

# Activity 37



## The Taste of Alberta



**STUDY QUESTION:**

Can you discriminate an Alberta product from others?

**THE ACTIVITY:**

Children taste groups of selected products to assess differences between them.

This activity is recommended for fall when some students might supply products from their own gardens, for comparing with products from other places such as California or B.C.

**SUBJECT AREA:**

Social Studies

**CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

Read and listen to a variety of materials: directions; labels.

Use appropriate forms of written language for clear communication: labels, charts.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Interdependence of communities in Canada today.

**AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS:**

Alberta farm products: food processing.

**PURPOSE:**

To introduce children to the differences between Alberta-made products and other similar products made in other provinces and countries.

To give the children the opportunity to further develop their language skills while learning about Alberta-made products.



**MATERIALS REQUIRED:**

Samples of food items grown or processed both in Alberta and in other places.

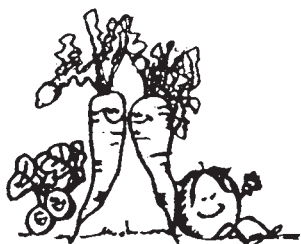
Product rating sheets. Supplied in this activity.

Summary sheets. Supplied in this activity.

Paper cups.

**TIME REQUIRED:**

3 class periods.



## Procedure

### Introduction

1. Ask students if they think there are differences between locally grown food and imported food.

### Comparing/Collecting Food Samples

2. Identify several types of food to examine in a comparison of local products with similar products made outside of Alberta - e.g. cheeses, honeys or jams, carrots. Have the children form samples groups around each product, and ask members of each group to bring both Alberta-made and non-Alberta made samples of their product.
3. Have each group mark several sets of paper cups with letters that correspond to particular food samples, for example:
  - a. Ontario cheddar
  - b. B.C. cheddar
  - c. Alberta cheddar

### Tasting/Evaluating

4. In each group of cups, include at least one Alberta product. Have the children in each group taste the food samples presented by the other groups and fill our rating sheets for them.

### Counting

5. Have each group count the number of times their Alberta product was rated each way:
  - most preferred (yum)
  - O.K.
  - least preferred (yuck)

### Recording

6. Have them do the same for the other samples and have them record their results on their summary sheets.

### Conclusion

7. Share results across groups, noting any patterns or responses that may seem evident. Emphasize the fact that food processing companies do use such consumer surveys in developing their products - another aspect of the interdependence between producers and consumers.

### Discussion Questions

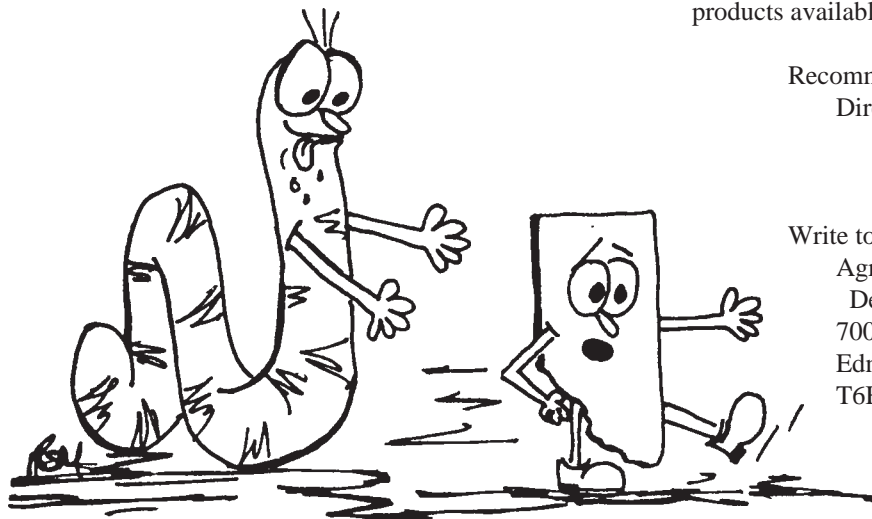
1. Where does the money go when you buy an imported food product?
2. Where does the money go when you buy an Alberta-made food product?
3. What differences did you notice between the different products?
4. How do you think processing affects the taste of a product?

### Evaluation Strategies

1. Use the two task sheets as a method of evaluation.

### Related Activities

1. Create a display of Alberta food products for your school for a day. For the display, prepare "Think Alberta" posters about selected products. Alternately, seek permission from a local food store or supermarket to display such posters on their premises for a week, focusing on particular Alberta products available for sale there.



Recommended Resource:

Director of Alberta  
Agricultural Processing  
Industry - Alberta Agriculture

Write to:

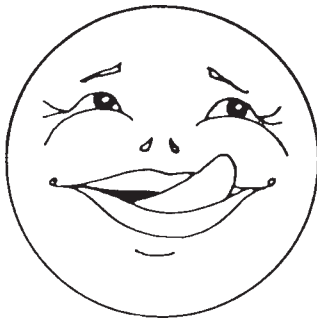
Agricultural Processing  
Development Branch  
7000 - 113 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T6H 5T6



# Product Rating Sheet

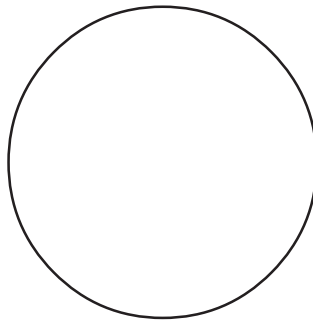
Product: \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the three samples of this product on the scale below.  
Place the letters a, b, and c in the blanks to show how you liked each one.



--	--	--

(Yum)



--	--	--

O.K.



--	--	--

(Yuck)

Please add a comment if you wish: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



# Summary Sheet: Product Rating

Summarize the ratings for your products below:

Type of product: \_\_\_\_\_

	No. of ratings YUM	No. of ratings O.K.	No. of ratings YUCK
Product A (Alberta)			
Product B ( )			
Product C ( )			

Summary of Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

---

---

---

---