

It's the pits California-Grown Stone Fruit

Introducing California Stone Fruit

In botany, stone fruit are called "drupes." This term describes a fruit in which an outer fleshy part surrounds a pit, or stone.

Peaches: It takes five years for a peach tree to reach full production. The fruit can have yellow or white flesh and the skin feels velvety. Peach tree leaves are **simple**, long (3 to 6 inches), fold inward, and curve downward.

Apricots: Approximately 95 percent of apricots grown in the U.S. come from California. Apricots are smaller than a peach, yellow to orange in color, often tinged red on the side exposed to the most sun. Apricot leaves are nearly round in shape with **palmate venation**.

Cherries: There are two kinds of cherries, sweet and tart. California farmers primarily grow sweet cherries. They may be red, black, or yellow in color. Cherry leaves are oval to oblong, with a **serrate** edge.

Nectarines: Nectarines are similar to the peach in appearance, but have a smooth skin. They have red, yellow, or white flesh. The leaves and buds of nectarine trees look similar to peaches—long, glossy, and bright green in color.

Plums: Plums come in a wide variety of colors and sizes. Some are much firmer-fleshed than others. Plums may have yellow, white, green, or red flesh, with varying skin color. Plum leaves are simple, oval to oblong, and come to a point at the end. The leaf margins are **scalloped**.

Activity

Identify and match each stone fruit to the most appropriate leaf type. Some leaf types may be a match with more than one fruit.

Appearance

Leaf Type



Apricot

Cherry

Nectarine

Plum

Peach



Standards: ELA—Grade 3: Reading Informational Text (RI) 4, 7; Grade 4: RI 4, 7; Grade 5: RI 4, 7; Grade 6: RI 4, 7; Science—Grade 5: 6a

Activity

Using a ruler and the illustrations provided, calculate the exact measurements (in inches) of each fruit in decimal form. Assume that the fruit is a perfect sphere.

Hints: $C = \pi d$ Surface area = $4\pi r^2$ $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$



Diameter = _____
Circumference = _____
Radius = _____
Surface area = _____
Volume = _____

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Standards: Math—Grade 6: 6.G.6, 6.EE.2; Grade 7: 7.G.4, 7.G.7

Imagine this...

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be a peach? In the award-winning story "Just Peachy," sixth-grade author Nick O'Brien introduces readers to a young peach, Sims, and the quirky "neighbors" he shares a tree with. To read more, visit www.LearnAboutAg.org/imaginethis/ 2010.

Sources: Purdue Horticulture and Landscape Architecture (www.hort.purdue.edu), California Citrus Peaches (www.calagppeach.com), California Cherry Marketing and Research Board (www.calcherry.com)