make pasta
Gluten-free flour (i.e. corn starch)	As it has no gluten, it is not ideal for making (and crumbly) but can be used as a thickener in gluten-free pasta
Rye flour	High in gluten; can be used to prepare a soft

Primary processing of animal foods includes all actions taken to prepare the raw materials for further processing, such as draining blood from killed animals, skinning, removing the carcasses (which can also be left whole), plucking feathers, filleting, or removing bones. For raw animal foods edible, eggs are washed (and labelled) and milk is pasteurised.



Feathers are plucked and chicken is portioned



Eggs are washed and sorted through quality control and packaging

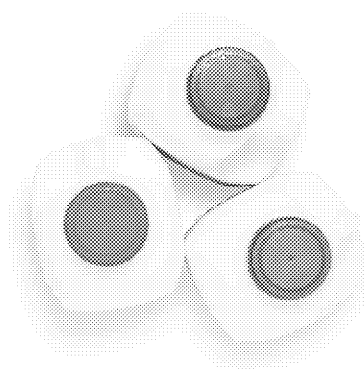
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Primary processing of milk

After the milk has been collected from cows, it is transported to dairy factories, where it can be **pasteurised**, **sterilised**, **homogenised** and even turned into other products such as yogurt or cheese.

1. **Pasteurisation** of milk is a process in which the milk is heated to 72 °C for 15 seconds and then cooled. This process kills harmful bacteria and extends shelf life. It doesn't usually affect nutritional value or any other features of the milk.
2. Ultra-high temperature (UHT) processing of milk is a process in which milk is quickly heated to 135 °C for one second and immediately cooled. As a result, all the bacteria are killed (also the good ones) and the milk can be kept at ambient temperature. Since the process is very short, it doesn't affect the nutritional value of milk in a significant way.
3. Milk is an emulsion in which fat particles float in water. To prevent them from separating, milk is processed through **homogenisation**. Homogenisation forces the milk under very high pressure. Consequently, fat particles become very small and, therefore, create a stable emulsion. Homogenisation doesn't affect the nutritional value of milk, but can improve its texture and appearance (milk molecules are dispersed more evenly in the mixture and can reflect the light more effectively, making it look whiter).
4. **Sterilisation** is a process designed to kill all microorganisms present in raw milk. It is usually achieved by heating milk to 110 °C for 30 minutes. Sterilisation inactivates enzymes and damages cell membranes. High temperature also causes complex reactions to happen between molecules of milk, resulting in a 'cooked' flavour. As a result, brown pigments and aromatic agents are produced. Therefore, sterilised milk has a different flavour, colour or smell. Also, the temperature and length of sterilisation will affect the nutritional value of milk, particularly B vitamins.
5. Milk can also be microfiltered. During microfiltration, milk passes under low pressure through fine membranes, which collect bacteria and some fat. For that reason, microfiltered milk contains a smaller amount of fat in milk in order to obtain semi-skimmed or skimmed milk. Semi-skimmed milk is poorer in fat-soluble vitamins, since they are removed, together with the fat. Microfiltration can also change the flavour of the milk, which may become more watery and provide a different texture compared to whole milk. Microfiltration helps to extend milk's shelf life by up to 45 days.



Depending on the amount of fat in milk, it can be labelled blue (full fat), green (semi-skimmed) or red (skimmed)

Exam

Drying of milk is usually done to extend shelf life and sensory properties for sterilisation.

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Research

Visit the website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/xF8zVbpwt> to discover **have-thought-it-surprising-facts-about-our-favourite-foods** to discover and consumed in Great Britain.

Primary processing of meat

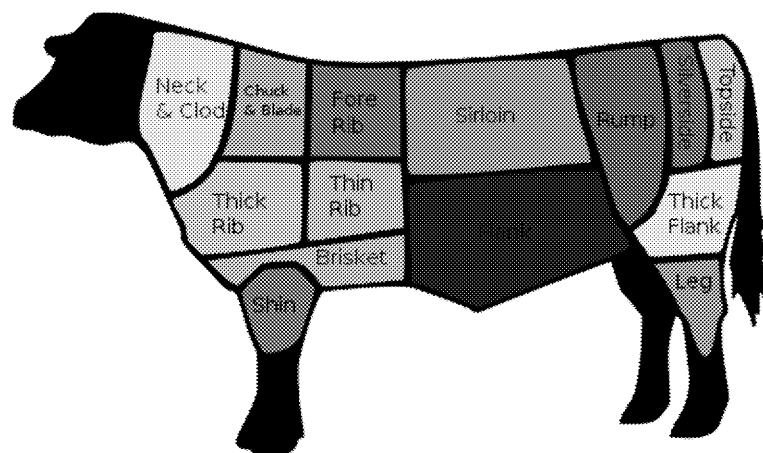
Meat is obtained from the muscle tissue of animals, such as cows, lambs, pigs and birds. It is made up of:

- two types of proteins (myosin and actin) which make the muscle fibres and give them the ability to contract and stretch; during cooking, the protein in meat will denature, and the fibres will break down, making a piece of meat to become smaller and leak some meat juice.
- connective tissue (made of collagen and elastin) which surrounds the fibres and gives them strength. It attaches it to the bones, forming tendons
 - When the meat is cooked, the collagen dissolves and softens, and can be extracted and used to set savoury and sweet dishes.
 - The elastin builds mainly the tendons and ligaments which join the bones together and remain even after cooking.
- fatty tissue, which is located both in the muscle structure (intramuscular fat) and around it (visible fat); during cooking, the fat will melt and make the meat more tender.

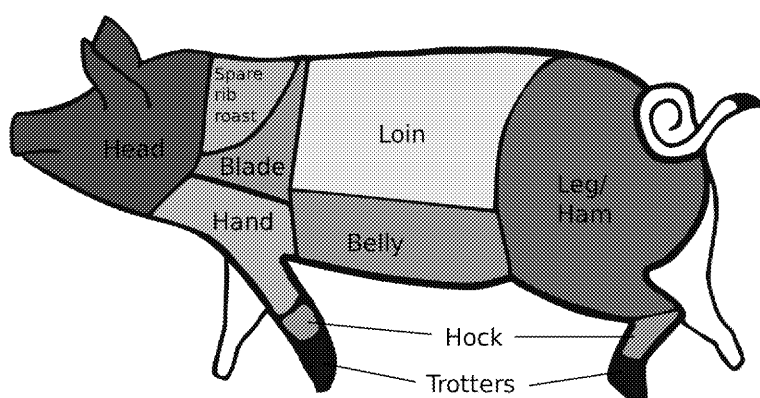
After the animal has been killed, it has to be shaved or plucked, skinned and divided into pieces (the cuts differ between countries).

The animals are cut into various pieces depending on the muscle structure and position. Tender parts, such as sirloin, are low in connective tissue and usually require a short cooking time (they can be used for steaks). Tougher cuts are high in connective tissue and require long cooking times (e.g. hocks and trotters of the pig, are very high in elastin, and can be used for making savoury jelly made with meat and vegetables). The less-popular cuts, such as the hocks and trotters, are minced to produce various kinds of sausages.

The different cuts of beef, pork and lamb, and their culinary uses, are shown in the diagrams below.



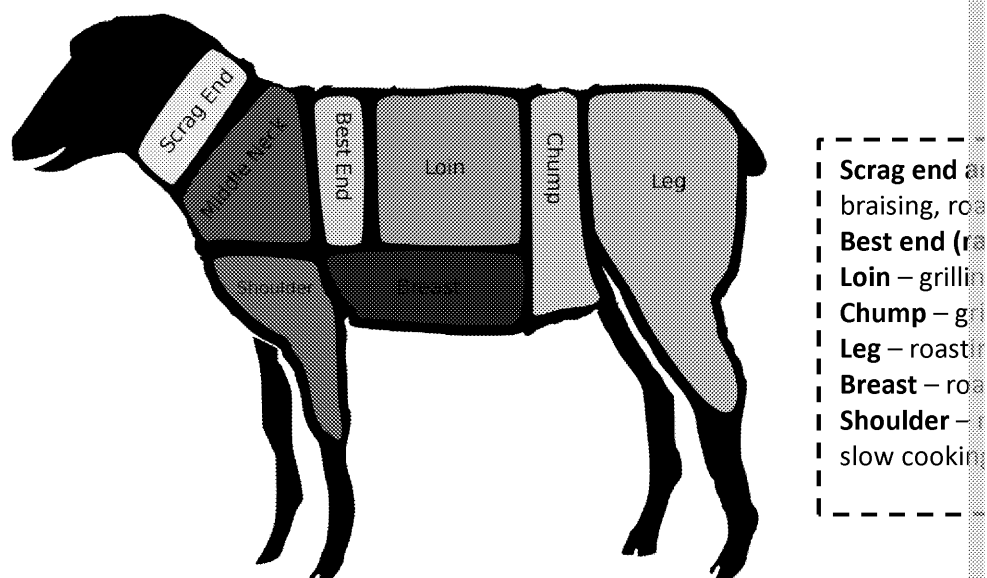
Chuck and blade – used for braising
Fore rib – used for roasting
Sirloin – steaks, also used in mince
Rump – steaks
Silverside – used for roasting
Flank (skirt) – used for roasting
Leg and shank – used for roasting
Thin rib – used for roasting
Thick rib – used for roasting
Brisket – used for roasting



Head – slow cooking
Spare rib – used for roasting
Blade – slow cooking
Loin – grilling
Leg (ham) – used for roasting, braising, roasting
Belly – bacon, roasting, braising
Hand – slow cooking
Hocks and trotters – used for making jelly

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After being killed, the body of an animal goes through many chemical changes. To improve the tenderness of the meat, it can be hung. Hanging requires low temperature and a certain length of time (at least seven days for red meat, around two days for poultry). During this time, the proteins in the meat relax and are partially broken down by the enzymes present. This makes the meat softer and easier to digest. Also, during that time, certain aromatic compounds in the meat become more pronounced, making the meat taste better. The color of the meat becomes dark red.

Other primary processes applied to meat can include:

Chilling	Usually applied to separate cuts, which can be then shipped to stores
Freezing	To extend shelf life
Mincing	To improve the texture, especially of very tough meat cuts Minced meat can be sold, or can be used in the factory to make products

Primary processing of fish

The primary processes applied to fish differ depending on various factors, such as:

- whether the fish is to be sold fresh, frozen, smoked, or canned
- whether the fish is to be sold whole, in fillets, or in pieces

Fish for culinary purposes can be divided into subgroups depending on:

- their natural environment – saltwater fish or freshwater fish
- their shape – flatfish or roundfish
- their fat content – lean fish (less than 5% fat), mid-fat fish and oily fish (more than 5% fat)

The examples of each are shown in the table below.

Type of fish	
Saltwater fish	Cod, Mackerel
Freshwater fish	Carp
Flatfish	Sea bream
Roundfish	Carp, Sea bream
Lean fish	Cod, Sea bream
Mid-fat fish	Halibut
Oily fish	Herring

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The muscles of fish are built of short fibres separated by connective tissue built of collagen are very thin, it softens and dissolves quickly during cooking – for this reason cooking time. Collagen from the connective tissue and bones releases some gelatin to prepare aspic.

The primary processing related to fish usually involves:

- trimming – removing the fins
- cleaning – removing dirt and sand
- removing scales
- cutting – usually into fillets (tender meat blocks with no bones) or steaks (chunks) (which may be used to prepare fish preserves or sold in packets for preparation)
- chilling or freezing – depending whether the fish is to be sold fresh or frozen



Fresh salmon prepared to be frozen in the factory

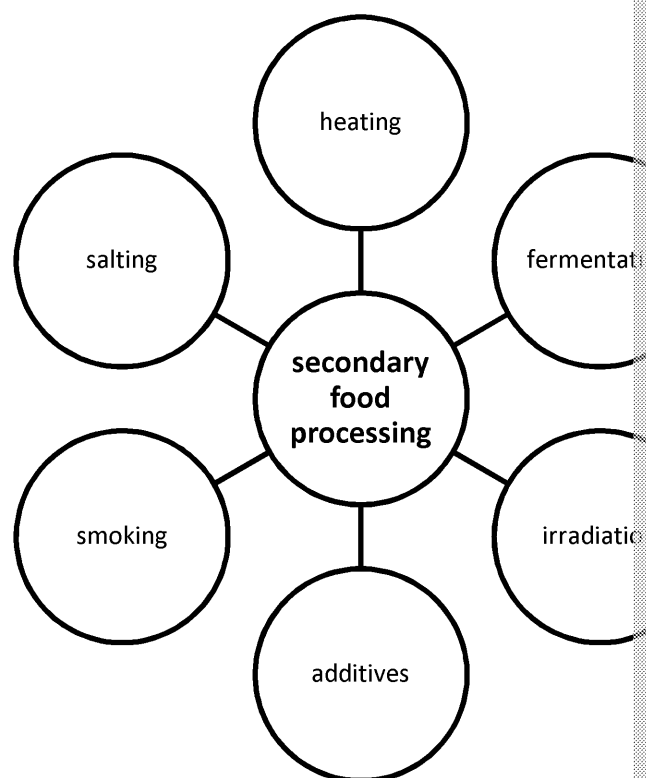
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Secondary processing of food

Secondary processing of food allows it to be used to make new products, which are different from the ingredients they were made from. This may be turning flour and eggs into a cake or turning milk into yogurt.

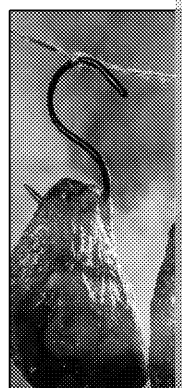
The main methods of secondary food processing include:



Heating is about cooking food in order to kill pathogenic microbes, changing its texture and appearance to make it more convenient and appealing to consumers. Heating increases the shelf life of food. The food package remains closed. Heating also includes **pasteurisation** and **sterilisation** of milk and fruit juices, and **canning** of meat and vegetable preserves.

Salting usually is applied to meats and fish. This is a very old technique, which was used to preserve food before fridges were invented. Salting changes the structure of the food and significantly extends the shelf life. An example of a salted food is beef jerky.

Smoking is a process applied mainly to cheese, fish and meats. It is carried out in specially designed smoking chambers. Smoke preserves the food and changes its flavour, so it is important to use the right kind of wood – e.g. oak, beech, alder or maple, with addition of other kinds of wood (such as juniper), herbs and vegetables (such as garlic) to alter the flavour and obtain the desired product. Smoking can be conducted in cool temperatures (around 30 °C) or in warm conditions (up to 90 °C), and usually takes from a couple of hours to as much as a month.



Ham and sausage

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Fermentation is a process in which microorganisms – such as bacteria, mould or yeast – turn sugars into carbon dioxide and other substances, such as lactic acid or alcohol. Fermentation is used to obtain yogurt, kefir, cheese, wine, beer, bread, and even cold cuts such as salami.

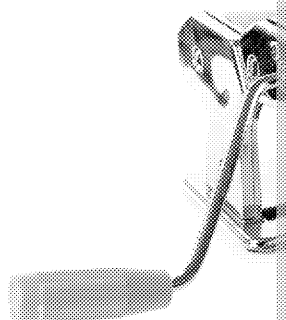
Another way of preserving the nutritional value of foods and extending their shelf life is **irradiation**. In this process, ionising radiation is applied to foods in order to kill harmful bacteria and reduce the need to use preservatives. The World Health Organization states that such foods as raw chicken, cocoa beans, dates, mango, papaya, potatoes, onion, legumes, spices, strawberries, raw fish, fish preserves and grains can be irradiated without harm, although countries can state their own law in the matter. In the UK, irradiation of food is legal, and includes fruit, vegetables, cereals, bulbs and tubers and shellfish, and poultry. It is mandatory to include proper information on the packaging if ingredients were irradiated.

The addition of food **additives** changes its flavour, colour, and/or texture and extends shelf life. This will be discussed in more detail later.

How pasta is made

Flour is a product of primary processing of grains. It can be used later to produce bread, pasta, cakes, shortbread, pizza, sauces, waffles, muffins and pancakes.

The basic recipe for pasta includes flour and warm water. To change the flavour, eggs, spices and colourants (natural or artificial) can be also added. First, flour and other ingredients are added (such as eggs, colourants and herbs). Once the dough is pressed between large cylinders, changing the dough into a thin sheet, which is then cut into pasta. The sheet can be cut into various shapes. Afterwards, the sheet can be cut into small pieces. The pasta can then be cooked, refrigerated, frozen or dried.



A pasta maker can be used for both pressing the dough and cutting it – and the width of the sheet can be adjusted.

How bread is made

Bread, in many different forms, is known in various countries all around the world. Bread is most popular in many countries such as Great Britain or the USA, more so in countries with a long history of bread-making. There are many different breads from different cuisines, such as naan bread from India or South American bread.

The main ingredients of bread include flour, water and salt. Depending on the type of bread, it can be sourdough or yeast.



Cheese is a food product.

Apply the same process to the following food products using the same process.

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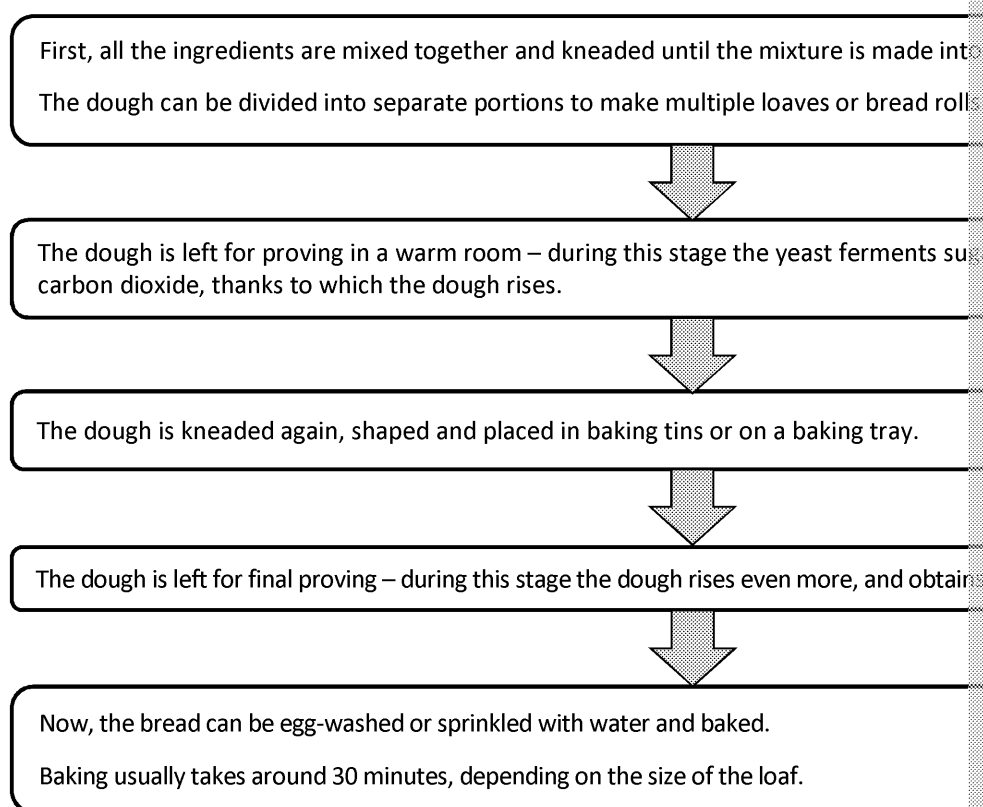
Flour is necessary to make the structure and bulk of the bread. When the flour is in it combine and form gluten. Gluten has the form of a net, which creates the structure. The quality of the flour plays a vital role in the final texture and taste of the bread.

Water helps to develop gluten in the dough.

Salt is used for many reasons. It improves the flavour of the bread, strengthens the gluten, slows down the growth of microorganisms and prevents the dough from overgrowing. Since it competes with sugars from flour for water, it also helps to make the brown crust during baking, as the sugars caramelize.

The last ingredient – either sourdough or yeast – is used in bread as a leavening agent. In the presence of warmth, water and food (sugar), the microorganisms ferment the sugar and produce carbon dioxide. The gas expands and rises, and is trapped in the gluten net, which helps to obtain the final structure and volume of the bread.

The stages of bread making are shown in the diagram below.



Various producers may also choose to add:

- seeds, nuts, herbs or spices – to improve the taste, aroma and nutritional value of the bread; they can be both added to the dough and sprinkled on top
- vinegar – to preserve the bread and extend its shelf life
- vegetable fat – to make the dough lighter due to aeration and to extend the shelf life

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How yogurt is made

Yogurt is a result of milk **fermentation**, conducted by the **probiotic** bacteria. During this process, the bacteria convert the lactose in the milk into lactic acid. Depending on the species of bacteria and fat content in the milk, the yogurt can be more liquid, and will have a tangy or more delicate flavour. Ready-to-eat yogurts are available, which are advantageous for health.

First, milk has to be **pasteurised** to kill all the harmful bacteria and protect it from spoilage. It is also filtered and **homogenised**, to obtain a smooth texture. Next, bacteria are added and stirred into the milk, which then spends some time in warm conditions – around 40 °C to allow the bacteria to grow and process the sugar. Since acid causes proteins to denature and coagulate, yogurt is much thicker than milk and has a sour taste.

Once the yogurt is set, various **additives** may be added to it – most popular yogurts contain fruits or jams, cereals, sugar, coffee extracts or toffee sauce.

There are various types of yogurt available, depending on the quality of ingredients used and details of the production process.

Yogurt type	Description
Natural full-fat yogurt	Made of whole milk with no additives The most basic type of yogurt Creamy and tangy
Low-fat yogurt	Made of semi-skimmed milk Usually runnier than full-fat yogurt Can contain starch, gelatin
Greek yogurt	Thick and creamy High in fat Whey is drained off during production
Live yogurt (bio yogurt)	Less acidic than 'normal' yogurt Contains various bacteria to aid the digestive system

Yogurt is a source of **probiotic** bacteria and high biological value proteins. Since it can also be considered as part of a diet for lactose-intolerant people.

Did you know?

Probiotic bacteria are beneficial for your health

- They limit the growth of pathogens
- They boost the immune system
- They regulate bowel movements
- They help fight off diarrhoea and constipation
- They improve ingestion of macronutrients
- They produce vitamins!

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Apply

You can make a yogurt yourself!

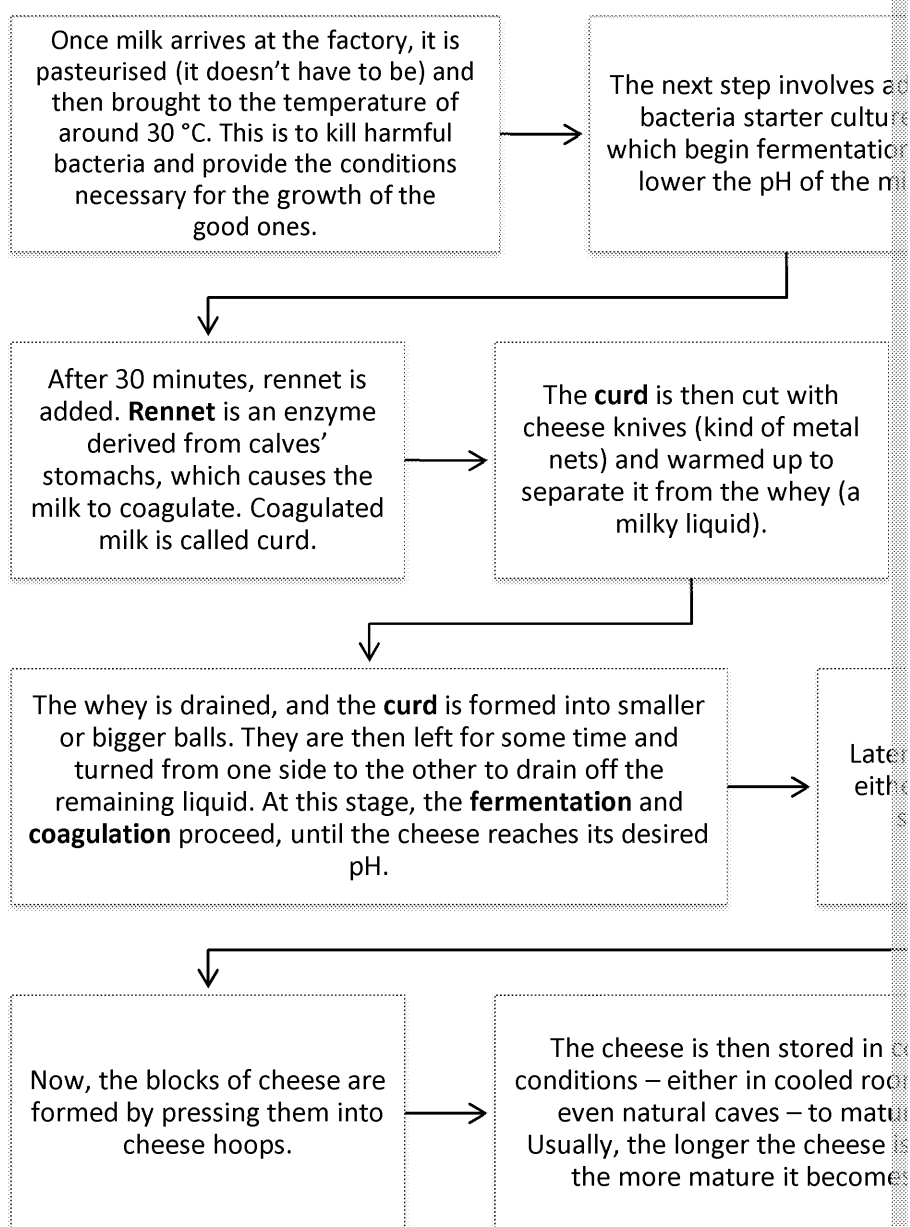
1. Heat up 1 litre of milk until it reaches 80 °C.
2. Cool it down to 42 °C.
3. Add 60 g of natural yogurt with live bacteria (check the label!) and stir.
4. Keep the container in warm conditions for a couple of hours.
5. Once the yogurt is ready, put it in the fridge and eat within a few days!

How cheese is made

Cheese is a nutrient-rich product made of milk. Its look, flavour, smell, nutritional value and other features depend on many factors, such as:

- what kind of milk was used to make the cheese
- what type of coagulant was used to process the milk (bacteria, mould, rennet...)
- whether any additives were added, such as herbs or leaves
- how long the cheese was processed
- what the processing conditions were
- and even what the cow (or sheep, or goat, or buffalo...) ate

Cheese can be made from either raw or pasteurised milk – and that also affects its texture. Milk in large factories is always pasteurised, but the milk in small family production doesn't have to be.



There are many various types of cheese – soft, firm, hard, fresh and smoked. The texture or have big holes inside. All these features depend on the bacteria species. Sometimes mould such as *Penicillium* is added too (usually to obtain blue or green). Bacteria in milk include *Lactococcus*, *Lactobacillus*, *Streptococcus*, *Propionobacterium* and...

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Cheese is an important source of calcium, phosphorus, proteins, fats and fat-soluble vitamins. It is an important part of cuisines in various countries all around the world.

Since the **lactose** in it is usually processed by the microorganisms, it can also be eaten by lactose-intolerant people.

Apply
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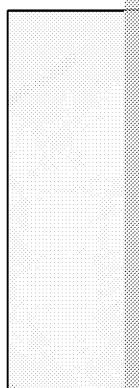
Various types of cheese



Mozzarella is



Cottage cheese can be eaten on toast, in pancakes, or can be used to make a cheesecake



The white
than

Research

Learn more about cheese at

http://www.britishcheese.com/userfiles/file/How_Cheese_Is_Made_04

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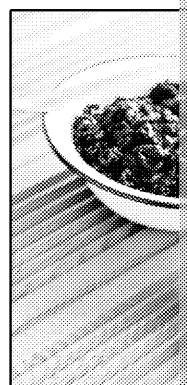
Secondary processing of fruit

Fruit is produced by bushes and trees and is designed to protect the seeds and provide them with nutrients until the time the seed can be planted and grown into another bush or tree. For that reason, they are full of micro- and macronutrients. Since fresh fruit is available for a short time only (usually from early spring to autumn), people have learnt to make fruit preserves, which can be stored for a later use. Fruit is used to make:

- marmalade
- fruit butter
- jam
- jelly
- fruit **curd**
- juice
- compote
- cider
- chutney
- confiture
- sauce
- dried fruit
- frozen fruit
- candied fruit
- wine
- and many others

The final product – again – depends on the quality and quantity of ingredients used, the method and length of cooking, and any additives, such as sugar, cloves, lemon juice or gelling agents.

Jam, fruit butter and confiture are made from whole or cut fruit, while jelly is made from fruit juice only. Fruit butter is usually made from thick (not watery) fruit such as plums, confiture is usually made from cherries, and jam can be made from soft fruit such as raspberries or strawberries.



Before cooking

The process of making jam is shown in the diagram below.

- 1
 - fruit such as quinces, apples, gooseberries and currants is high in water, acid and pectin, making it suitable for jam making
 - wash, cut or crush the fruit
- 2
 - add water
 - this is important, especially if fruit used has a low water content (e.g. plums), to compensate for the water in the fruit and ensure proper texture
- 3
 - add acid, e.g. lemon juice
 - acid helps to release pectin from the fruit cells, and this helps to thicken and set the jam
- 4
 - add sugar
 - sugar acts as a preservative in jam
 - special jam sugar contains also pectin and acid, which help to thicken and set the jam
- 5
 - simmer
 - the jam needs to be clear and very hot before being poured into jars
- 6
 - sterilising the jars and lids in boiling water helps to ensure that no microorganisms can spoil the jam

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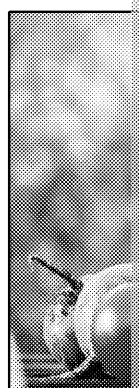
Marmalade is kind of a jam made from citrus juice, fruit and peel. For this reason, it is popular in countries in which oranges or lemons can be grown, such as Portugal or Spain.

Secondary processing of vegetables

Vegetable preserves are indispensable, especially during long winter months, when fresh produce is barely available. Secondary processing of vegetables may include such processes as cooking, canning, juicing and pickling.

Cooking of vegetables softens the fibre in them and helps to gelatinise the starch, so the vegetables become soft and tender. Cooking allows us to obtain a wide range of food products, from steamed to roasted. Depending on the cooking method, the nutritional value of cooked vegetables may be preserved (e.g. when stir-frying or poaching), lost (boiling and draining especially decrease the amount of water-soluble vitamins), or even worsened (e.g. in deep-frying the amount of fat rises dramatically).

Juicing is applied to many vegetables, such as carrots, beetroots and tomatoes. The juice can be pressed from both cooked and raw vegetables. It can also have all the bits filtered out to make it more palatable. The most popular vegetables used for juicing include tomatoes and carrots. In recent years, food processors and blenders have become very popular, which has increased the number of people making juices at home from various ingredients, such as kale, cucumber, celery and beetroot. Juicing can lower the amount of fibre if the bits are removed from the juice, and can speed up enzymic browning of the juice. For this reason, commercially available juices are often pasteurised or contain preservatives. Juices can also be evaporated to obtain concentrates (which will lower the amount of water-soluble vitamins in them).



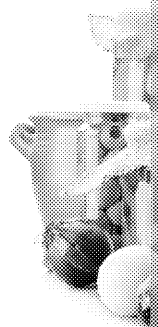
Vegetable juicing



The most popular canned vegetables include peas, sweetcorn, beans and tomatoes

During **canning**, the vegetables are submerged in a liquid (usually water, sugar and other ingredients), then sealed in airtight containers. This process decreases the amount of vitamins in vegetables and increases the amount of sugar and salt. Canned products can last for years to extend their shelf life even more.

Pickling can be done with the use of brine (salt and vinegar). Pickled vegetables will have different flavours than fresh ones, depending on the ingredients used. Some pickled vegetables often undergo bacterial fermentation, which produces lactic acid bacteria – an example of such a product is sauerkraut.



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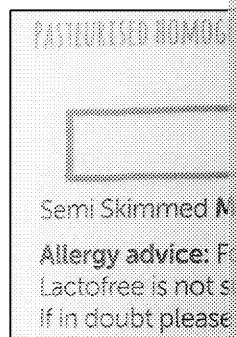
Loss of nutritional value during food processing

The choice of preparation and cooking methods is important in maintaining the nutritional value of food. Some of the processes are beneficial, others lead to vitamin and mineral loss.

Primary processing of foods usually doesn't change the structure of a given food.

Milling wheat leads to vitamin and mineral loss because the inside of the grain is where most of the vitamins in grains are located close to the bran, so they are lost during the process. You can either choose wholemeal flour or fortify the plain white flour.

Another example of how primary processing affects food is the sterilisation of milk. Sterilisation is conducted under very high temperatures, which kill all the bacteria and spores in the milk. During the process, proteins begin to denature and, if the milk is heated for too long, the Maillard reaction can occur. The Maillard reaction takes place between particles of sugar and protein, and as a result, so-called Amadori compounds are created. The Maillard reaction can, therefore, change the colour, smell and flavour of milk. The same process occurs when sugar is removed to make **lactose-free** milk.



Also, cutting fruit and vegetables to make them more convenient for customers results in some loss of nutrients because of oxygen exposure.

Secondary processing of foods includes the use of very high and very low temperatures, which significantly affects the nutritional value of foods. Water-soluble vitamins are very vulnerable and are washed out of food. The loss of certain vitamins is shown in the table below.

Vitamin or mineral	Freezing	Drying	Cooking	Cooking (continued)
Vitamin A	5%	50%	25%	
Vitamin C	30%	80%	50%	
Vitamin B1	5%	30%	55%	
Vitamin B2	-	10%	25%	
Folic acid	5%	50%	70%	
Vitamin B12	-	-	45%	
Calcium	5%	0%	20%	
Iron	-	-	35%	
Magnesium	-	-	25%	
Sodium	-	-	25%	

Prolonged heating, especially at very high temperatures (such as in deep frying) can lead to the formation of trans fats. Trans fats are a form of unsaturated fats, which are very harmful for health. They can increase the risk of atherosclerosis (blocking of veins and arteries by cholesterol), heart disease, heart attack and stroke.

¹⁸ <http://nutritiondata.self.com/topics/processing>

Research

Read the document at <https://www.bda.uk.com/foodfacts/TransFats.pdf> which usually contain trans fats.

Also, grilling can lead to a change in the nutritional value of foods; first, because of the loss of nutrients, and second, because during grilling carcinogenic substances are released. This means that grilling can increase the risk of cancer – especially bowel cancer.

On the other hand, drying and freeze-drying do not affect nutritional value of foods. Drying removes the water necessary for the growth of microorganisms and thereby reduces the risk of food poisoning and extends shelf life of foods.

Also, **irradiation** does not affect the nutritional value of foods.



Things to think about

Discuss how primary and secondary food processing affects the nutritional value of foods. Consider ways of preventing this.

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3.6.2.2 Technological developments associated with health and food production

You already know that the processing of foods leads to (sometimes significant) changes in their nutritional value and quality. Low intake of vitamins and minerals, along with high intake of calories, can lead to diet-related diseases, such as anaemia, atherosclerosis, or beriberi. For that reason, in many countries in the world vitamins and minerals are added to foods to increase their nutritional value and reduce the risk of such diseases.

Cholesterol-lowering spreads

Cholesterol is a fatty substance necessary to build cell membranes, bile acid and is transported in the blood by lipoproteins.

Low-density lipoproteins (LDL) transport fat from the liver to the cells; they increase the levels of blood cholesterol and are, therefore, called 'bad'.

High-density lipoproteins (HDL) transport fat from the blood to the liver, where it is stored or removed from the body; they reduce the amount of cholesterol and fat in the blood and are, therefore, called 'good'.

High levels of LDL cholesterol are linked to increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, such as atherosclerosis, heart attack, hypertension and stroke.

Did you know?

Natural vegetable oils do not contain any cholesterol!



To prevent these, especially among the spreads are produced. They are usually as rapeseed oil, sunflower oil and olive and/or stanols are added. Also, special no **trans fats** are released during production.

Studies have shown that an intake of 1.5–2.4 g of these substances lowers the level, thereby decreases the risk of death from heart attack.

The producers of such spreads have also introduced other products containing sterols in milk drinks and yogurt.

Such products are especially beneficial for people at risk of overweight, obesity, high blood cholesterol levels. These conditions often occur together.

35% low fat vegetable spread with added plant sterols

Ingredients: Water, vegetable oils in varying proportions (30%) (sunflower, rapeseed, palm, rapeseed), plant sterol esters (12.5%), BUTTERMILK, modified waxy corn starch, salt (1%), emulsifiers (mono- and diglycerides of fatty acids, sunflower lecithin), preservatives (potassium sorbate), citric acid, flavourings, colour (carotenes), vitamin A and D.

[†] A daily consumption of 1.5 - 2.4g plant sterol can lower cholesterol by 7-10% in 2-3 weeks as part of a healthy diet and lifestyle with sufficient fruit and vegetables. Plant sterols have been shown to lower blood cholesterol. High cholesterol is a major risk factor in the development of coronary heart disease. As heart disease has multiple risk factors, you need to improve more than one to reduce your overall risk. Check with your doctor first if you are already taking cholesterol lowering medication, or if you have special dietary needs. Not suitable for pregnant or breast-feeding women and children under 5. This product is not intended for people who do not need to control their blood cholesterol level.

Low-fat vegetable spread with added plant sterols, with health claims included on the label

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Fortification of foods and its impact on health

Fortification of foods is a process in which certain vitamins and/or minerals are added in order to:

- increase its nutritional value
- restore its nutritional value which has been lost during processing
- make it more suitable for certain consumer groups (e.g. children)
- prevent diseases caused by lack of these vitamins and minerals

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 'fortification' is applied to foods whether or not they contain a given micronutrient, while foods that have lost their nutritional value during processing are 'enriched'.

There are two important rules about food fortification:

1. Fortification cannot be applied to unprocessed foods.
2. If micronutrients are added, it is obligatory to list the amount on the label.

Foods can be fortified obligatorily or voluntarily.

Did you know?

In some countries it is mandatory to add iodine to salt to prevent thyroid gland diseases.



Mandatory fortification	Voluntary fortification
Wheat flour and bread iron, vitamin B1, niacin, calcium carbonate	Bread Calcium, iron, vitamin B1, niacin
Fat spreads (margarine) Vitamins A and D	Fat spreads Vitamins A and D
Semi-skimmed and skimmed milk Vitamin A	Whole milk and semi-skimmed milk Vitamin A

Nutrient deficiency can cause many different health conditions. Mandatory fortification aims to increase the intake of certain vitamins and minerals among the population and to prevent diseases as beriberi (caused by lack of vitamin B1), anaemia (caused by lack of iron), rickets (caused by lack of calcium and vitamin D).



These are the vitamins and minerals that are added to food.

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¹⁹ <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/breadflourguide.pdf>

²⁰ <https://www.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/multimedia/pdfs/yellowfatguidance0610.pdf>

Voluntary fortification of foods is designed to make foods more suitable for certain consumer groups; for example, the addition of calcium makes cereals better for children, who need it to grow healthy bones and teeth. The addition of vitamin C increases the intake of this vitamin and is a way of enhancing shelf life – because vitamin C works as a preservative.

Apply

While products are used



Tropical fruit juice drink with natural sweetener and vitamin C

Ingredients

Water, Fruit Juices from Concentrate (Orange, Pineapple, Lemon, Mango, Lulo), Sugar, Fruit Purées (1% Mango, Banana, Guava), Citric Acid, Flavourings, Colour (Mixed Carotenes), Sweetener (Sucralose).

V Suitable for vegetarians

A label of a fruit beverage showing vitamins and food additives.

Apply

Find five products in your home that have been fortified. Which micronutrients are they? Was this mandatory or voluntary fortification?

Additives in foods

There are various additives added to food, and their use is strictly regulated by European Union law. The use of them has to be clearly stated on the food label, together with their function and E number.

Food additives are grouped by their function in the food.

The safety of additives is assessed by European Food Safety Authority, which states whether a given additive can be used in food and in what amount. However, the safety of some additives remains controversial.

One of the most controversial food additives is aspartame. It is a very sweet, low-calorie sweetener. Since its discovery in the 1980s, it has been believed to cause brain tumours and other diseases, but a recent study shows no link between aspartame intake and such diseases, and, therefore, it is safe to consume. However, since it is broken down to phenylalanine in the body, it cannot be consumed by people with PKU (phenylketonuria).

Use of additives can be harmful to people suffering from food allergies, such as sulfites, which are used in dried fruits and many other products, so it is important to read the label carefully.

Did you know?

Phenylketonuria is a genetic disease in which one of the amino acids – phenylalanine – cannot be broken down and used or removed from the body (like other amino acids). Instead it is accumulated in the body, which leads to brain damage. People suffering from phenylketonuria need to avoid high-protein foods throughout their lifetime.

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The functions, advantages and disadvantages of using food additives are presented in the table below.

Group	Function/Advantage	Disadvantage
Colourants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance the colour Change the colour Make food more appealing Make food more appetising Improve appearance of food Some of them are natural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used to hide poor quality of ingredients Can increase consumption, leading to obesity Tartrazine is linked to lethal asthma attacks and other allergic reactions, such as skin rashes, thyroid tumours and ADHD Some of them are artificial
Emulsifiers, stabilisers, gelling agents and thickeners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent mixtures from separating Keep emulsions and other mixtures stable Prevent crystallisation of mixtures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be used to hide poor quality of ingredients Can damage the lining of the intestines, and cause bloating and flatulence Some emulsifiers are linked to causing <i>leaky gut syndrome</i>
Flavour enhancers and sweeteners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substitute for sugar Have a lower calorific value than sugar Enhance the flavour Change the flavour Add new flavour to a food Make food more appealing and appetising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May increase consumption, leading to obesity MSG can cause allergic symptoms such as itching or sweating Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine, so can't be eaten by people suffering from phenylketonuria
Preservatives and antioxidants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance shelf life Prevent bacterial growth Prevent growth of moulds and yeast Prevent food spoilage Lower food waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sulfites can cause allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock Nitrates used in cold cuts can cause stomach cancer Benzoates can cause asthma, skin rashes and other allergic reactions Sorbates can cause dermatitis (skin inflammation)

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Genetically modified foods and their impact on health

The development of modern technologies has allowed scientists to manipulate the DNA of living organisms, such as viruses, bacteria, plants and animals. There is a strong correlation between diet, nutrition and health, and it is no surprise that genetically modified foods also have an impact on human health.

Introducing new genes to DNA or removing faulty ones has many advantages for human health and well-being.

- The food is more nutritious – in fact, crops can produce more vitamins and fatty acids, thanks to which the food we eat (cereals, vegetables, fruit, eggs) contains more nutrients
- Higher nutrient content can help to prevent malnutrition, especially in poorer countries
- Higher nutrient content can help to prevent and cure the effects of deficiencies in macro- and micronutrients
- Higher content of antioxidants may be beneficial in prevention of many diseases, such as heart disease
- High-yield crops can help to fight off hunger, as more food can be produced on the same area of land

Genetically modified organisms have been in use since the 1980s. During this time, many people have raised many concerns about using them – due to both the environmental and health-related problems they may pose. In fact, there is no sufficient data to prove or disprove how GM foods affect the health, but the main arguments include:

- Higher incidence of allergies – this is usually linked to GM soybeans, which cause many more allergic reactions than non-modified crops
- Fear of new diseases, which can be caused by creating new bacteria species that are resistant to all known antibiotics
- A belief that GM foods contribute to the growing rates of obesity in developed countries, such as the USA
- A belief that GM foods increase the risk of cancer in those eating them
- Fear of antibiotic resistance developing in animals and in people eating them

In Great Britain, it is obligatory to state that a food contains GM ingredients if the percentage is higher than 0.9%.



Maize is one of the most common GM crops.

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3.6.2.2 Check your understanding

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1. Which of the following statements about food fortification is UNTRUE?
 - a. It increases nutritional value of food
 - b. It restores the nutritional value in processed foods
 - c. It is used to prevent certain diseases
 - d. It is unhealthy to eat fortified products

2. Mandatory fortification is applied to...? (1 mark)
 - a. vegetable fat spreads ☐
 - b. breakfast cereals ☐
 - c. fruit juice ☐
 - d. whole milk ☐

3. Which statement about food additives is TRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. They increase nutritional value of food. ☐
 - b. They prevent food from going off. ☐
 - c. They can cause health issues. ☐
 - d. Their use is monitored. ☐

4. Which of the following is TRUE? (1 mark)
 - a. All cholesterol is harmful. ☐
 - b. Plant sterols decrease LDL level in blood. ☐
 - c. Plant sterols decrease HDL level in blood. ☐
 - d. Cholesterol level is not important for health. ☐

5. Common problems linked to food additives include... (1 mark)
 - a. allergies ☐
 - b. nervous system disorders ☐
 - c. asthma ☐
 - d. all of the above ☐

6. Flour is mandatorily fortified with... (1 mark)
 - a. iron ☐
 - b. magnesium ☐
 - c. iodine ☐

7. Explain the need for mandatory fortification of milk. (4 marks)

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3.6.2 Quiz-ine

Fill in the answers to the questions below and then use the letters from the grey squares to food production.

1.																	
2.																	
3.																	
4.																	
5.																	
6.																	
7.																	
8.																	
9.																	
10.																	
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16.																	
17.																	
18.																	

1. The process of turning grain into flour (7)
2. The external part of a grain (4)
3. Heating raw milk to 72 °C (14)
4. Freeze-drying (14)
5. Process conducted by probiotic bacteria (12)
6. The acid in yogurt (6)
7. An enzyme which turns cheese into curd (6)
8. By-product of cheese production (4)
9. Kind of mould used in cheese making (11)
10. Preserve made from citrus fruit (9)
11. Condition caused by lack of iron (7)
12. Flour made from this grain has to be fortified (5)
13. Vitamin B2 (10)
14. Used to conserve food and enhance its shelf life (12)
15. A sugar substitute (9)
16. Sugar substitute which cannot be eaten by people with phenylketonuria (9)
17. LDL or HDL (11)
18. Added to fat spreads (7)

The shaded squares reveal this word:

— — — — — D — — — — — D D — — — — —

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Answers

Chapter 1

3.6.1.1

Things to think about:

PRO: allows producers to grow foods over large areas; allows the foods to grow in natural sunlight and with microorganisms and insects that improve growth (such as bees)

ANTI: vermin; floods and droughts; unpredictability; need to use pesticides; contamination (e.g. lead)

Things to think about:

- Oceans cover 70% of Earth
- Diversity of life in oceans helps them clean themselves from human-borne pollutants
- Diversity of life helps maintain species and lowers the risk of extinction (because biodiversity means that there are various species of animals, which together form a chain. If one of them is extinct, it means no food for the other.
- Oceans provide people and animals with food (fish, shellfish and seaweed)
- Sustainable fishing prevents extinction of species
- Sustainable fishing is friendly for all the other oceans life forms that people don't eat

Check your understanding

Q1: d

Q2: b

Q3: d

Q4: c

Q5: d

Q6: c

Q7: Any three for for and any three for against:

FOR	AGAINST
Increase crops and prevent shortages and famine	No proof that they are safe
Increase the amount of nutrients and prevent deficiencies	May increase the risk of obesity
Lower the need of antibiotics and herbicides	May increase the risk of antibiotic resistance
Allow growth of foods where they couldn't be grown before	Haven't been eaten for long enough to know consequences of modern farming

3.6.1.2

Check your understanding

Q1: c

Q2: d (for treatment, not for prevention)

Q3: d

Q4: b

Q5: d

Q6: b

Q7: Four marks for:

- Trees and plants use carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the atmosphere
- Trees and plants decrease the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and, therefore, reduce global warming
- Globalisation includes global production and transportation of goods
- Production and transportation use a lot of resources and release a lot of greenhouse gases, increasing the amount of carbon dioxide in the air and, therefore, increase the speed of global warming

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3.6.1.3**Things to think about: (example arguments)**

- Food production: use of water, fossil fuels, fertilisers; transportation to factories
- Transportation: use of fossil fuels; food miles
- Packaging: use of water, fossil fuels, natural resources; transportation to factories
- It all creates food miles and carbon footprint. The more greenhouse gases are put in the atmosphere, the more the footprint. Increased amount of carbon dioxide in the air accumulates and traps heat in the atmosphere. Therefore, the air and Earth's surface heat up. Water in oceans evaporates more often. People suffer from either drought or floods. Food shortages and lack of water.

Check your understanding

Q1: a

Q2: b

Q3: d

Q4: d

Q5: d

Q6: Two from:

- Planting GM seeds and rearing GM animals to increase the amount of food produced
- Planting GM seeds to overcome weather changes (e.g. lack of water or too much rain)
- Sustainable farming
- Using resources such as water only in the amount needed
- Using fertilisers or crop rotation to support soil quality
- Limiting food waste
- Or any other suitable answer

Two from:

- Global warming
- Droughts
- Floods
- Vermin
- Pests
- Poor soil quality
- Crop failure
- Lack of water to grow plants and rear animals
- Or any other suitable answer

Quiz-time

1. Animals reared to provide food or other goods (livestock)
2. The distance travelled between a farm and a plate (food miles)
3. Grown or reared without the use of chemicals or GM products (organic)
4. Long plastic construction for growing plants in (polytunnel)
5. The most popular grain in the world (rice)
6. The meat of a deer (venison)
7. Eggs that are labelled with number 1 (free-range)
8. Bacteria species found on raw eggs (salmonella)
9. The most widespread genetically modified crop (soybean)
10. The practice of reusing items that would otherwise be discarded as waste (recycling)
11. An artificial product that never decomposes (Styrofoam)
12. When they melt, the sea level rises (glaciers)
13. Food that provides no nutrients (empty calories)

PASSWORD: fairtrade

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Chapter 2

3.6.2.1

Things to think about: (example arguments)

- and secondary processing decrease the nutritional value of foods. Such processes as cooking, draining and reheating decrease the amount of vitamins and minerals in food
- Also, oxygen is harmful because it leads to oxidation
- To prevent micronutrient loss:
- Fresh foods should be sold whole, not cut
- Foods should be stored in dry, dark conditions to protect them from moisture and light
- Foods should be stored in correct temperatures to prevent bacteria growth
- Cooked foods should not be drained if possible
- Appropriate cooking techniques should be chosen, e.g. steaming instead of boiling
- The time and temperature of cooking should be adjusted and reduced where possible
- Raw fruit and vegetables should be eaten more often

Check your understanding

- Q1: c
Q2: d
Q3: d
Q4: d
Q5: b
Q6: d
Q7: Four marks for:
- During cooking, high temperature is applied to food
 - High temperature causes a breakdown of vitamins
 - Also, water-soluble vitamins dissolve in water
 - If the water is drained from food, the vitamins are lost with it

3.6.2.2

Check your understanding

- Q1: d
Q2: a
Q3: c
Q4: b
Q5: d
Q6: a
Q7: Four marks for:
- Only semi-skimmed and skimmed milk has to be fortified
 - Mandatory fortification of milk with vitamin A
 - Vitamin A is fat-soluble
 - Vitamin A level in semi-skimmed and skimmed milk is reduced because it is lost with the fat

Quiz-ine

1. The process of turning grain into flour (milling)
2. The external part of a grain (bran)
3. Heating raw milk to 72 °C (pasteurisation)
4. Freeze-drying (lyophilisation)
5. Process conducted by probiotic bacteria (fermentation)
6. The acid in yogurt (lactic)
7. An enzyme which turns cheese into curd (rennet)
8. By-product of cheese production (whey)
9. Kind of mould used in cheese making (penicillium)
10. Preserve made from citrus fruit (marmalade)
11. Condition caused by lack of iron (anaemia)
12. Flour made from this grain has to be fortified (wheat)
13. Vitamin B2 (riboflavin)
14. Used to conserve food and enhance its shelf life (preservative)
15. A sugar substitute (sweetener)
16. Sugar substitute which cannot be eaten by people with phenylketonuria (aspartame)
17. LDL or HDL (cholesterol)
18. Added to fat spreads (sterols)

Password: food additives

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