



Geography: the language of Europe

Lesson 5: La Producción de Fresa en España (Strawberry production in Spain)

Key questions:

- a) What are the main production areas for strawberries in Spain, why are they here and how do EU trade and citizenship policies help the industry?
- b) What are the potential consequences of strawberry production?

Starter activity:

Fancy a strawberry? (Geography starter)

This lesson examines trading links within the EU, migrant workers used in Spanish production of strawberries, and the environmental impacts of strawberry production in a fragile part of Spain.

The PowerPoint presentation *Fancy a strawberry?* introduces students to the production of strawberries in Spain. At the end of the presentation, students complete an interactive quiz to see how much they've remembered.

They could then use the correct answers to write a paragraph introducing the location of strawberry production, and also the use of migrant workers in the industry.

Fresas españolas (MFL starter)

Students play an interactive memory game to learn and test their recall of key Spanish terms linked to the lesson.

Answers:

Strawberries	las fresas
Spain	España
Irrigation	irrigación
Exports	la exporta
Transportation	el transporte
Pollution	la contaminación
The environment	el ambiente
Foreign workers	los trabajadores extranjeros
To farm	cultivar
Cash crops	los cultivos comerciales
Packaging	el empaquetado
Employment	el empleo

Main activity:

Causes and consequences

During the main activity, students consider the impacts of winter strawberry production. There are two parts to this activity, as follows;

1. **Causes and consequences activity** – students match up the statements in the text boxes on the resource sheet with their potential resulting consequences. The correct answers are shown below.
2. **Case study research** - students research the Coto Doñana National Park, which is a World Heritage Site. They write a speech about the potential impacts of strawberry

farming on this fragile environment. Guidance has been provided for this task in the main activity resource.

Statement	Possible consequence
Migrant workers used for labour	Local people become annoyed that jobs are being given to foreign workers
Thousands of strawberries are exported	Transportation costs and pollution
Land is needed to grow the strawberries	Natural forest is cleared and fragile environments can be affected
It's labour-intensive - lots of people are needed	It provides jobs
It's this region's main industry	It boosts the local economy
Irrigation is vital to production	This puts pressure on water resources
Pests must be controlled	There are worries over chemical pollution
The perishable fruit is packaged for transportation	Plastic packaging is non-biodegradable and therefore very polluting

Plenary:

Strawberry fields forever...?

Individual students should be asked to read their speeches to the class. The main potential impacts of strawberry farming in this region of Spain can be highlighted.

The lesson could finish with a vote as to whether strawberry farming should be allowed to continue here, and students could be asked to write a conclusion to the lesson giving and justifying their personal opinion.