

# Fresh Story | Strawberries



Strawberries are an important crop in Nova Scotia, thriving in our province's cool, coastal climate. The growing season typically begins in late June and can extend into early fall, with different varieties harvested at different times of the year. Nova Scotia's rich soil and moderate summer temperatures create ideal conditions for sweet, juicy strawberries, often recognized for their high quality and flavour. Nova Scotia has a strong "pick-your-own" tradition, with numerous farms offering customers the chance to pick fresh strawberries during the harvest season.

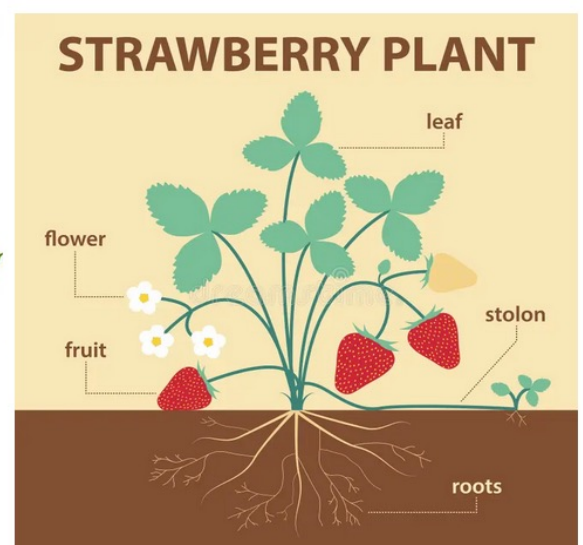


## Did you know?

- In Nova Scotia, approximately 80 strawberry farmers cultivate 240 hectares of strawberries.
- The strawberry belongs to the rose family.
- Strawberries grow and ripen quickly; they are the first fruit crop of the summer in Nova Scotia.
- The fertile, well-drained soils in Nova Scotia, particularly in areas such as the Annapolis Valley, contribute to the healthy growth of strawberries.

Farmers in Nova Scotia grow two different types of strawberries. June-bearing or short-day plants, usually produce one high yield each growing summer lasting 3-4 weeks. Ever-bearing or day-neutral plants will produce several smaller crops all summer and into the fall. Strawberries are delicate, each one is hand picked with a part of the stem still attached.

Strawberry plants are called perennials. That means that they rest during the winter months and start to grow again in the spring.





## Activities for P-Grade 3

**SCIENCE** – Learners can explore how a strawberry plant changes over time as it grows, as well as different factors that affect strawberry plant growth. Here is a great video explaining how to grow strawberries: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhR7l0ipbSM>. Have students explore different types of soil and what would be best for strawberries. Students can draw and label the strawberry plant parts (roots, stem, leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds).

**VISUAL ARTS** – No Cook Strawberry Playdough – Make a Strawberry! Ingredients: 2 cups flour, ¼ cup salt, ½ cup boiling water, 1 package of strawberry jello mix, 1 tbsp cream of tartar, 1 Tbsp of cooking oil. Directions: Add all dry ingredients to a bowl, pour ½ cup of boiling water into a bowl and mix, add oil and knead with hands. Let sit for 10-15 minutes to cool. Have students shape the playdough into a strawberry.

**Rock Painting** - Have learners collect smooth rocks and paint them to look like strawberries.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS** – Have learners write or talk about what they love about strawberries, can they describe the taste, smell, feel of strawberries from a memory? This could include a word cloud, round robin style, talking stick, or creating a list.

## Activities for Grades 4-6

**SCIENCE** – Explore the life cycle of a strawberry. Have learners draw and/or write out the different stages and timeline. Learners can explore what strawberries need to grow, including pollination. How does the plant change over time?

**MATH** – Strawberries are the only fruit that has its seeds on the outside! Each strawberry has its own 'DNA' and could grow into a plant. On average, each strawberry has between 150-200 seeds! If you had 25 strawberries, estimate how many seeds you would have in total? If a strawberry farmer harvests over 500 hectares of berries in a year and has a total harvest of 10,000 kg of berries, how many kg of berries does 1 hectare produce each year? (Formula: Berries per hectare = total harvest kg/ total hectares)

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS** – have learners write a short story or poem about strawberries, the story can be fiction or non-fiction. Have learners read their piece aloud to the class.

**VISUAL ARTS** – Tataki Zome (Japanese art of transferring botanical dyes from natural sources such as fruit or flowers). Materials needed: white paper, or cloth (old t-shirt) and something firm to pound the fruit like a rounded stone or rolling pin. Directions: Lay the fabric or paper flat on a hard surface (table/ floor) and arrange the strawberries (fresh/ frozen) on top. Then cover with another paper/cloth. Firmly press down using pressure with a heavy object such as a book or a plate. You may also cut the strawberries in half and lay the seeded side on the material to get a more accurate shape. You should see dye seeping through the paper/fabric. <https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/stories/tataki-zome-how-make-prints-nature>

