

SESSION 6

Local food products Catalonia

TEACHER'S GUIDE



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6/

Local food
products
Catalonia



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Energy to grow

Energy to grow

Breakdown

SESSION SUMMARY

- Information on local products.
- Information on Protected Designations of Origin.
- Activity: "Classify the types of food".
- Activity: "You're the chef today".
- Activity: "Become a chef".

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

- To appreciate local products as a guarantee of food quality.
- To cultivate cultural sensitivity through gastronomy.

CONTENTS

Local food products.
Protected Designations of Origin.
Seasonal produce.

KEY COMPETENCIES

1. Linguistic communication.
2. Mathematical comprehension and basic science and technology comprehension.
4. Learning how to learn.
5. Social and civic comprehension.
6. Sense of initiative and entrepreneurial spirit.
7. Cultural expressions and awareness.

Session plan

The weather, geography and cultural and historical heritage of each region mean that each place on the map specialises in growing, making and eating specific types of food. These types of food are known as local food products.

In this session, the pupils learn the benefits of local food products and Designations of Origin.

At the end of the session, activities are performed to apply this knowledge.

The advantages of local food products

Local food products are types of food which are produced, processed and distributed in a specific geographical region. They also have specific characteristics that set them apart.

The benefits of local food products:

1. They are fresher, because the distances they have to be transported are shorter.
2. They keep their flavour and nutritional properties better.
3. Because they do not have to be transported very far, they mean we can cut costs and emit less CO₂ into the atmosphere.

4. Because they are top-quality products, they always taste good.
5. They allow us to get to know and enjoy the specific flavours of our land.
6. They encourage food tourism (between regions).
7. They help maintain customs and traditions from the past.
8. They allow us to get to know and establish a relationship with the environment in which we live.
9. The production of local food products helps develop the local economy.
10. They help enrich our community.

SESSION 6 LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS

ENERGY TO GROW
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME ON FOOD AND HEALTHY LIVING

Tix and Loy have taught us how important it is to eat a balanced diet as part of our everyday lives, eating all kinds of food in the recommended quantities.

But, do you think that food is the same all over the world?

The answer is no, because the things we eat vary a great deal depending on where we are.

The weather, geography and cultural and historical heritage of each region mean that each place on the map specialises in growing, making and eating specific types of food. These types of food are known as local food products. Have you heard of them? Tix and Loy are going to explain them a bit more.



1/ The advantages of local food products

Local food products are types of food which are produced, processed and distributed in a specific geographical region. They also have specific characteristics that set them apart.

Do you know the countless benefits of local food products? Here they are:

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2. They keep their flavour and nutritional properties better.
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Pupil notebook

Did you know...?

Thanks to the interest shown by farmers and consumers, flavours, traditions and part of the past of our food culture are now being recovered.



Protected Designations of Origin (PDO)

The current internationalisation of the market has harmed a lot of local food products.

Protected Designations of Origin (PDO) were created to protect and highlight the production of food of this kind.

Not all local food products have a PDO, however, only those that meet certain requirements.

A product with a Protected Designation of Origin has a label that tells us that...

- ... the product comes from a specific region.
- ... it has specific characteristics because it comes from that region.
- ... it is entirely produced in that region.



Seasonal produce

This is food, mainly fruit and vegetables, which is eaten when it is at its optimum level of ripeness. The advantages of this kind of food over other kinds include:

1. More nutritional properties and better flavour because their properties remain intact.
2. Economic savings because larger quantities of the product are available.
3. They respect the environment because they defend the natural life cycles of products and help reduce the intensive farming of single products.

We can enjoy different kinds of seasonal fruit and vegetables over the year.

Like oranges for example. Although we eat them all year round, they are a winter product. In fact, the best season to eat oranges is winter.

Did you know...?

There are different protected designations of origin for different types of product.

Some typical products from Catalonia:

- Pears from Lleida
- Rice from the Ebro Delta
- Cava
- Hazelnuts from Reus
- Catalan Butifarra
- Calçots



Pears from Lleida

Fertile land, often referred to as the **Garden of Eden of Fruit**, surrounds Lleida. Half of the pears grown in the country grow here under the Pears from Lleida Designation.

The climate in the area makes these pears delicious. **Dry summers make them sweet and cold winters let the pear trees rest.** These pears are rounder than others because of the height at which the trees grow.

There are **three types of Pears from Lleida**, all equally delicious: **Limonera** (which looks like a lemon), **Blanquilla** (the smallest but juiciest kind) and **Conference** (the best known).

**Rice from the Ebro Delta**

As you know, a river delta is a lot of sediment which builds up where a river flows into the sea. The river splits up into a lot of streams because of this sediment before it reaches the coast. This is what happens with the Ebro Delta.

Fresh water and salt water meet on land like this and create very rich, fertile soil, perfect for growing the finest rice, like the types of rice from the Ebro Delta.

14 different types of rice are grown on this land, but the only exclusively Catalan varieties are Bahía, Gleva and Bomba, an Extra-category rice. In short, the best you can buy!

**Cava**

When people talk about wine, we immediately think of red wine. But there are lots of different kinds, including wine with bubbles, like Cava, the **sparkling wine most sold in the world after Champagne**. 85% of all Cava is made in Catalonia.



Cava is made from **3 types of grape**: mainly Macabeo grapes, which make it sweet; Parellada grapes, which make it fresh; and Xarel-lo grapes, which lend it body.

A little bit of sugar is added to the juice extracted from these grapes and mixed to the taste of each winemaker to produce one of the most appreciated drinks from our land.

But you won't be able to try it until you are older because it contains alcohol.

Hazelnuts from Reus

Hazelnuts have been grown in our country since the 13th century. **95% of all the hazelnuts grown on the peninsula are from Reus.**



These nuts form an **integral part of the Mediterranean diet** and can be eaten in many different ways.

Most of the Hazelnuts from Reus grown nowadays come from the province of Tarragona.

You can buy Designation of Origin Hazelnuts from Reus in shops and supermarkets in their shells, without their shells and toasted.

What have we learned today?

- Food products with Protected Designations of Origin are those which are produced, processed and distributed in our own community.
- We can recognise them in the supermarket thanks to their quality labels.
- The production and distribution of these products in our community contributes towards local economic growth.

SESSION 6 LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTS - CATALONIA

ENERGY TO GROW
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME ON FOOD AND HEALTHY LIVING

Catalan Butifarra

This is the best known and most eaten sausage from Catalonia. Its success is, to a large extent, due to its mild flavour, which is popular with both grown-ups and children.



These sausages are made using the best cuts of pork. The best lean meat from the legs and back is chosen and, sometimes, bacon is added to make it juicier. After chopping the meat up into small cubes, a range of different condiments can be added, like sugar, pepper, truffle, liqueur, nutmeg... That is why there are Butifarras with different flavours and colours. When all the ingredients are mixed together, the mixture is kneaded, inserted in intestines to give it the cylindrical shape we all know and then cooked. And it's ready! Butifarra is a **protein food**, so it can give you a lot of energy if you eat it for breakfast or as a mid-morning snack.

Calçots

Another very special product which comes entirely from our land is the calçot. There are not many kinds of onion in the world that are so **important** that there is an entire festival based around them: the "calçotada", a **gastronomic festival** where everyone eats roast calçots with Romesco sauce, followed by Butifarra and typical Catalan meats.



Calçots get their name from the way in which they are grown. As they grow, the bulbs of the onion plants are "shoed" (calçar), i.e. they are covered with soil again, and stay white because they do not see sunlight.

What have we learned today?

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Pupil notebook

The goal here is to use language in a different way than we usually do, playing with the sounds of words and their form. Poems, rhymes, riddles, tongue twisters, songs and shape poems can all be used as resources.

The activity focuses on calligrams (shape poetry), so it can be used in a language class and / or artistic education class.

In this activity, students read, understand, think and, finally, write a poem to turn it into a visual representation.

1. Let's play with food names

First, the teachers will ask the students if they understand the meaning of the word "calligraphy". The students, raising their hands first, are free to answer with whatever the word brings to mind. It can be proposed that they look at the ending "-gram" and think of other words that end in the same way so that they can deduce part of the meaning.

Next, explain what a calligram is:

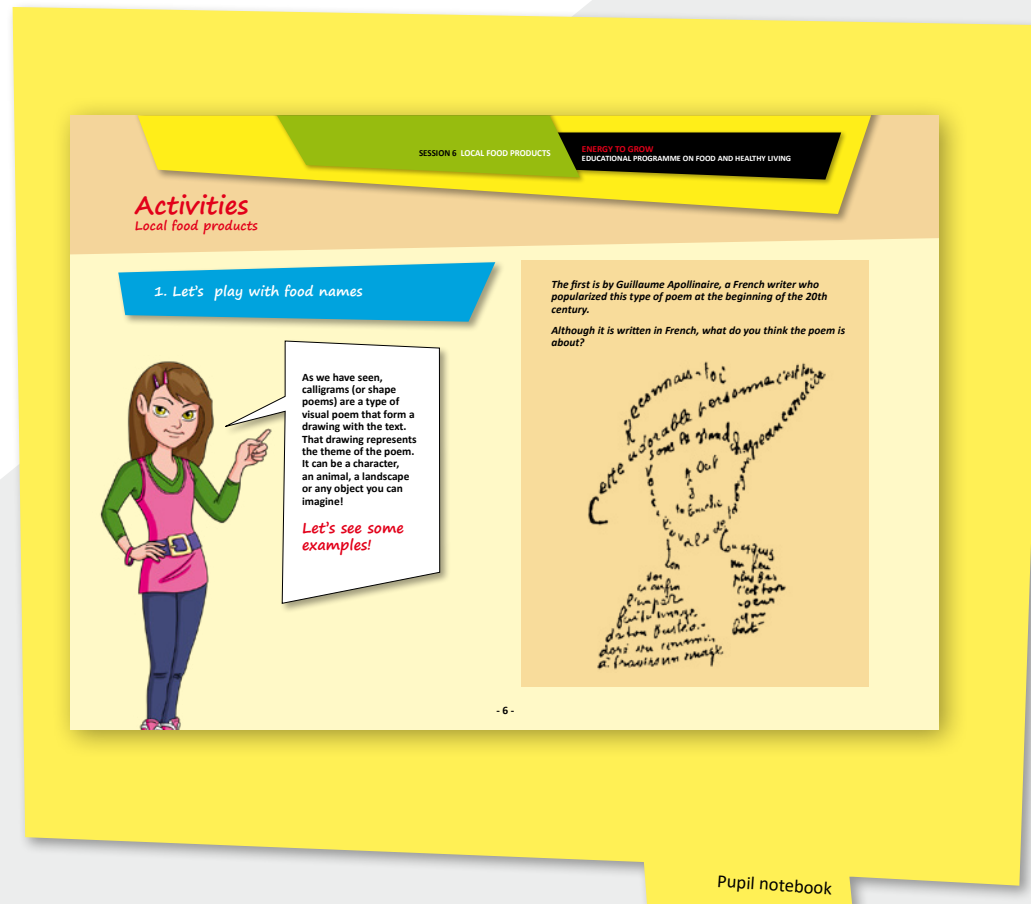
The word calligram comes from the combination of the two Greek words, 'kállos' (beauty) and gramme (written characters).

A calligram is a text (in this case a poem) visually arranged in such a way that it forms an image associated with the text's theme. In this case it is a poetic composition that draws, through writing, the theme suggested by the poem. It is visual poetry, also known as shape poetry.

It is characterized by creating a final image through words, which visually express what the poem says; that is, drawing with the words.

They can look at the examples they have in their notebook.

You can ask what they think the poem is about, even if they don't understand it, because it is written in French (Guillaume Apollinaire).



Explain that in our literature there have also been poets and authors who have used this method, such as Guillermo de Torre, who made the following in 1923:

The teacher will show the students another example and ask them what they think about this calligram.

Finally, the teacher will comment that, as they have been learning a lot about products from their region, they will make a calligram related to one. Present examples of calligrams with food:

After analyzing the examples, the teacher will explain that now they are the ones who are going to make shape poetry with products from our region.

You can state that, at the end, the work will be displayed in the corridor.

Activities

Local food products

The following is from Guillermo de Torre, a Spanish writer, who made this in 1923. 95 years ago!



Here's another example:

VIVIR

Since we have been learning a lot about the products of our region, we are going to create a calligram with them!

Here are some examples of food calligrams:



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Activities

Local food products

Now it's your turn!

a) First, choose a product from our region. It can be a seasonal food. Think of something that inspires you and write a poem about that food.

b) Then it's time to make the calligram. Transform the poem into a drawing, that's shape reflects the theme of the poem; that is, the food that you have chosen.

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