

Taste & Learn™

CSIRO's vegetable education program for Australian primary schools

Teacher resource manual

Unit 1: Foundation – Year 2



USE OF TASTE & LEARN™ MATERIALS

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Hort Innovation

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Objectives

The specific objectives of Unit 1 are for students to:

- Increase knowledge and familiarity with common vegetables.
- Describe vegetables in terms of the five senses.
- Learn that liking/disliking of specific foods can change by repeated trying.
- Become more open to tasting a wide variety of vegetables.

Lesson plan

LESSON	TITLE	LESSON OUTLINE
1 The five senses		Students: • Learn about the senses involved in eating. • Experience the five senses through tasting vegetables. • Taste and describe three vegetables with different colours, tastes and textures.
	Homework	Students create a vegetable tasting record with their parents.
	Extension	Students draw vegetables they would serve at a vegetable tasting party.
2	From seed to vegetable	 Students: Can recognise and name different types of common vegetables. Understand what plants need to grow. Understand which parts of plants are eaten as vegetables. Taste vegetables from three different plants parts.
	Extension	Students grow a bean plant.
3	The basic tastes	 Students: Learn that we taste foods using the taste buds on the tongue. Can recognise the four key basic tastes (sweet, sour, salty and bitter). Give examples of foods for each of the basic tastes. Taste two vegetables and can identify their dominant taste (sweet and bitter).
	Extension	Students categorise foods according to their basic taste.
4	Becoming a food adventurer	 Students: Learn that liking/disliking of foods can change by repeated trying. Learn about the role of variety in the diet (included colour in vegetables). Try foods they have not tasted before.
	Extension	Students discover colour variety in vegetables.
5	Picnic in class: sandwich	 Students: Prepare a tasty sandwich with vegetables and other ingredients. Enjoy eating a sandwich together. Discuss their experiences of eating a sandwich that includes vegetables.
	Extension	Students know at least ten vegetables that can be consumed on a sandwich.

Lesson outline

STUDENTS

- Learn about the senses involved in eating.
- Experience the five senses through tasting vegetables.
- Taste and describe three vegetables with different colours, tastes and textures.

HOMEWORK ACTIVITY

• Create a repeatable tasting record with their parents.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

• Draw vegetables they would serve at a vegetable tasting party.

Materials

FOR THE CLASS

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 1, slides 1–5.
- Three different vegetables with different colours, tastes and textures (one piece per child for tasting).
- Knife, cutting board, containers with lids.
- Tongs.
- One descriptive words recording medium e.g. class sheet 1.

FOR EACH STUDENT

- Homework sheet 1.
- Student journal (optional).

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Activity 1. Paper plate or circle.
- Activity 2. Paper plate or circle.
- Activity 3. A4 sheet of paper.

VEGETABLES

Description

Three common vegetables that can be eaten raw with a variety of colours, shapes, tastes and textures. Choose at least one that most students would like and at least one more 'challenging' vegetable.

Suggestions

Carrot, cauliflower, cucumber

Alternatives

Tomato, capsicum, celery, broccoli

Preparation



- Choose three common vegetables that can be eaten raw and that together have a variety of colours, shapes, tastes and textures (e.g. carrot, cauliflower, cucumber). We recommend the use of the same vegetables in the homework exercise.
- Wash vegetables well (see 5.2 How to safely prepare vegetables, Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 18).
- Cut vegetables into enough pieces for each student to have one small piece of each to taste.
- Store in closed containers in fridge until use.

Teacher's background notes

This lesson engages students with the program and begins exploring the topics. Students will learn about the five human senses (sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch) and the role they play in eating and drinking, and about individual food preferences. They will start describing vegetable eating experiences using their five senses.

THE SENSES

Sight - eyes

- Visual information is often the first characteristic we notice of a food product.
- Sight provides information on the colour, size, shape and surface texture (e.g. rough, smooth, shiny) of a food.
- On the basis of appearance, we often form expectations about the taste of a food.
- Appearance can also provide information about whether a food is suitable for eating, e.g. mould on tomatoes and green (unripe) banana.
- Examples of descriptive words: brown, large, round, shiny, rough looking.

Smell - nose

- The odour or smell of a product is detected by sniffing. Small molecules ('volatiles') enter the nose.
- Examples of describing words: strawberry smell, cheese smell, pea smell.

Taste - mouth

- There are five commonly acknowledged basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter and umami. Umami is a savoury taste and means 'deliciousness'.
- Basic tastes are detected through taste receptors on the tongue.
- Flavour, for example carrot flavour, is a combination of basic taste (sweet) and specific odours (from small molecules). The small flavour molecules are perceived when they travel from inside the mouth to the back of the nose. Together, they form a flavour impression.
- With a cold, the nose can be fully blocked and we can only taste the basic taste. This makes food taste very bland. The same happens when we deliberately pinch our nose.
- Examples of describing words: sweet, sour, strawberry flavour, caramel flavour.

Touch - fingers/hand and in-mouth

- The texture or consistency of a food is also perceived by sensors in the mouth.
- There are pressure sensors that are activated when we bite a food with our front teeth and chew it down with our molars.
- From these, we receive information about, for example, hardness (candy versus marshmallow, raw carrot versus cooked) and fracturability (the way a shortbread biscuit crumbles when you eat it).
- We also get textural information related to particle structure of the food, primarily when food interacts with soft tissues in the mouth (lips, tongue, gums, palate). Examples are smooth (avocado), rough (raw broccoli florets), chalky, fibrous (beans) and lumpy.
- We can also perceive whether food is watery, fatty or greasy. This is also part of the texture.
 When we touch foods with our fingers, this can often provide an idea of what it will feel like in the mouth.
- Examples of describing words: hard, sticky, chewy, smooth, rough, lumpy.

Hearing – ears

- Hearing plays an important role in daily life. It also plays a role in eating foods.
- Sound plays an important role in an assessment of freshness/staleness, e.g. the crunch of chips, an apple or a celery stalk.
- Examples of describing words: crunchy, crispy.

- Different people like to eat different things. What we like depends in large part on the culture in which we are raised and what we get offered at home.
- What we like can change.
- Sometimes, someone does not like a food the first time they try it. However, when they have tried it several times, they may start to like it.
- Sometimes it can take ten or more exposures before someone starts to like a food.
- Some foods may be liked more when they are prepared differently.
- It is important to try at least a little amount when something is offered. It only takes a small bit of the food to eventually start to like it.
- It is fun to try new foods. It is also adventurous and brave to try new things to eat or to keep trying things that you do not particularly like.

Suggested activities / Lesson steps



Suggested set up

Class discussion

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 1, slides 3–4

Student journal (optional)

ENGAGE - TALKING ABOUT FOODS

- Conduct a guided discussion to introduce the program (a program of five lessons in which we will taste and learn about vegetables) and assess prior knowledge about foods and the senses and to develop an awareness of individual likes and dislikes.
- Foods. Use PowerPoint slide 3, pictures of bread, juice, cereal, cheese, carrot.

Ask questions such as:

- Can you identify the foods?
- Have you tried it?
- Do you like it?
- Are any of them vegetables?
- Five senses. We have five senses that help us make sense of our world.
 - Watch this video: "The 5 Senses Song" song by Dr Jean Feldman, video by Mr Harry (1.33min) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-jMyDR6kSQ
- Display PowerPoint slide 4.

Ask questions such as:

- What senses do we have?
- What senses do you use when eating the foods?
- Individual likes and dislikes. Conduct a brainstorm. Ask the students to name some foods that they really like. List them. Ask the students to name some foods that they really do not like. List them.

Ask questions such as:

- Think of a food that you like. What is it that you like about it? (Is it the way it looks? Tastes? Feels in your mouth?)
- Think of a food you do not like. What is it that you do not like about it? (Look? Taste? Feel?)
- Do you think you can learn to like something that you do not like now?
- Are you expected to try foods at home, even if you do not like them?



Suggested set up

Class discussion

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 1, slide 5

Tongs

Class sheet 1 or piece of paper to record descriptive words

Homework sheet 1

EXPLORING VEGETABLES – USING THE FIVE SENSES

- Ask the class to sit in a sharing circle. Introduce and discuss the vegetables that you have prepared. Show the students an example of the vegetable uncut as well as the prepared pieces.
- Explain that the students are encouraged to experience tasting each vegetable, even if it is something they do not usually eat. Ask the student to wash their hands and return to the sharing circle.
- Use tongs to serve one piece of each of the three vegetables to each student. Encourage them to experience tasting each vegetable.
- Create a word bank (on an interactive board, PowerPoint, class journal, large piece
 of paper) and discuss one of the vegetables in a systematic way. Use the word
 bank to record descriptive words the students suggest for each of the senses.
 (See suggested format below. Class sheet 1, 'Exploring vegetables using the five
 senses').

Ask questions such as:

Appearance (Look)

- What colour is it?
- What shape is the original vegetable?
- Is the surface smooth or rough?

Smell

- Does the vegetable have a smell?
- What does it smell like/remind you of?

Sound

- When you bit and chewed the vegetable, did you hear a sound?
- What kind of sound?

Taste

- What taste and flavour does it have? Sweet, bland, strong taste?

Texture

- What does it feel like in your mouth? Juicy, hard, crunchy?

- Introduce PowerPoint slide 5, Classroom record liking of vegetables Day 1. Ask for a show of hands for each category and fill in the table. Save the completed table.
- Ask the students to return to their desks and write/draw about their experience
 tasting vegetables. This could be in the form of an A4 sheet folded into four or
 an A4 sheet with four circles on it. The students could write/draw about four
 observations made during their tasting experience.
- Invite the students back to a sharing circle to share their recorded observations.
- Explain that the students are encouraged to complete a homework activity.

Additional resources

Homework sheet 1, 'Tasting sheet' Information note for parents

Note

If it is unlikely that students will have the opportunity to complete the homework activity, it may be possible to provide the experience in class.

Additional resources for each student

Activities 1 and 2 - paper plate or circle

Activity 3 - A4 sheet of paper

HOMEWORK ACTIVITY

- Provide students with student homework 'tasting sheet' and parent note and introduce the homework activity.
- Explain that students will choose one of the three vegetables tasted during the lesson that they are prepared to taste eight times (twice a week over the next four weeks). Ask them to write/draw the name of the vegetable in the space provided on the homework sheet and the parent note. Scribe for them if necessary.
- Explain that preferences may change. It is possible to experience a change in our likes and dislikes of foods we try several times. Also explain that it is of importance to try the chosen vegetable.

Discuss how they should use the homework sheet.

- Each time students taste the vegetable, they fill in one box with the date that it was eaten. They may choose to add a picture.
- Students will evaluate for themselves if they change their opinion of a specific vegetable once they have eaten it several times.
- Explain that in lesson 4, the class will revisit the homework sheet, taste the vegetable again and indicate how they think it tastes.
- When homework is returned in lesson 4, compile a classroom record for the vegetable (or vegetables) indicating students likes and dislikes. To determine likes and dislikes, you might ask children to stand and join a group that indicates how the found the taste of the vegetable, 'did not like', 'unsure', 'liked'.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Activity 1

Using a paper plate or a paper circle representing a plate, students may draw (and possibly label) vegetables that they would include if they were having a vegetable tasting party.

Activity 2

Using a paper plate or a paper circle representing a plate, students may use half the space to draw vegetables they have eaten during the past week and half the space to draw vegetables they would be happy to try.

Activity 3

Using an A4 sheet of paper, students may create a place mat displaying vegetables they are familiar with.

Class sheet 1 – Suggested format for a word bank

Exploring vegetables using the five senses

Name of the vegetable:					
Sight	Smell	Sound	Taste	Feel (mouth)	

Homework sheet 1

Tasting sheet

The vegetable I have chosen to eat eight times is:

Date:	Date:
Date:	Date:
Date:	Date:
Date:	Date:

Write the date that you are trying the vegetable in a box. Add a picture of the vegetable.

Information note for parents and carers

Date
with a range of vegetables.
what happens when we try a
ry a chosen vegetable at least eight
e with other members of our class.
y are prepared to try eight times
to eat it and help them fill in the
that your child can compare their

Taste & Learn™

Our class is learning about vegetables and we aim to increase our familiarity with a range of vegetables.

When eating vegetables, we are using our five senses. We want to find out what happens when we try a vegetable several times over a period of time.

One activity you can help with is the "Tasting sheet". Your child is asked to try a chosen vegetable at least eight times in the next four weeks. They can then compare their tasting experience with other members of our class.

Your child has chosen a vegetable that they have tried at school and that they are prepared to try eight times over the next four weeks. Their chosen vegetable is

I ask that you source and prepare the chosen vegetable, remind the student to eat it and help them fill in the 'Tasting sheet' when they try it.

The completed 'Tasting Sheet' is due back at school by ______ so that your child can compare their experience with classmates.

We thank you for your assistance in this educational activity.

Please let me know if it is not convenient for your family to be involved.

Class Teacher.



Lesson outline

STUDENTS

- Can recognise and name different types of common vegetables.
- Understand what plants need to grow.
- Understand which parts of plants are eaten as vegetables.
- Taste vegetables from three different plants parts.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

• Grow a bean plant.

Materials

FOR THE CLASS

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 2, slides 6-25.
- Three vegetables from three different parts of a plant (one piece of each per child to taste).
- Knife, cutting board, containers with lids.
- Tongs.

FOR EACH STUDENT

- Student worksheet 1, 'Today I ate plant parts'.
- Student journal.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- Student worksheet 2, 'Grow a plant in class'.
- Seeds from fresh green beans.
- Cups and water in spray bottles.
- Paper towel or cotton balls.
- Marker pen.

VEGETABLES

Description

Three vegetables from three different plant parts

Suggestions

Root: beetroot (canned or pre-packaged)

Leaves: baby spinach Flower: broccoli

Alternatives

Root: carrot, celeriac Leaves: lettuce, cabbage Flower: cauliflower

Fruit: tomato, avocado, capsicum

Stems: celery Seeds: peas



Preparation



Choose and prepare three vegetables that come from different parts of a plant e.g. beetroot (root, from can), pea (seed), baby spinach (leaf), broccoli (flower), asparagus (stem), capsicum (fruit).

- Wash vegetables well (see 5.2 How to safely prepare vegetables, Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 18) or drain the beetroot.
- Cut vegetables into enough pieces for each student to have one small piece of each to taste.
- Store in closed containers in fridge until use.

Teacher's background notes

- Plants need water, light, air and nutrients to grow.
- Most plants are made up of stems, leaves, flowers and roots and produce fruits containing seeds.
- Humans most commonly eat the fruit (e.g. apples, pears, tomato), roots (e.g. beetroot, sweet potato), seeds (e.g. corn, wheat, coffee, various nuts, peas), leaves (e.g. cabbage, lettuce, spinach) or flowers (e.g. cauliflower). In some cases, we eat stems (e.g. asparagus).
- Vegetables are edible parts of plants. Although there are different categorisations of vegetables, commonly the following six are considered: flower, fruit, seeds, leaves, root and stem.
- Fruits: technically, fruits are not vegetables, but there are fruits that are commonly considered to be vegetables (e.g. tomato, capsicum).
- Roots: technically, these can be subdivided into the vegetable roots themselves (e.g. carrot), tubers (e.g. potato, sweet potato) and bulbs (e.g. onion, garlic). This plant part is the energy reservoir of the plant and therefore typically contains a relatively high amount of carbohydrates.
- With some plants, we eat more than one part. An example is beetroot. Most people eat the root, but the leaves are also good to eat. Another example is onion where typically the bulb is eaten, but young stems are also edible.
- Some plants parts are poisonous to eat, for example the leaves of tomato plants.
- Many vegetables can be consumed raw, while some, such as cassava and bamboo shoots must be cooked to destroy certain natural toxins.
- Classification of vegetables according to their plant part:

FLOWER	FRUIT	SEEDS	LEAVES	ROOT / BULB	STEM
Broccoli	Avocado	Peas	Lettuce	Beetroot	Celery
Cauliflower	Beans	Sweetcorn	Spinach	Carrot	Leek
	Capsicum		Cabbage	Sweet potato	Asparagus
	Cucumber		Herbs	Garlic	
	Pumpkin			Onions	
	Tomato			Radish	
	Eggplant				
	Snow peas				
	Zucchini				

TASTING OF VEGETABLES FROM DIFFERENT PLANT PARTS

Through tasting vegetables from different plant parts, students:

- Enhance their learning of plant parts.
- Build their ability to describe what they taste (taste/ mouth feel).
- Use describing words for suggested vegetables such as:
 - Beetroot: red colour, sweet, earthy, intense flavour, smooth texture, juicy.
 - Broccoli: green colour, hard, crunchy, rough on the tongue, mild flavour, slightly bitter.

Texture depends on preparation method and vegetable variety.

Suggested activities / Lesson steps



Suggested set up

Class participation

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 2, slide 7

Vegetables

YouTube video, 'Parts of plants'

Student journal

EXPLORE - VEGETABLES ARE PLANT PARTS

• Conduct a guided discussion about plants.

Ask questions such as:

- Ask students to give examples of plants. (Are vegetables mentioned?).
- Explain that vegetables are plants that we eat.
- What do plants need to grow? Use PowerPoint slide 7.
- Show video "Parts of Plants" (first 5 minutes) by Mindset Learn https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QjSD2AF5mg
- Introduce the three prepared vegetables. Discuss which parts of plants they came from.
- Ask the students to wash their hands and form a sharing circle. Use tongs to serve each student three vegetables from different parts of the plant. Encourage them to experience tasting each vegetable.
- After the students have tasted each piece of vegetable, ask them to share with the rest of the class what they think the vegetable smells, feels and tastes like. Add their words to the previously started word bank.
- Ask the students if they can tell by tasting, which part of the plants the vegetables are from? (The answer is no).



Suggested set up

Class discussion/ group and individual work

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 2, slides 8 – 25

One A4 sheet of paper per group

Student worksheet 1, 'Today I ate plant parts'

Additional resources

Student worksheet 2, 'Grow a plant in class'

Bean seed

Clear plastic cup

Spray water bottles

Piece of paper towel or cotton balls

Marker pen

EXPLAIN – VEGETABLES AND THEIR CORRESPONDING PLANT PART

Form the students into groups. Distribute one A4 sheet of paper per group and ask the students to brainstorm and record all the vegetables they can think of. They may record with words or pictures.

Lead a discussion

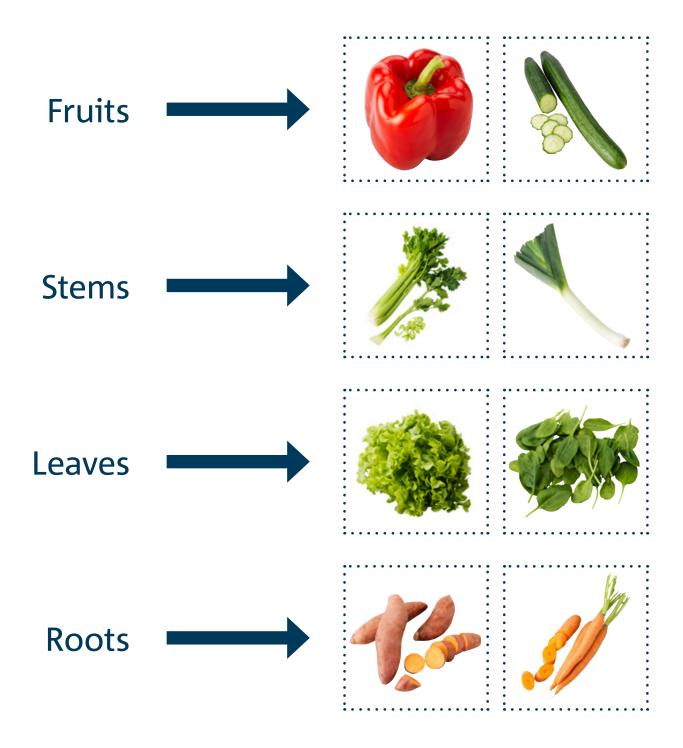
- Ask each group to share their records.
- Use the PowerPoint slides 8 24 as back up for the vegetables the students do not know.
- Which of the prepared vegetables have they never tasted before?
- Using PowerPoint slide 25, ask the students to click and drag each vegetable to the
 four plant parts displayed, fruit, stems, leaves and roots (answer sheet, next page).
 Ask them to categorise the prepared vegetables they tasted on the basis of which
 part of the plant they are from (fruit, root, leaves, stem, flower or seeds).
- Introduce worksheet 1, 'Today I ate plant parts'. Students may draw the vegetable(s) they have eaten. They may also write the names and anything else they wish to record about the vegetable.
- Invite the students back to a sharing circle to share their recorded observations.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY - GROW A PLANT IN THE CLASS

Students grow a bean plant from a seed. Introduce Student worksheet 2, 'Grow a plant in class'. Over the weeks, the students watch the seed grow and develop from a seed to a plant. If time allows, it is recommended that each student grows their own seed.

Answer sheet

I can eat the whole plant



Student worksheet 1

Today I ate plant parts

Name	Date			
Oraw the vegetables you tried today in the correct box. Add any other that you know.				
Roots	Stems			
Leaves	Fruits/seeds			

Student worksheet 2

Grow a plant in class



Equipment

One bean seed that has been soaked for one hour

One clear plastic cup

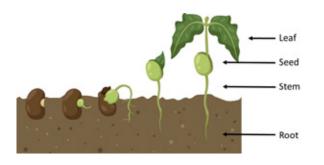
One piece of paper towel or six cotton balls

Water in a spray bottle

Marker pen to write your name

Procedure

- 1. Collect a soaked seed, plastic cup and a piece of paper towel. Write your name on your cup.
- 2. Roll up the paper towel (or use cotton balls) and put it into the cup so that it is pressing against the sides.
- 3. Spray the towel with water until it is damp.
- 4. Place the seed between the inside of the cup and the paper towel.
- 5. Plants need sunlight to grow. Place your cup in a place in the classroom where it will get some sunshine.
- 6. Plants need water to grow. Check the paper towel daily and spray with some water if you notice the towel is getting dry. After a few days, you should see the bean seed sprouting.



Well done!

After one and a half weeks, your bean plant should have grown roots, a stem and leaves.

It is ready to plant in the ground.



Lesson 3: The basic tastes

Lesson outline

STUDENTS

- Learn that we taste foods using the taste buds on the tongue.
- Can recognise the four key basic tastes (sweet, sour, salty and bitter).
- Give examples of foods for each of the basic tastes.
- Taste two vegetables and can identify their dominant taste (sweet and bitter).

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

• Categorise foods according to their basic tastes.

Materials

FOR THE CLASS

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 3, slides 26–28.
- 1½ tablespoon sugar.
- ¼ teaspoon salt.
- ½ teaspoon citric acid (if not available, can replace with lemon juice).
- 600 mL tap water.
- 200 mL tonic water (gone flat).
- Four sturdy beakers/ cups for taste solutions.
- Two vegetables: one sweet and one bitter (one piece per child for tasting).
- Knife, cutting board and containers with lids.
- Optional: small mirror(s).

FOR EACH STUDENT

- Cotton buds (four per student) plus spares.
- Plastic cup for rinsing.
- Student worksheet 3, 'Today I tasted...'

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 3, slide 28.
- Student worksheet 4, 'I know my vegetables'.

VEGETABLES

Description

One sweet and one bitter tasting vegetable. Ensure the bitter vegetable is not too unpleasant for your students.

Suggestions

Sweet: corn (canned) Bitter: green capsicum

Alternatives

Sweet: peas, sugar peas, carrot Bitter: broccoli (raw), Brussels sprouts (raw or cooked), zucchini (with skin), witlof



PREPARE FOUR TASTE SOLUTIONS

- Label four sturdy cups or beakers one to four. Order: one—acidic, two—sweet, three—salty, four—bitter.
- Prepare different solutions in their respective cup or beaker:
 - Acidic: add ½ teaspoon of citric acid to 200 mL of water mix well.
 - Sweet: add 1½ tablespoons of sugar to 200 mL of water mix well.
 - Salty: add ¼ tea spoon of salt to 200 mL of water mix well.
 - Bitter: pour 200 mL of tonic water open bottle the night before so the tonic goes 'flat'.
- Seal with lid or cling wrap, keep refrigerated if not used within four hours.

PREPARE TWO VEGETABLES

- Choose one sweet (corn) and one bitter (green capsicum) vegetable.
- Wash vegetables well (see 5.2 How to safely prepare vegetables, Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 18). If using canned corn, drain the can.
- Cut vegetables into enough pieces for each student to have one piece of each to taste.
- Keep covered in containers in the refrigerator until use.

Teacher's background notes

- Taste is perceived by the tongue.
- Taste receptors are located in taste buds.
- Taste buds can be observed on the tongue. These are the 'bumps'.
- The four most common basic tastes are sweet, salty, sour and bitter.
- Examples for each of the tastes:
 - Sweet: jam, cake.
 - Salty: soy sauce, cheese, chips.
 - Sour: lemon, lime, yoghurt.
 - Bitter: dark chocolate, grapefruit (coffee and beer for adults).
- There is also umami, a savoury/brothy taste (meaning 'delicious'), present in e.g. parmesan cheese, soy sauce. This taste enhances flavour and is harder to recognise on its own than the other tastes.
- It is a misconception that we taste specific tastes on specific parts of the tongue. All parts of our tongue can perceive all tastes. Where the taste is best perceived may vary from person to person.
- Humans are born with an innate liking for the sweet taste and an innate disliking for the bitter taste. For our ancestors, sweet taste signalled energy, whereas bitter taste signalled potential toxins in plants.
- We can learn to like bitter tastes by repeatedly trying them. Thus, it is an acquired taste.
- When we perceive caramel flavour or strawberry flavour, this is a combination of a basic taste combined with smell.
- When we have a cold, we can only perceive basic tastes. Pinching the nose can also block odours.
- It is hard to recognise a food on the basis of taste alone and food can tastes very bland.

Suggested activities / Lesson steps



Suggested set up

Class participation

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 3, slides 27 – 28

Taste solutions

Cotton buds

Rubbish container

YouTube video 'How the tongue works'

Mirror (optional)

EXPLAIN - THE FOUR BASIC TASTES

• Discovering the taste buds.

Conduct a guided discussion.

- Ask the students to stick out their tongues.
- If using mirrors, let students look at their own tongue. Otherwise, ask them to check a classmates tongue.
- Can they see round parts on the tongue? What do they think they are?
- Tasting the four taste solutions.
 - Display cups with the four different taste solutions. Explain to the students that they are
 encouraged to taste each solution. Introduce PowerPoint slide 27 and indicate that you
 will fill in the boxes according to what most students think best describes the taste.
 - Ask the students to form a sharing circle. Inform them that, in order to avoid spreading germs, they will use a clean cotton bud each time they try a solution. Place the rubbish container in the centre of the circle.
 - Distribute one cotton bud to each student. Move around the sharing circle with solution one, so that each student may dip their cotton bud into the solution and taste it. They can then put their cotton bud into the rubbish container.
 - Ask students to pay attention to how and where they perceive this taste in their mouth.
 - Discuss what the majority of the students think the taste is. Use PowerPoint slide 27 and record the taste by dragging the blue cross into the right box. Then reveal the answer by pressing the space bar (this is an animated slide). If students were incorrect, discuss the taste with them by giving examples of foods with that taste. If correctly identified, ask students if they can they give examples of other foods with this taste.
- Repeat with cups two to four.
- Optional. For older students (Year 2) this activity could be conducted individually or in groups by presenting them with a work sheet similar to PowerPoint slide 27 and discussing correct responses once all four solutions have been tasted.
- Watch the video "How the tongue works" by KidsHealth (5.01 minutes): https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/bodymovies.html?WT.ac=en-k-htbw-main-page-a (you will need to scroll down the list of videos to select the "How the tongue works" video).



Suggested set up

Class discussion

Additional resources

Vegetables

Student worksheet 3 'Today I tasted...'

Additional resources

Activity 1 PowerPoint slides, lesson 3, slide 28

Activity 2 Student worksheet 4, 'I know my vegetables'

ELABORATE - TASTING SWEET AND BITTER VEGETABLES

- Explain to the students that they are encouraged to taste a sweet and a bitter vegetable, initially with a squeezed (pinched) nose.
- Ask students to wash their hands, form a sharing circle and squeeze their nose closed.
- Present each student with one piece of the sweet vegetable and ask him or her to take a small bite and to tell you what they think is the predominant taste.
- Ask the student to taste the remaining part of the vegetable without pinching their nose, to discover the flavour of the vegetable. Discuss which other vegetables taste sweet.
- Direct the students to repeat the procedure with the other (bitter) vegetable.
- Conduct a discussion about liking of vegetables. Discuss how we naturally like the taste of sweet things and that we can learn to like the taste of bitter things if we try them enough times.
- Introduce student worksheet 3, 'Today I tasted...' and discuss how they could record what they tasted and what the vegetables tasted like, e.g. using pictures and/or words.
- Invite the students back to a sharing circle to share their recorded observations.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Activity 1 - What is the dominant basic taste?

- Using PowerPoint slide 28, 'How do these foods taste?' discuss each food with the class.
- Ask the students to categorise each food according to the dominant basic taste and drag each picture to where it belongs on the table (PowerPoint slide 28).

Activity 2 – individual

• Ask the students to complete student worksheet 4, 'I know my vegetables'.

Student worksheet 3

Today, I tasted...

Name	Date
The taste was	

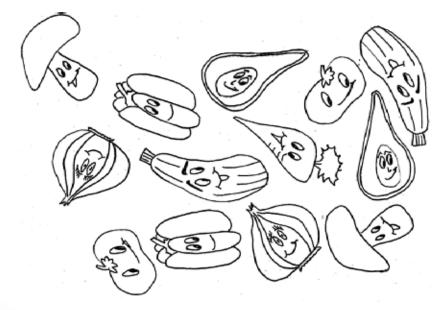
How do these foods taste?



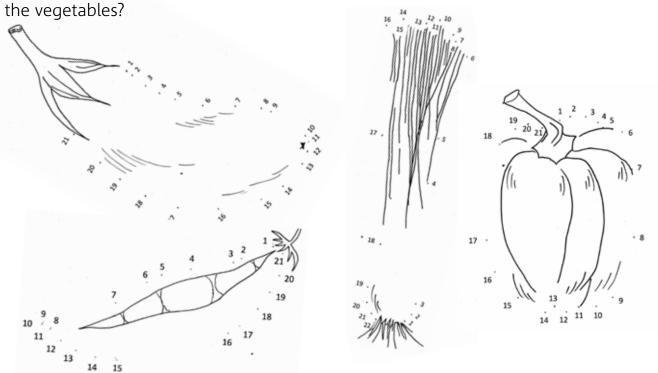
I know my vegetables

Matching vegetable pairs. Join the numbers and identify the vegetable.

Find the pairs and circle them. Which vegetable is not part of a pair?



Connect the numbers in the correct order. Do you know the name of



Lesson 4: Becoming a food adventurer

Lesson outline

STUDENTS

- Learn that liking of foods can change by repeated trying.
- Learn about the role of variety in the diet (included colour in vegetables).
- Try foods they have not tasted before.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

• Discover colour variety in vegetables.

Materials

FOR THE CLASS

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 4, slides 29-31.
- One to two adventurous foods (one piece per child for tasting).
- Two adventurous vegetables (one piece per child for tasting).
- Containers with lids to serve the foods.
- Tongs/spoons.

FOR EACH STUDENT

- Student journal.
- Spoon (depending on food chosen).

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

- Activity 1. Student worksheet 5, 'Colour the vegetables' and student worksheet 6, 'The colour of vegetables.'
- Activity 2. A4 sheet of paper.

VEGETABLES AND OTHER INGREDIENTS

Description vegetables

Two 'adventurous' vegetables that your students may not have tasted before or might find a bit challenging to taste

Suggestions

Alternatives

Radish

Rocket, fennel, celeriac (cooked), witlof, radicchio

Mushroom

Description other ingredients

Two 'adventurous' foods from other core food categories that your students may not have tasted before or might find a bit challenging to taste

Suggestions

Meat/fish: (smoked) fish from tin, cabanossi.

Dairy/dairy substitute: cheese other than Cheddar, (e.g. Gouda, goats cheese, soy cheese), plain yoghurt.

Grains: rice cracker, quinoa, couscous.

Fruit: fig, date, dried cranberry.

Preparation



- One week to a few days in advance:
 - Choose two vegetables and one to two foods from 'other' core categories that your students may not have tasted before or may find a bit challenging to taste.
 - Ensure 'other' foods are easy to share in a classroom setting. Take allergies/ cultural sensitivities of students in your classroom into account (see 5.1 Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 16).
- Ideally, choose foods from different food categories dairy (or alternatives), grains, meat/ fish, fruits.
- Prior to the lesson:
 - Prepare foods so that students can try a small piece/bite each.
 - Prepare vegetables. Cut up into small bites for each student to try.
 - Keep in fridge if not used immediately.

Teacher's background notes

With this lesson, we want the students to understand that their tastes can change. We want to encourage students to try new things and become more open to trying new foods. This has been shown to be of importance for learning to like a wide range of foods.

LEARNING TO LIKE THE TASTE OF FOODS

- People live in different parts of the world where different foods are naturally available for example different plants. Our bodies have the opportunity to learn to like whatever edible foods are available to us.
- We can learn to like foods by repeatedly eating a small taste of them.
- It may take a long time to start liking something, sometimes ten times or more often.
- Encourage students to just take a little nibble of a food every time they get offered the food, so they get used to the taste.
- With increasing variety in the diet, it becomes easier for children to learn to like other new things.

VARIETY

- Variety is important for a healthy diet.
- The Australian Guide for Healthy Eating recommends eating a wide variety of foods. Foods are divided into five food groups that provide important nutrients the body needs. For further information: https://www.eatforhealth.gov.au/guidelines/australian-guide-healthy-eating.
- Eating a wide variety of foods has health benefits. However, a health focus should not be emphasized with the students as this impacts negatively on their vegetable enjoyment. Rather, focus on the benefits a wide variety of foods may have from a student's perspective. For example, being a 'food adventurer' and being able to go to friend's homes and to restaurants without worrying that they may not like the food served.

VEGETABLE VARIETY

- Different coloured vegetables provide different nutrients to the body.
- Therefore, eating a variety of coloured vegetables is recommended.
- Examples of vegetables for each colour are provided on the next page.

ORANGE AND YELLOW	WHITE	GREEN		RED AND PURPLE
Carrot Corn Orange capsicum Pumpkin Squash Sweet potato Yellow capsicum Yellow tomato	Bean sprouts Cauliflower Celeriac Daikon Fennel Garlic Leek Onion Parsnip Potato Shallots Swede Turnip White cabbage White radish Witlof	Asparagus Avocado Broad beans Broccoli Broccolini Brussel's sprouts Buk Choy Celery Chinese broccoli Chinese cabbage Chinese silverbeet Cucumber	Green beans Green cabbage Green capsicum Kale Lettuce Okra Peas Rocket Silverbeet Snow and sugar snap peas Spinach Watercress Zucchini	Beetroot Chilli Eggplant Purple asparagus Purple carrots Purple potato Purple sweet potato Radicchio Radish Red cabbage Red capsicum Red onion Rhubarb Tomato

Suggested activities / Lesson steps



Suggested set up

Class participation

Additional resources

Novel foods, vegetables

YouTube video 'Healthy Foods'

Student journal

ELABORATE - FOOD ADVENTURERS

- Conduct a class discussion about how eating a variety of foods is needed to grow and maintain health.
- Explain that variety in vegetables also comes from different colours.

 Brainstorm a few vegetables for each colour: orange and yellow, white, green and red and purple.
- Watch the video "Healthy foods" (2:46 min) by Sesame Street https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBMxpDbp51A (there is a button to display subtitles).
- Lead a discussion about how we can learn to eat and enjoy many different foods.

The discussion might include:

- We could try a little a number of times.
- We could try them prepared in different ways.
- We could use our senses when we eat food.
- We could use our knowledge that they help our body to work with maximum efficiency.
- Ask the students what they think it means to become a 'food adventurer'.
 - What is an adventurer? A person who enjoys and seeks adventures. Adventurers go places and try things they have never tried before.
 - What is a 'food adventurer'? A person who enjoys and seeks adventures with the foods. 'Food adventurers' try things they have never tried before.
- Ask the students to wash their hands and form a sharing circle. Introduce the foods and vegetables prepared for tasting.

- Can students name these foods?
- Explain that the students are encouraged to be 'food adventurers' and to
 experience tasting each of the foods. Use tongs/spoons to serve one piece of each
 food two vegetables and one to two 'other' foods to each student.
- Discuss how it is fun to become a 'food adventurer' and try things that we have never tried before.
- Ask the students to return to their desks and write and/or draw in their journal about each food and vegetable they tried "Today I tried"



Suggested set up

Class participation

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 1, slide 5 and lesson 4, slides 30-31

Class record from lesson 1

Homework sheets from lesson 1

Student journal

EVALUATE - VEGETABLE TRYING - FOLLOW UP FROM LESSON 1

- Remind students of the repeated eating experiment that was started at home. By now, if they followed the homework activity, they have completed eight tastings of the selected vegetable.
- Distribute the completed home worksheet 1. Discuss briefly how the tastings went. Did students complete all tastings? What were their experiences?
- Explain that you would like the students to stand and join a group that indicates how they found the taste of the vegetable, 'did not like', 'unsure', 'like'. Discuss how people can learn to like foods by repeatedly eating them.
- Ask them to draw a smiley face on their home worksheet 1 that corresponds with how much they like their chosen vegetable now and to paste the sheet into their journal.
- Using PowerPoint slide 30, (adjusted to the vegetables selected for home tasting) complete the classroom record by asking how much students now like/are neutral/dislike each vegetable.
- Calculate the average liking from PowerPoint slide 5 and PowerPoint slide 30.
- Open slide 31 and go out of presentation mode / slide show (by pressing the Escape button).
- Double click on the table, an Excel file should open.
- Copy the numbers from Day 1 (slide 5) and Day 8 (slide 30) into the right columns; change the vegetable names if you have used different vegetables.
- The graphs will automatically update.
- Compare the results from today with the first session.
- Do students like the vegetables more now?
- Discuss how changes in liking can happen faster or slower in different people.
- Congratulate the students for trying the vegetables and encourage to keep trying them.

Additional resources

Activity 1 student worksheet 5, 'Colour the vegetables' or student worksheet 6, 'The colour of vegetables'

Activity 2 A4 sheet of paper

EXTENSION ACTIVITY 1 – VEGETABLE VARIETY

Ask the students to complete the worksheet appropriate to the literacy level of the class, either:

- Student worksheet 5 'Colour the vegetables'. Ask the students to colour each vegetable with the correct colour.
- Student worksheet 6 'The colour of vegetables'. Ask the students to write the names of all the vegetables they can think of for each colour.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY 2 - EATING A VARIETY OF FOODS

On a sheet of paper, ask the students draw pictures and/or write names of different foods they would like to eat/try in different food categories, including vegetables. Ask the students to take the sheet home to show their parents.

Student worksheet 5

Colour the vegetables

Name	Date	

Colour the vegetable in the correct colour.



Student worksheet 6

The colour of vegetables

Name_____

List all of the vegetables you know for each colour.				
Orange and yellow	White	Green	Red and purple	

Lesson 5: Picnic in class - sandwich

Lesson outline

STUDENTS

- Prepare a tasty sandwich with vegetables and other ingredients.
- Enjoy eating a sandwich together.
- Discuss their experiences of eating a sandwich that includes vegetables.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

• Know at least ten vegetables that can be consumed in a sandwich.

Materials

FOR THE CLASS

- PowerPoint slides, lesson 5, slides 32-35.
- Foods for sandwich lunch for the whole class: e.g. bread, spread, cheese/cold meats, condiments.
- Four–five vegetables that can be eaten on a sandwich, preferably a mix of common and less common ones.
- Plates/trays to serve the foods.
- Several spreading knives suitable for the student to use.
- Knife and cutting board.
- Tongs, cutlery to serve and prepare foods.
- Table cover (optional).
- Picnic blankets (optional).

FOR EACH STUDENT

- Student worksheet 7, 'Today I ate my sandwich'.
- One paper plate.
- Student journal.

VEGETABLES AND OTHER INGREDIENTS

Description

Vegetables: Four to five different vegetables that can be eaten in a sandwich. Preferably, choose a mix of common and less common ones.

Suggestions

Beetroot (canned or pre–packaged) Carrot (grated) Cucumber (sliced) Baby spinach Lettuce

Alternatives

Capsicum (red, green, yellow or orange) Radish Avocado Grilled eggplant



Description. Other ingredients to make a sandwich lunch

Bread: wholemeal, multigrain.

Protein source: cheese, cold meat (e.g. chicken, turkey, ham, salami), egg.

Spread: margarine or dairy-free spread, hummus.

Condiments: mustard, pickles, herbs.

Preparation



We suggest that you conduct this lesson just prior to or running into lunch. As a way to acquire ingredients and to promote communication of the class work to the parents, you may like to ask parents to contribute some vegetables from a list that you provide. You may also want to advise parents that they do not need to provide lunch on that day (just a drink).

- Decide on the foods to source for the sandwich lunch. Take allergies and cultural sensitivities into account where relevant (see 5.1 Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 16). Choose bread, protein source, spread and condiments, using the suggestions above.
- Decide on vegetables for the sandwich. Preferably, offer a mix of common (e.g. cucumber, lettuce, avocado, tomato, and carrot) and less common vegetables (e.g. baby spinach, rocket, radish, capsicum, grilled eggplant, and radicchio). Choose uncommon vegetables that would be a bit "challenging" for your students, but that they may be willing to try.
- Wash and cut vegetables in a manner appropriate for a sandwich, e.g. sliced cucumber/ tomato, grated carrot etc. (see also 5.2 How to safely prepare vegetables, Taste & Learn™, general information for teachers and schools, page 18)
- Put foods on plates or trays.
- Store materials in the fridge until use.
- Complete PowerPoint slide 33 with the foods that you have decided to use for the students.
- Decide on the location and food display area that will work best for the students to make their sandwich, such as classroom and classroom tables or other space where students can easily access the displayed food. Set up with the paper plates at the beginning, followed by the bread, the spread, the protein source, the vegetables and lastly, the condiments.
- Enlist assistance from parents or staff to serve the students with their choices for sandwiches. You may wish to prepare the bread with spread to facilitate a smoothly moving line of students making sandwiches.

Teacher's background notes

- We want to give students an opportunity to share a meal in the classroom and understand that a meal is a time of enjoyment and friendliness where you can share with others.
- We want to show them that vegetables can be consumed any time, not just at dinner.
- By adding vegetables, you make a sandwich more interesting to eat because of the additional flavour and texture dimensions.
- We want to offer students the opportunity to try a new vegetable or one that they previously may not have liked so much, but would now be ready to try again. Make sure that more 'common' vegetables are also available for the less adventurous.
- Students discuss their experiences of eating their sandwich together. This will help them become more aware of what they eat and pay attention to the different tastes and textures they are experiencing.
- Food hygiene is important when handling communal foods: wash hands, use cutlery and/or tongs to serve.
- This lesson is an evaluation activity where you can determine to what degree your students:
 - Have become more open to trying vegetables
 - Are actually enjoying vegetables, and
 - How well they are able to describe what they are consuming.

Suggested activities / Lesson steps

This lesson will provide the teacher with opportunities to assess the extent to which the students:

- Have increased their knowledge and familiarity with common vegetables.
- Can describe vegetables in terms of the five senses.
- Have learned that liking/disliking of specific foods can change by repeated trying.
- Have become more open to tasting a wide variety of vegetables.



Suggested set up

Class participation

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 5, slide 33

Sandwich foods

Vegetables

Tongs, cutlery to serve, plates, table cover (optional)

EVALUATION

- Conduct a class discussion about when vegetables are eaten (dinner, lunch, snack, breakfast?).
- Introduce this week's lesson; a picnic in class preparing a sandwich that includes vegetables.
- Explain that the students are going to prepare a lunch sandwich to enjoy together.
 Revise food handling procedures, such as having clean hands and using utensils such as tongs to serve food.

Using PowerPoint slide 33, show the students the foods that are available for them to use in their sandwich.

- Explain that they can create their own sandwich according to what they would like to eat.
- Remind them that it is good to be a 'food adventurer' and encourage them to include at least three different vegetables in their sandwich.
- Ask them to try include at least one vegetable they have not tried before or one that they have not liked so much in the past but are now ready to try again.
- Show the students the location of where the foods listed on PowerPoint slide 33 are to be served.
- Explain basic food safety, indicating that the students will not touch the food with their hands while they prepare their sandwich. Explain the process of lining up to help themselves to their sandwich choices and indicate that they will have people helping them to:
 - Collect a paper plate, collect bread and spread, choose a protein source, choose at least three vegetables and choose a condiment.
- Indicate the designated eating area (picnic blankets on the floor or outside, classroom table etc.) where they can sit to enjoy eating the sandwich lunch with their classmates.
- Direct the students to wash their hands before they join the sandwich making line.
- Invite them to join the sandwich making line and to prepare their sandwich.
- Supervise the sandwich making and the movement to the designated eating area.

As they eat their sandwich lunch, encourage the students to use their senses and describe to each other:

- What they have selected.
- How it tastes, using sensory descriptions (e.g. the radish tastes really crunchy and adds a punch of flavour).
- The combination they selected.
- Whether their sandwich tastes good.



Suggested set up

Individual

Additional resources

Student worksheet 7, 'Today, I ate my sandwich'

Additional resources

PowerPoint slides, lesson 5, slides 34–35.

CONCLUDING ACTIVITY

- Ask the students to join you for class instruction. Introduce and discuss student worksheet 7 'Today, I ate my sandwich'.
- Ask students to draw the foods and vegetables they ate in their sandwich. Depending on their literacy levels, they may be able to write about their experiences. Encourage them to use descriptive language, not just "yum" or "yuck", to describe the tastes they experienced. If they tried new vegetables, students could say what they tasted like and use a smiley face to indicate their enjoyment of the vegetable.
- Invite the students to share their work. Congratulate the students for trying the vegetables and encourage to keep eating them.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY - SANDWICH VEGETABLES

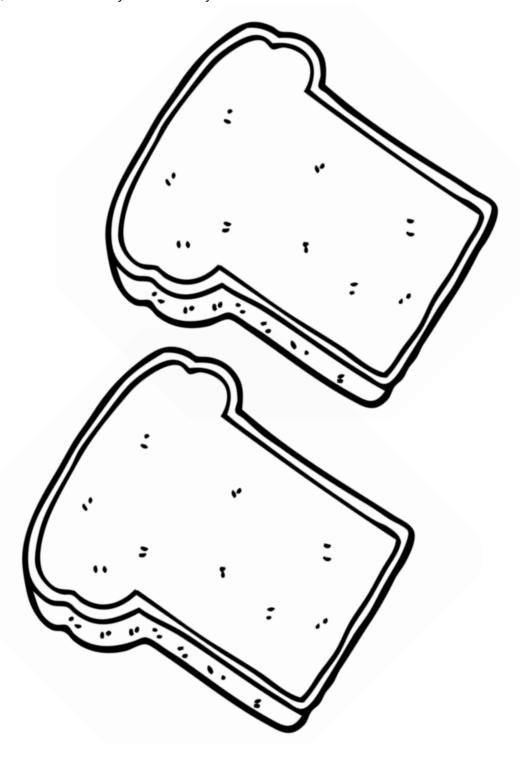
Using PowerPoint slides 34 and 35, discuss which vegetables are best to be consumed in a sandwich or wrap.

Answer: all vegetables can be consumed on a sandwich. Some vegetables are very commonly eaten on a sandwich and others are not. However, there are tasty sandwich recipes for all sorts of vegetables. It really depends on your taste, creativity and how much effort you want to put into making a sandwich.

Today, I ate my sandwich

Name	Date
------	------

Draw and/or write what you ate on your sandwich

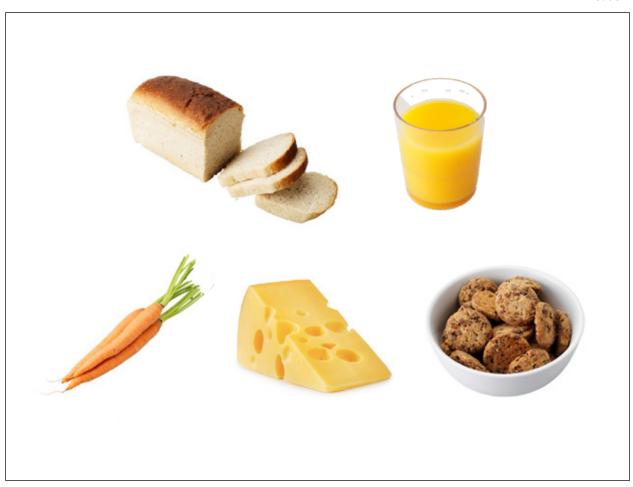


Appendix A: Unit 1 PowerPoint slides



Lesson 1: The five senses

Slide 2

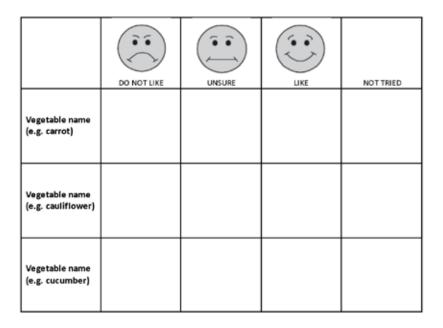


The five senses



Slide 4

Classroom record: Liking of vegetables Day 1

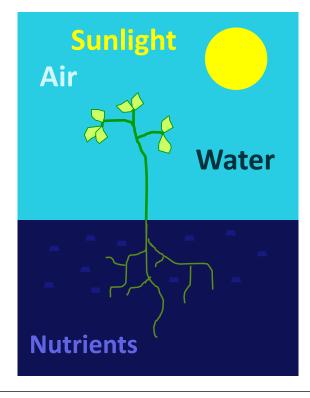


Slide 5

Lesson 2: From seed to vegetable

Slide 6

What does a plant need to grow?



Avocado



Slide 8

Baby spinach



Beetroot



Slide 10

Broccoli





Slide 12



Slide 13

Cauliflower

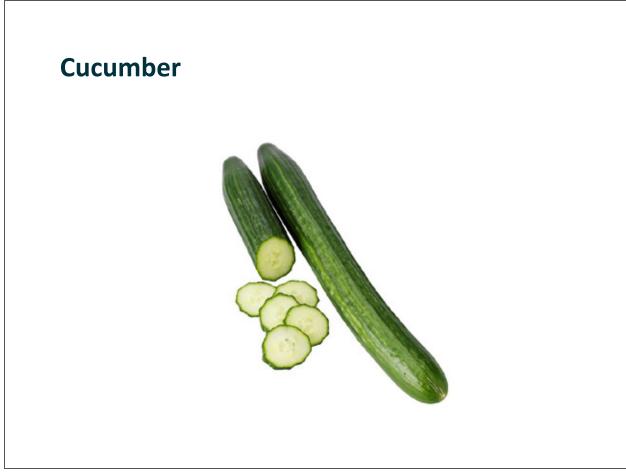
Slide 14



Slide 15



Slide 16



Slide 17

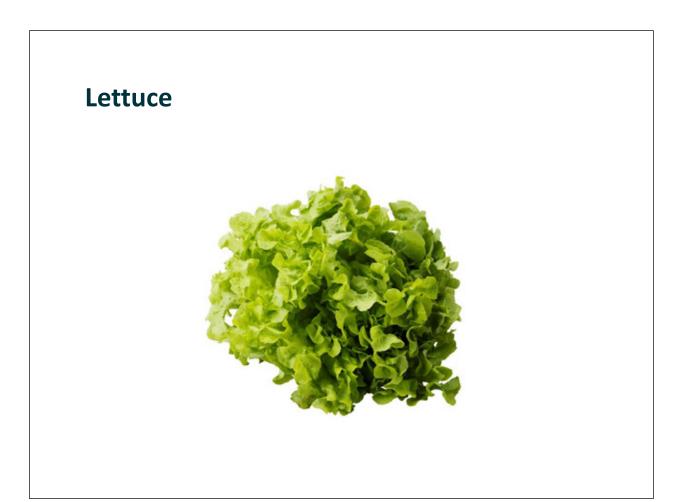
Green beans



Slide 18

Leek





Slide 20



Slide 21

Pumpkin



Slide 22

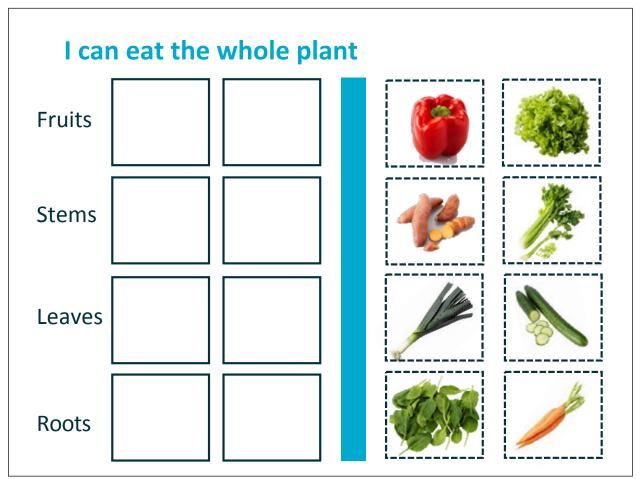
Sweet potato



Tomato

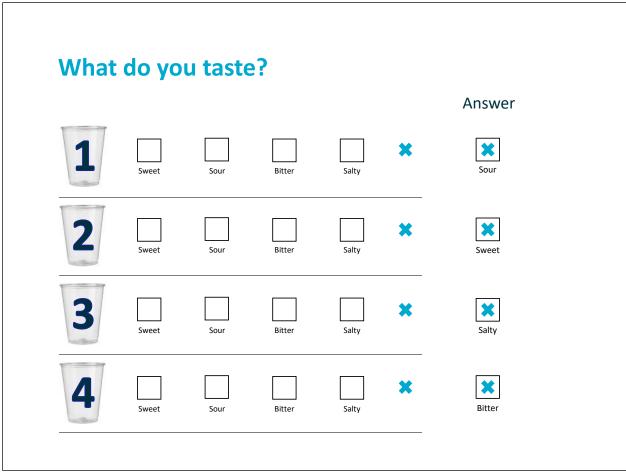


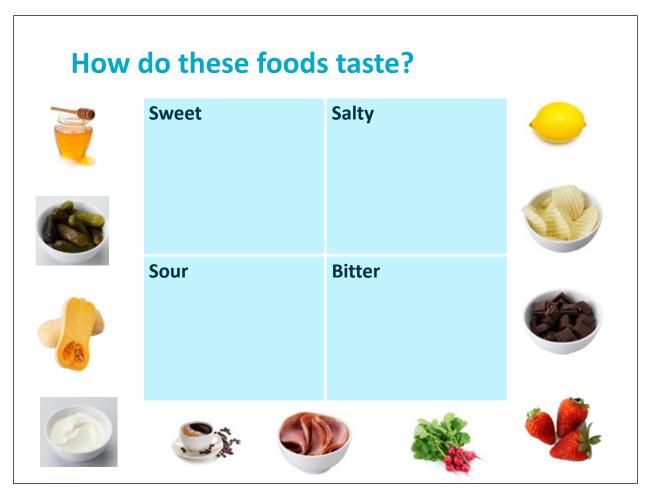
Slide 24



Slide 25







Slide 28

Lesson 4: Becoming a food adventurer

Classroom record: Liking of vegetables Day 8

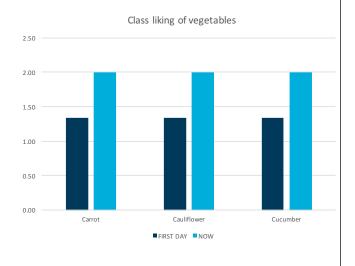
	DO NOT LIKE	UNSURE	LIKE	NOTTRIED
Vegetable name (e.g. carrot)				
Vegetable name (e.g. cauliflower)				
Vegetable name (e.g. cucumber)				

Slide 30

How do we like the vegetables now?

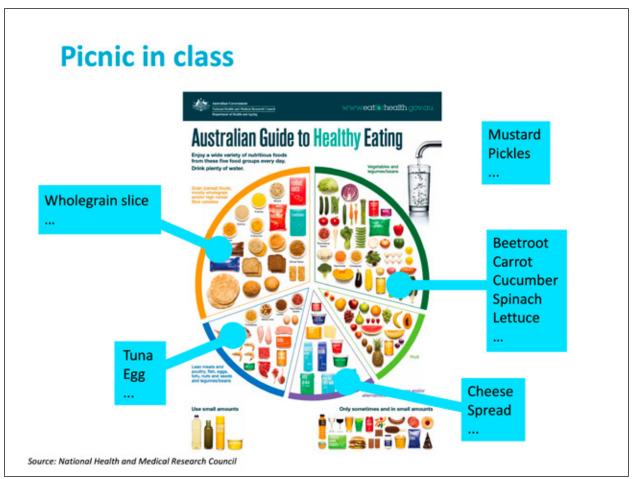
	Did not	Unsure	Liked	Did		
FIRST DAY	like (1)	(2)	(3)	not try	Total	Average
Carrot	2	1	0	0	3	1.33
Cauliflower	2	1	0	0	3	1.33
Cucumber	2	1	0	0	3	1.33

	Did not	Unsure	Liked	Did		
NOW	like (1)	(2)	(3)	not try	Total	Average
Carrot	1	1	1		3	2.00
Cauliflower	1	1	1		3	2.00
Cucumber	1	1	1		3	2.00

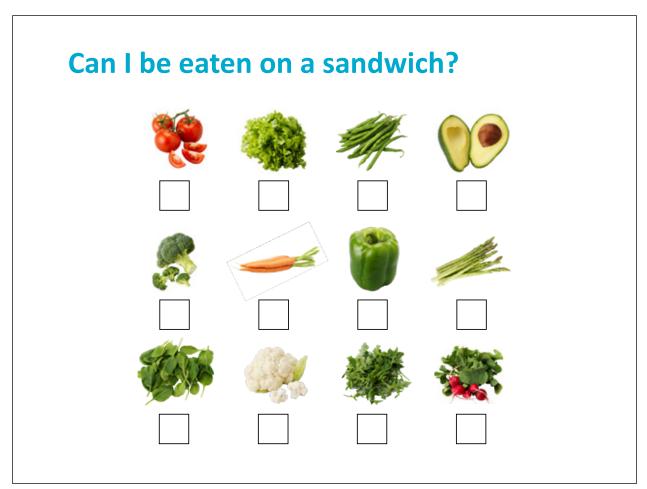


Lesson 5: Picnic in class

Slide 32



Slide 33



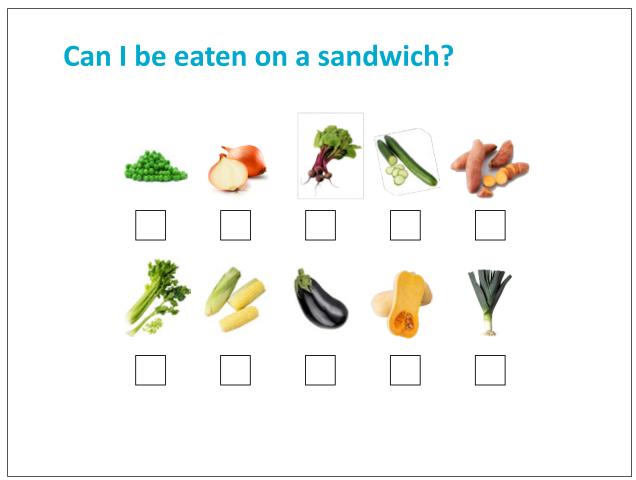


Image credits

Screencraft – cover image

Copperplate Design – page 7, 38 (image on slide 4)

Rob Palmer – pages 14, 22 (strawberry, pumpkin, crisp, ham, pickles and chocolate image), 37 (bread, juice, carrot and biscuit image), 40-48 (all vegetable images), 50 (strawberry, pumpkin, crisp, ham, pickles and chocolate image), 53

Maeva Broch – page 23

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