



Turning Tomato

Create a spinner on a plate to learn tomato facts.

Materials:

- 1 Red Plate
- Green stem made with construction paper
- White “spinner” with tomato facts
- Scissors
- List of tomato facts
- Access to www.agintheclassroom.org



Directions:

1. Have the students draw a circle as big as their red plate and cut it out.
2. Have the students divide the circle into eighths by drawing with a pencil.
3. Have the students write a tomato fact on each eighth. The following is a list of the tomato facts. You can print these facts at www.agintheclassroom.org under “Make & Takes.”
 - The tomato is a cousin to the deadly plant nightshade.
 - The tomato is the world’s most popular fruit.
 - Tomatoes are rich in Vitamins A and C and are cholesterol free.
 - The scientific term for the common tomato is lycopersicon, which means “wolf peach.”
 - The tomato is in the same family as the potato, pepper, eggplant, and petunia.
 - There are more than 10,000 varieties of tomatoes.
 - Tomatoes were first cultivated in 700 AD by the Aztecs and Incas.
 - In 1893, the Supreme Court ruled that the tomato must be considered a vegetable.
4. Have the students cut a triangle out of the plate. It should be 1/8th of the plate in size.
5. Have the students attach the red plate to the front of the divided fact circle with a brad.
6. Have the students glue the tomato stem to the top of the tomato.
7. Now the students can turn their tomato spinner and read the tomato facts.

Variations: Adapt this for any crop or animal. You can refer to the Illinois Ag in the Classroom Ag Mags for facts.