



## GOOD THINGS COME IN MINI SIZES

There are over 10,000 varieties of tomato plants in the world, and each one produces its own unique fruit – from giant-sized slicing tomatoes to tomatoes so tiny you could fit 10 on a spoon!

BC greenhouses produce mini tomatoes with names that hint at their size, shape, and taste: Grape, Cherry, and Gem. These bite-size fruits are bursting with flavour. They are full of nutrients and vitamins that help keep us healthy.



## ONE GREENHOUSE = ONE BIG CROP OF TOMATOES

Look inside a BC greenhouse and you'll see row upon row of tomato plants, but no other plants. That's because it's more efficient and productive for a grower to produce one crop that has the same planting, growing, maintenance, pollination, pest control, and harvesting needs. Growing only one type of crop is called "intensive farming" and usually means higher yields for the farmer.

Greenhouse growers create and maintain the optimal growing environment for their plants. Because each plant receives just the right amount of light, water, nutrients, carbon dioxide, heat, and humidity, greenhouse-grown mini tomato plants can grow to 6 metres high! And, each one produces thousands of mini tomatoes in one season.

## WHO'S AT WORK IN THE GREENHOUSE?

### Growers:

- Monitor crops and the climate inside the greenhouse using computer technology.
- Make planting, growing, and harvesting decisions.
- Try new crop varieties and growing systems.

### Crop workers:

- Plant new seedlings, care for, and prune the plants.
- Harvest the crop one ripe tomato at a time.

### Maintenance managers and workers:

- Repair equipment and the greenhouse building.
- Set up new equipment.

### Pest management specialists:

- Scout for pests and identify problem areas.
- Come up with Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans.

### Technical assistants:

- Monitor plant growth and crop yield.
- Take care of irrigation systems.

### Pollination specialists:

- Calculate the number of bees needed for pollination.

### Packing managers and staff:

- Weigh each harvested tomato, checking it for quality and size.
- Pack the fruit into a box or container for shipping.

### Sales and marketing staff:

- Work with marketing agencies to promote fresh BC greenhouse-grown tomatoes locally and beyond.





## MATH ACTIVITY

Curriculum Connection: Mathematics - grades 4 to 7: Use reasoning to explore and make connections. Estimate reasonably and develop mental math strategies/abilities to make sense of quantities. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational (focused on connectedness, on reciprocal relationships, and a sense of place).

Teachers: if your mini tomatoes are not delivered in quart containers, you'll need to bring one to class for this activity.

BC greenhouse mini tomatoes are often packaged in containers called quarts. A quart is measured in quantity not weight. So, a quart of mini tomatoes will have a different weight than, for example, a quart of marbles. Estimate how many mini tomatoes there are in a quart container. (Answers will vary. Count and see who was closest in their estimation.)

Fill the quart container with Base Ten blocks or marbles or another loose part. Then have students estimate again. Ask them what strategy they used to make their estimation. Look for answers that include shape or size (e.g., "I estimated a larger number for the Base Ten blocks because the mini tomatoes are bigger."). Ask students which fruit they would get more of in a quart: mini tomatoes or blueberries? How about mini tomatoes or strawberries? How do they know?

## CAREER EDUCATION ACTIVITY: CREATE A MARKETING AD

Curriculum Connection: Career Education - grades 4 to 5: Exploring our strengths and abilities can help us identify our goals. Grades 6 to 7: Our attitudes toward careers are influenced by our view of ourselves as well as by our friends, family, and community. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning is embedded in memory, history, and story.

Have students create an ad for tomatoes. Explain that they are not only the marketers but also the target audience for the ad. Marketers often use research, like interviews and surveys, to learn more about their target audience's likes and dislikes.

Write the following examples on the white board and have students brainstorm and contribute their own responses to the lists.

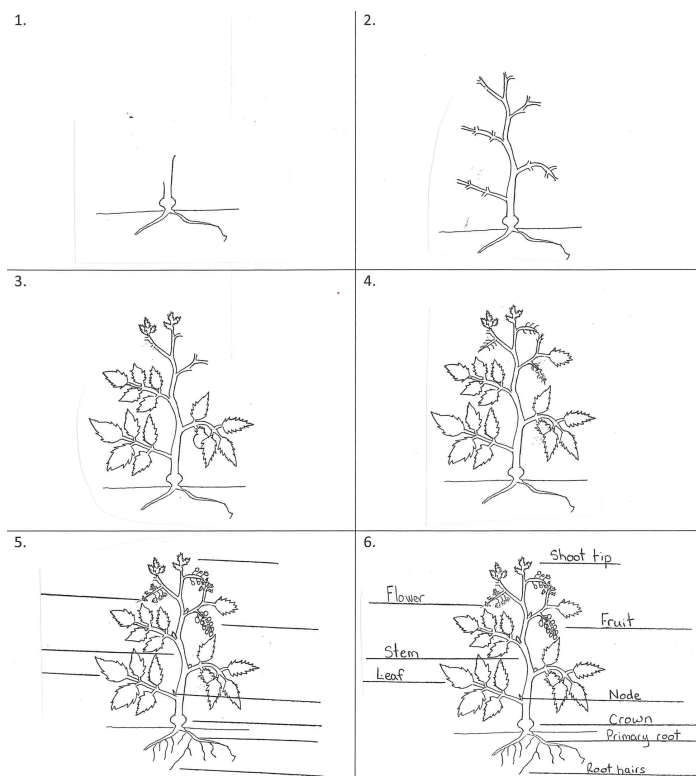
Target audience: intermediate students	
Likes	Dislikes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Summer Vacation</li> <li>- Holidays</li> <li>- Technology</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tests and quizzes</li> <li>- Chores</li> <li>- Losing a game</li> </ul>

With paper, pens, and markers, ask students to create an ad for tomatoes based on the information they generate. Remind them that they need a simple slogan, pictures, and details that appeal to the likes and dislikes of intermediate students.

## SCIENCE ACTIVITY: DIRECTED DRAW OF A TOMATO PLANT

Curriculum Connection: Science - grade 4: Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world. Grades 5 to 6: Demonstrate a sustained curiosity about a scientific topic. Grade 7: Experience and interpret the local environment. First Peoples Principles of Learning: Learning ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Have students create and label a scientific diagram by following the directed draw below and then using the word bank to label each part of a tomato plant.



### Word Bank:

Leaf  
Flower  
Seeds  
Shoot tip  
Primary root  
Lateral root  
Root hairs  
Stem  
Shoot  
Node  
Crown  
Fruit