



All about Tomatoes

A tomato is a juicy fruit, usually red, that looks like a big berry

What are Tomatoes?

Imagine it is a hot summer day and time for lunch. You want something sweet for your sandwich, so slice into the soft skin of one of your favourite foods to add flavour. It is juicy, a little sweet, a little tangy and very delicious. It is a tomato!

Tomato is a red fruit. It is shiny and smooth, and has many small seeds. The tomato is green when it is unripe. It can be very sour and it is good for you. It slowly changes colour from green to red as it gets riper. Most tomatoes grow on vines, though a few kinds grow on shrubs. Many people think the tomatoes grown on vines taste much better, and those types are much more common.

There are many different types of tomatoes. Most tomatoes are red, but some special kinds are yellow or orange when they are ripe. Also, some tomatoes are as small as strawberries, and some will become as big as apples. Tomatoes are used a lot in Italian food. They are also used to make ketchup. Sometimes, people mistake tomatoes for vegetables, but they aren't, because they contain seeds. Tomato seeds are dispersed by being eaten by, and then passing through, animals.

Fruit-versus-vegetable !

This is a dispute that still continues today, since many people use tomatoes as vegetables in everyday cooking in salads, sauces, and so on. This argument actually went to the United States Supreme Court in the 1890s. Even though the tomato is scientifically a fruit, the court declared it a vegetable so that it could be taxed the same way as other vegetables.

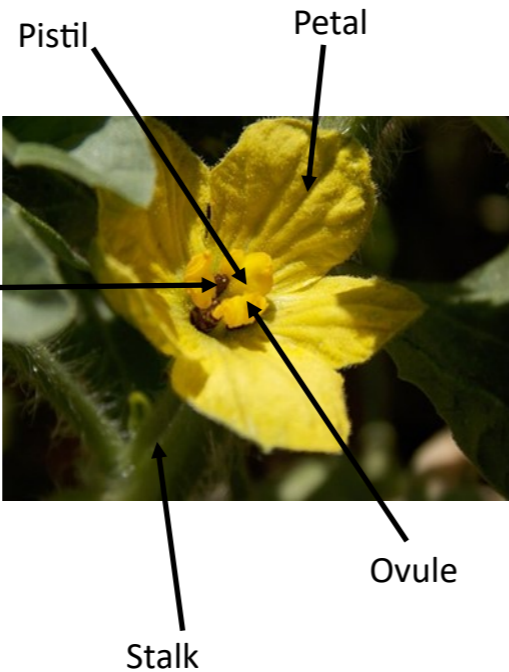
Tomatoes are not alone! Cucumbers and bell peppers are two more examples of fruits that are treated like vegetables.

The reason they are a fruit is because they have seeds inside of them like apples, oranges, lemons, kiwi, and all other types of fruit.



FLOWER

Flower helps in reproduction



Stamen

Pistil

Petal

Ovule

Stalk

FRUIT

Exocarp (outer skin)

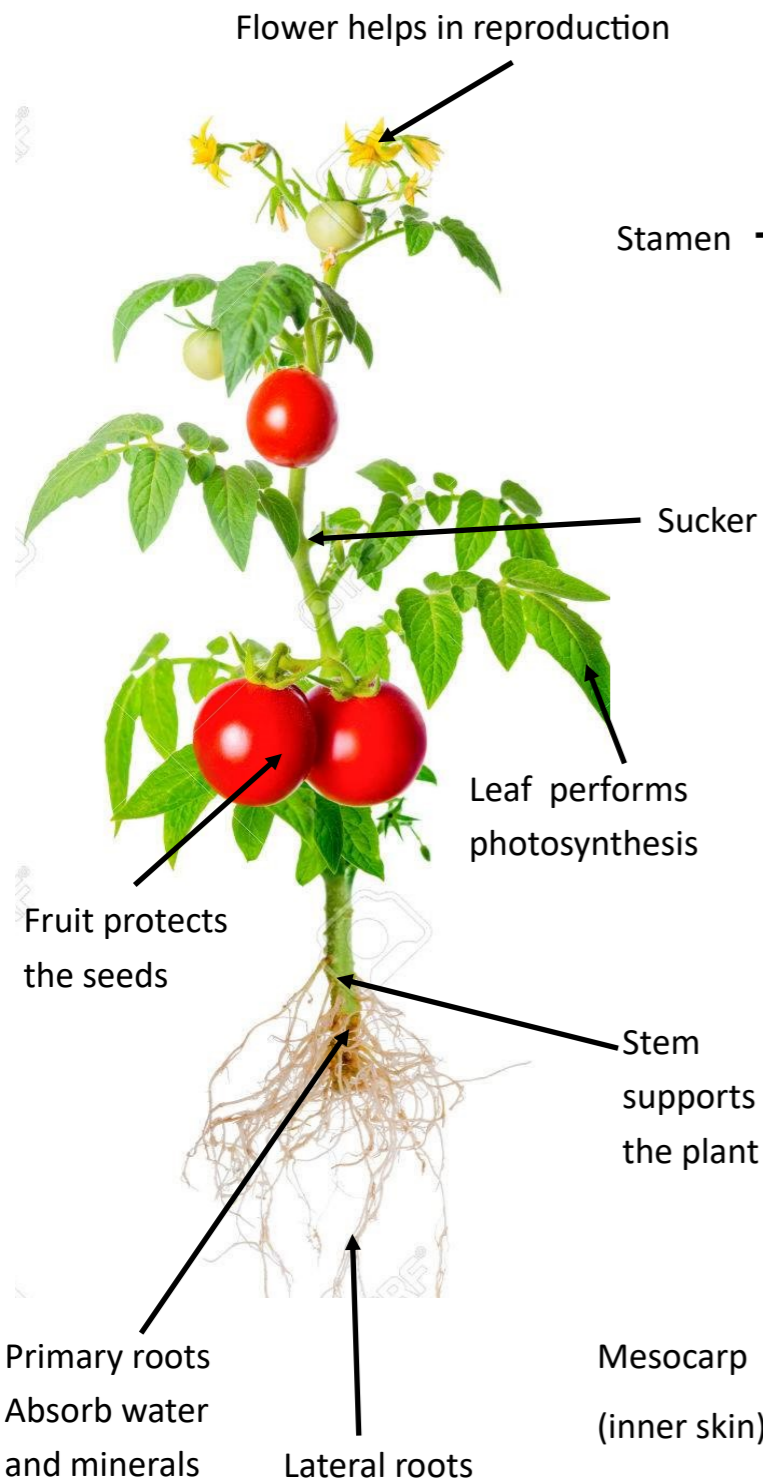
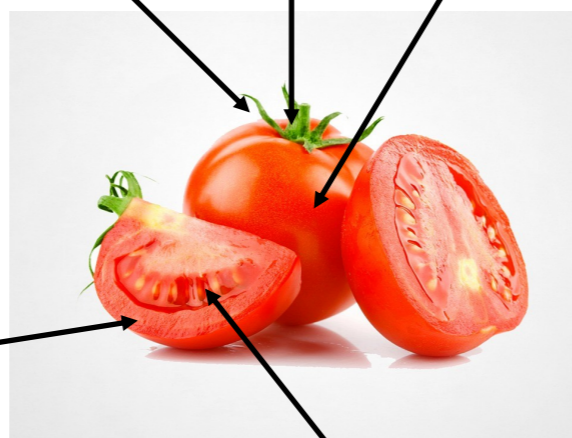
Pedicel

Sepal

Stem supports the plant

Mesocarp (inner skin)

Seed



Primary roots Absorb water and minerals

Lateral roots

Fruit protects the seeds

Leaf performs photosynthesis

Sucker

Stem supports the plant

Check out our Tasty Tomato facts for children. Learn interesting information.

- 🍅 Tomatoes originated in South and Central America
- 🍅 The smallest type of tomato is the tomberry. It is one tenth of the size of a normal tomato
- 🍅 Sun-dried tomatoes are left in the sun for five to ten days to dry out – it takes around 10 kilos of tomatoes to make 1 kilo of sun-dried tomatoes
- 🍅 The tomato plant is a member of the same family of plants as Deadly Nightshade
- 🍅 The Tomatina festival, in the town of Bunol in Eastern Spain, involves thousands of people throwing tomatoes at each other
- 🍅 Many of the tomatoes grown in the UK are grown in glasshouses
- 🍅 Tomatoes are one of the most important toppings on a pizza!
- 🍅 In the 19th century, people used to throw rotten tomatoes at bad performers on stage
- 🍅 There are several thousand different types of tomato
- 🍅 A popular salad recipe is tomato, mozzarella cheese and basil. The colours of the three ingredients resemble the flag of Italy
- 🍅 Tomato ketchup is made from tomatoes and other ingredients such as vinegar, spices, sugar and salt
- 🍅 The largest type of tomato is the beef tomato. It is twice as big as a classic tomato
- 🍅 Tomato seeds have been grown in space!

Tomatoes are one of the most popular fruits in the world.

TOMATOES ALSO COME IN DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES:

Most tomatoes are round and the same size as a tennis ball

Some can be as big as a softball

Cherry tomatoes look like little cherries

Roma tomatoes are egg-shaped

Yellow pear tomatoes look like little tiny pears—about an inch tall



WHERE DID TOMATOES COME FROM

Tomatoes were first brought to Europe by Christopher Columbus after his discovery of the Americas in 1492

Today tomatoes are grown in almost every country in the world.

The country that grows the most tomatoes, though, is China.

The United States is next and India comes in third place for growing the most tomatoes.

Tomatoes were first grown in Europe as an ornamental plant, not a food crop. People thought the fruit were poisonous

Spanish colonists brought the tomato to Europe and Asia after they conquered the Aztec empire

