



ORGANIC FARMING, FOOD AND PRODUCTS

Understanding Organics

Name: _____

Read the information about organic farming, food and products in the 'Facts for Students' and answer the following questions.

1. Why can early farming be classified as organic?

2. What do you think it means if organic food is produced 'harmonious with the environment'?

3. Typically, how long does it take for conventional farmers to have their farms certified organic?

4. According to research, what are the top three reasons that motivate shoppers to buy organic products?

5. What are the most popular organic items purchased by Australian shoppers?



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6. Why do organic fruits and vegetables sometimes look a bit strange?

7. Write down three of your favourite facts about organic farming food and products.

8. Why can it sometimes be confusing to figure out if a product is really organic?

9. In your own words, what is a 'certified organic' product?

10. Which of the following are farming techniques adopted by organic farmers. Circle the correct answers.

Rotate their crops	Yes	No
Use synthetic chemicals and fertilisers	Yes	No
Use all the water from local waterways	Yes	No
Care for their livestock	Yes	No
Use natural ecosystems	Yes	No
Feed their livestock growth hormones	Yes	No



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Understanding Organics – Solutions

1. Early farming would have been classified as organic because farmers did not use synthetic chemical fertilisers, pesticides and modern farming innovations such as genetic modification (GM).
2. Organic farmers work with nature to grow their produce and raise their livestock.
3. Three years.
4. The top 3 motivations of shoppers to buy organic are:
 - Awareness of the impact that food, fibre or cosmetics had on personal health.
 - Awareness of the impact that food, fibre or cosmetics had on the environment.
 - Animal welfare.
5. The most commonly purchased organic products in Australia are fruit and vegetables, home-cooking ingredients, dairy products, red meat, non-alcoholic beverages and canned goods. Other organic products that you might not have thought of, such as essential oils, are in organic make-up and cosmetics, and are becoming very popular.
6. Organic fruits and vegetables can sometimes look a bit strange or imperfect. This is the way fruits and vegetables grow naturally. Not every apple is the same, perfectly round and shiny.
7. Teacher to check.
8. There are so many words used to try and convince shoppers that a product is 'healthy and truly organic' by using words like 'natural' and 'free-range' etc.
9. See under the 'Becoming Certified Organic' heading on page 4 of the 'Facts for students' PDF.
10. Following are farming techniques adopted by organic farmers.

Rotate their crops	Yes
Use synthetic chemicals and fertilisers	No
Use all the water from local waterways	No
Care for their livestock	Yes
Use natural ecosystems	Yes
Feed their livestock growth hormones	No