

FOODPRINT MELBOURNE

INQUIRY 2

What factors contribute to a reliable food supply for Melbourne?

WORKSHEET 4

What makes Melbourne a first-rate food city?

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INTRODUCTION

Some areas of Melbourne's foodbowl produce particular types of food because they have soil types, climate or other growing conditions that are ideally suited to those crops. For example, the Yarra Valley produces around 78% of Victoria's strawberries and Koo Wee Rup grows over 90% of Australia's asparagus. Some of the best soils and most secure sources of water are located around Australia's major cities.

Melbourne's foodbowl contributes \$2.45 billion per annum to Melbourne's regional economy and 21 000 full time equivalent jobs. Melbourne is a first-rate "food city", and is marketed to domestic and international visitors as a food destination. The importance of fresh local foods to tourism suggests that Melbourne's foodbowl also makes a significant contribution to the tourism industry.

ACTIVITIES

Use data sheet 4 to complete the following activities.

- Using Table 1, work in small groups to discuss the importance of each of the seven factors in providing a suitable environment to grow food for a reliable food supply. Rank these factors from 1–7, with 1 being the most important and 7 being of least importance. Be prepared to justify the group decision in a class discussion.
- Read the three case studies in figure 1. These three locations for fresh food production meet many of the requirements in figure 1 for providing a reliable food supply.
 - Create a table similar to table 1 that shows data for each of the case studies. List the advantages that these regions have for food production against the headings in the left hand column (fertile land, water etc.)
 - How has the history of each area enabled it to become a major food producing area?
 - What challenges do these areas face in the future?
- Figure 2 shows the monetary value in millions of dollars of fresh food production from Melbourne's foodbowl.
 - Which fresh foods make the greatest contribution to Victoria's economy?
 - Some foods have a contribution only from the outer foodbowl. Why are these foods not produced in the inner foodbowl?
 - For which foods is the economic value greater from the outer foodbowl (than the inner foodbowl)?
- What's the value of the inner and outer foodbowl to Victoria?
- Melbourne's foodbowl makes a major contribution to the economy of Victoria. Provide statistical data from Table 2 to support this statement.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Investigate if food is being produced in your local area. If so, conduct research to complete a profile of local food production in your area using the case studies in figure 1 as an example and using the following headings:

- What food grows in my local area?
- History of food growing in the area
- Strengths of the food production
- Challenges to food production

An interview (via Skype) with a farmer might be possible. A visit to the local library/historical society may also be useful.