



Orchard Harvest

WEEK 1 TREE LIFE CYCLE

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 1 Seed Sorting MR 6 Classification	Seeds Sorting tray Tweezers	 	Set out a variety of seeds in a bowl next to a tray with sections. Encourage the children to use tweezers to pick up seeds and sort them into the sections.
LESSON 2 Weaving Roots SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science	Wire rack Fabric	 	Set out a wire cooling rack and strips of fabric or ribbons. Weave the ribbons in and out of the rack as desired. Talk about how roots grow in and around other roots or rocks.
LESSON 3 Tall Tree Tower SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science	Segments of tree branch (or blocks) Leaves	 	If possible, slice a tree branch into natural blocks. Gather leaves, then explore stacking the nature items as tall as possible. Talk about different types of tall trees such as redwoods. Try stacking a pattern.
LESSON 4 Paths & Fences SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Rocks Sticks		If possible, go outside to gather rocks and twigs/sticks. Encourage the children to use them to make little fences. Ask, "What will grow or live inside your fence?" Explore imaginative play.
LESSON 5 Pounding Colors SCI 3 Physical Science	Hammer or mallet Napkins or fabric Flower petals or leaves		Gather nature items and cover them with an old t-shirt or piece of fabric on a hard surface. Pound with a hammer or mallet and explore how nature colors the fabric.

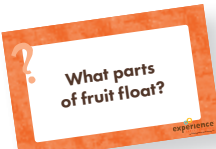
WEEK 2 FRUIT TREES

LESSON 6 Inside an Apple SCI 4 Technology	Tweezers Apples	 	Cut an apple in half and place it on a tray. Use tweezers to explore the apple parts.
LESSON 7 Building Fruit Trees SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Cardboard tubes Sticks	 	Punch holes in cardboard paper towel tubes so that branches or straws can fit into the holes. Set out the branches and tubes for the children to build tree models.
LESSON 8 Lemonade Stand SS 2 Civics & Economics	Lemons Sugar Water Spoon Pitcher Cups	 	Explore mixtures. Mix sugar and water. Compare this to salt and water. Also try sand and water. How are these mixtures similar and different? Make lemonade and set up a stand. Take turns selling and buying lemonade.
LESSON 9 Orange Hunt SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science	Oranges Lemon Grapefruit Clementine	 	Explore oranges in two different ways. Outside, hide oranges in the yard and encourage the children to run and find them. Inside, set up a citrus discovery table. Slice open an orange, lemon, grapefruit and clementine. Explore the peel, seeds and flesh of each fruit.
LESSON 10 Purple Plum Glitter Dough SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Playdough (see recipe) Tray Rock	 	Explore rolling plums with the playdough. What other fruit or designs can be made with the playdough? Explore hiding a rock inside the dough and pull it out like a pit.

WEEK 3 ANIMALS IN THE ORCHARD

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 11 Quills SCI 3 Physical Science	Styrofoam (ball or brick) Toothpicks or golf tees	 	Set out toothpicks or styrofoam pieces. Encourage the children to stick toothpicks into the styrofoam.
LESSON 12 Dropping Seeds MR 7 Logic & Reasoning	Paper Pompoms or seeds		Make paper airplanes, then put seeds or pompoms in the plane. Glide the plane through the air and watch how the seeds fall off in flight or when the airplane lands. Talk about how birds eat fruit and drop seeds either from their mouth or in their excrement.
LESSON 13 Bug Hunt MR 7 Logic & Reasoning	Clipboard Paper Pen	 	Go outside and hunt for bugs. Take the Bug Hunt sheet outside and try to find similar bugs. Also take clipboards outside to draw any bug discoveries.
LESSON 14 See Like a Raccoon SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Sleep mask or scarf Sensory items Tray (optional)		Put a sleeping mask or scarf over the children's eyes. Explore different objects on a table or tray and determine what they are by feeling them. Talk about how raccoons and other animals cannot see very well, so they use touch and smell to find things.
LESSON 15 Hidden Food MR 2 Spatial Awareness	Blocks Pompoms or small balls	 	Where do squirrels hide nuts? Put pompoms or small balls in the block area. Build hiding spots around them.

WEEK 4 SKINS & SHELLS

LESSON 16 Crack a Nut SCI 4 Technology	Nutcracker Shelled nuts	 	Set out a nutcracker and various shelled nuts. Explore using the tool to break open shells and reveal the meat inside.
LESSON 17 What Floats? SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry	Fruits Bowl of water Tray		Cut apart a few fruits so that different parts are on a tray. Set out a bowl of water and encourage the children to test which parts float or sink.
LESSON 18 Farmer's Market SS 2 Civics & Economics	Fruit (play or paper)	 	Transform the dramatic play area into a farmer's market. Put a variety of play or paper fruits on shelves or tables. Create signs to indicate the price of the fruit. Role-play selling and buying.
LESSON 19 Fruit Skins SCI 3 Physical Science	Fruits and peels Magnifying glasses Tray	 	Set out a tray of whole fruit as well as just their peels. Set out magnifying glasses. Explore the look and feel of the skin on the outside and inside.
LESSON 20 Orchard Plot MR 2 Spatial Awareness	Seeds or nuts	 	Use blocks to make a square fence, then pretend to plant rows of seeds to grow an orchard.

Set-Up Directions

These open-ended STEAM stations invite children to investigate, problem-solve and create.

- Hang the Big Question and Inspiration Photos on the wall next to the place you set up the investigation.
- Use the labels to identify and organize materials children will use (and clean up) as they explore STEAM stations.

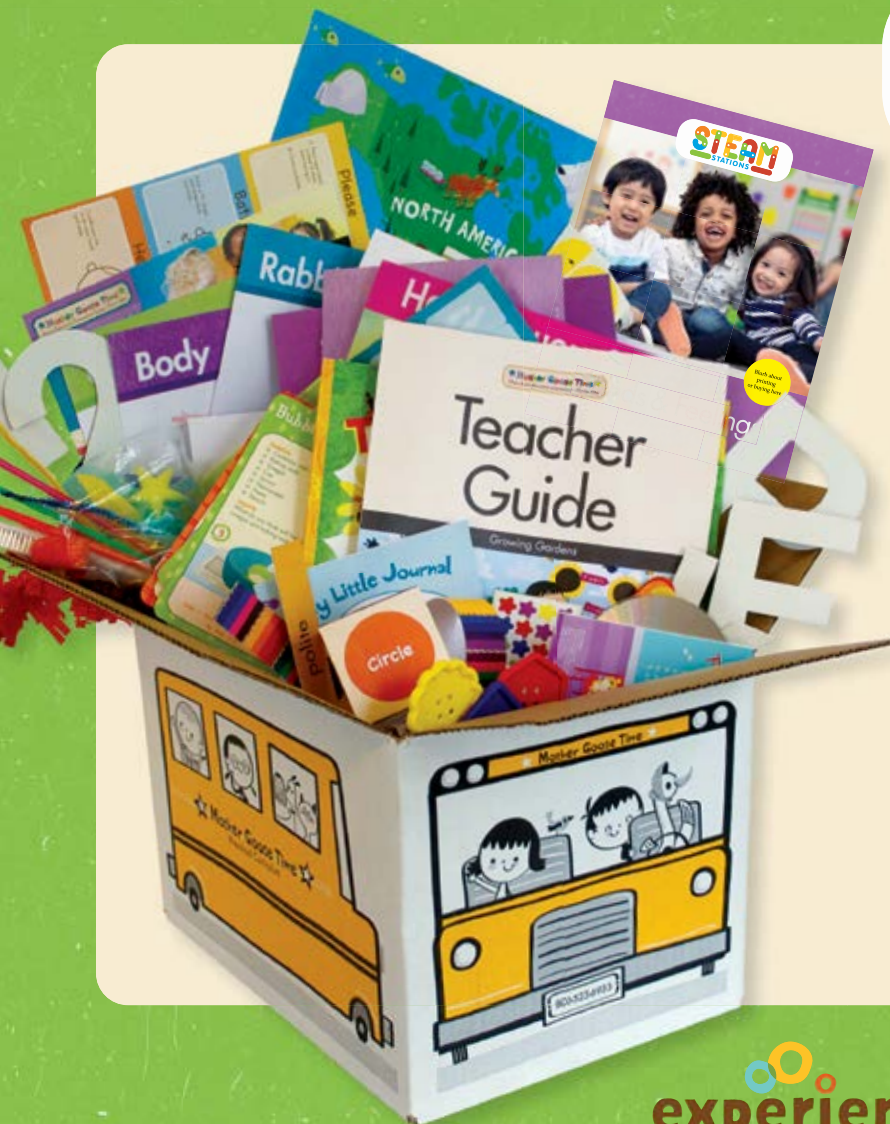
ROTATING YOUR STATIONS

- Introduce one new STEAM station daily. Leave that station set up all week. By the end of the week, children will have five stations to explore.



STEAM stations integrate perfectly with the monthly Experience Preschool Curriculum kits for a comprehensive research-based early learning system. Learn more and start your research-based curriculum today.

ExperienceCurriculum.com





**Can you
sort seeds?**



**How do
roots grow?**



**How tall
is the tree?**



**Can you build
a fence?**



**What nature
items can be used
to make dye?**



**What is inside
an apple?**



**How do
branches grow?**



**What happens
when you mix
sugar in water?**



**What fruit
is similar
to an orange?**



**Can you make
playdough plums?**



**How do
porcupine
quills feel?**



**How do birds
drop seeds?**



**What bugs
can you find?**



**Cover your eyes.
What do you feel?**



**Where do
squirrels
hide nuts?**



**Can you crack
a nut?**



**What parts
of fruit float?**



**What do
you want
to buy from a
farmer's market?**



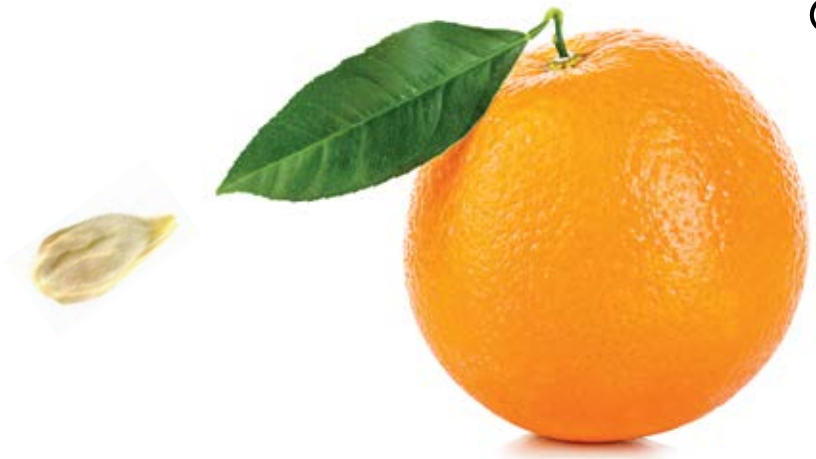
**Which fruits
feel similar?**



**Can you plant
an orchard?**

FRUIT SEEDS

Orange



Apple



Avocado



Plum





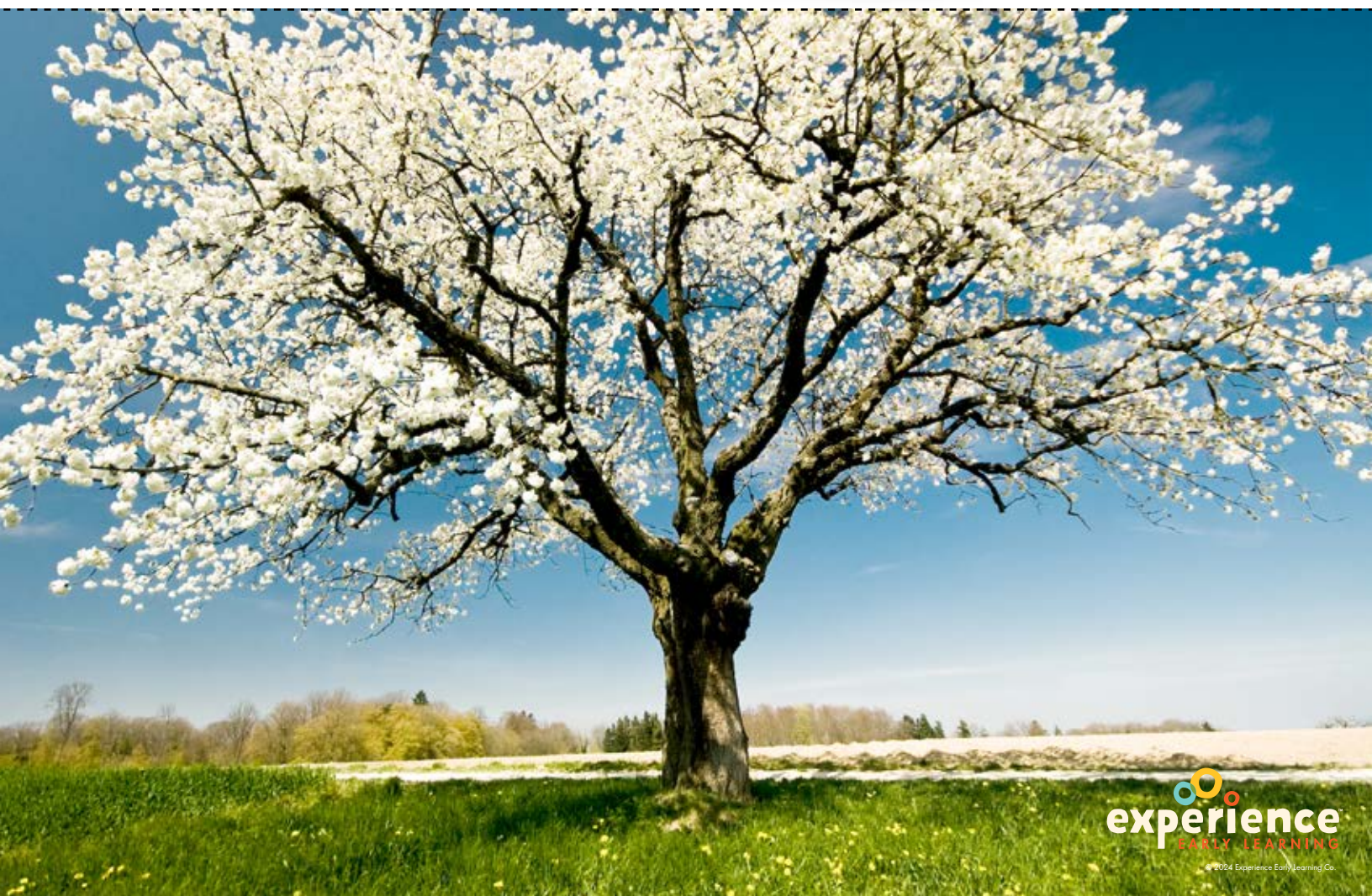

experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.




experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.




experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.

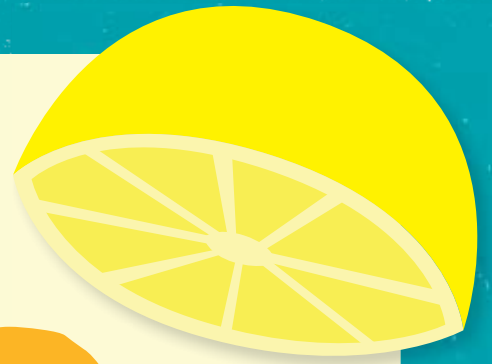



experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.



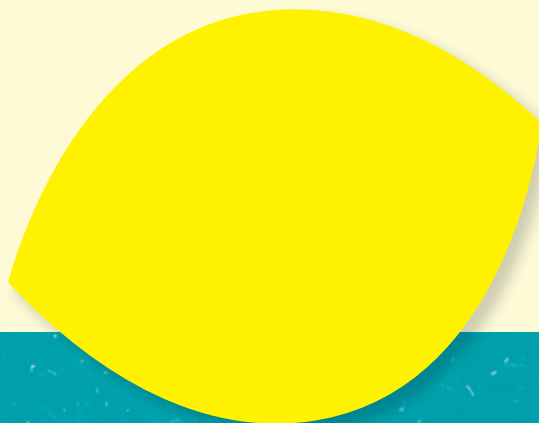
Lemonade for Sale

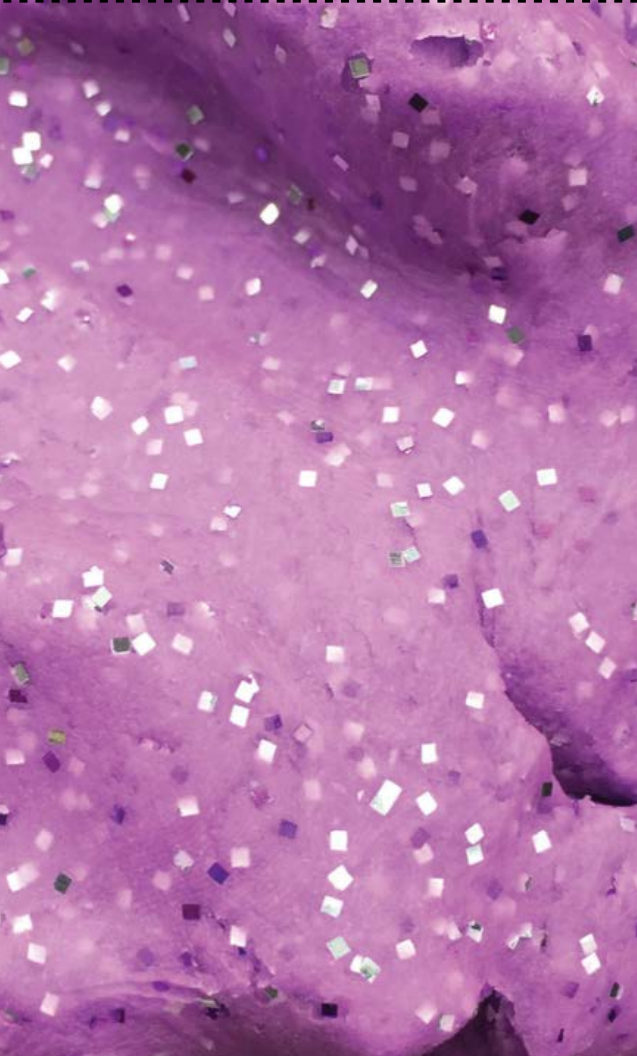




OPEN

CLOSED





Purple Plum Glitter Dough

INGREDIENTS

1 c. flour
2 tsp. cream of tartar
 $\frac{1}{3}$ c. salt
1 c. water
1 tbsp. vegetable oil
Purple food coloring
Glitter

DIRECTIONS

In a medium saucepan, add flour, cream of tartar and salt. Next, add water and vegetable oil. Heat and stir until the dough is no longer wet. While the playdough is still warm, add purple food coloring and glitter.




experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.




experience
EARLY LEARNING
© 2024 Experience Early Learning Co.

Bug Scavenger Hunt

☐ Ant



Ladybug ☐



☐ Bee



Dragonfly ☐



☐ Moth



Caterpillar ☐



☐ Grasshopper



Spider ☐



☐ Fly



Butterfly ☐



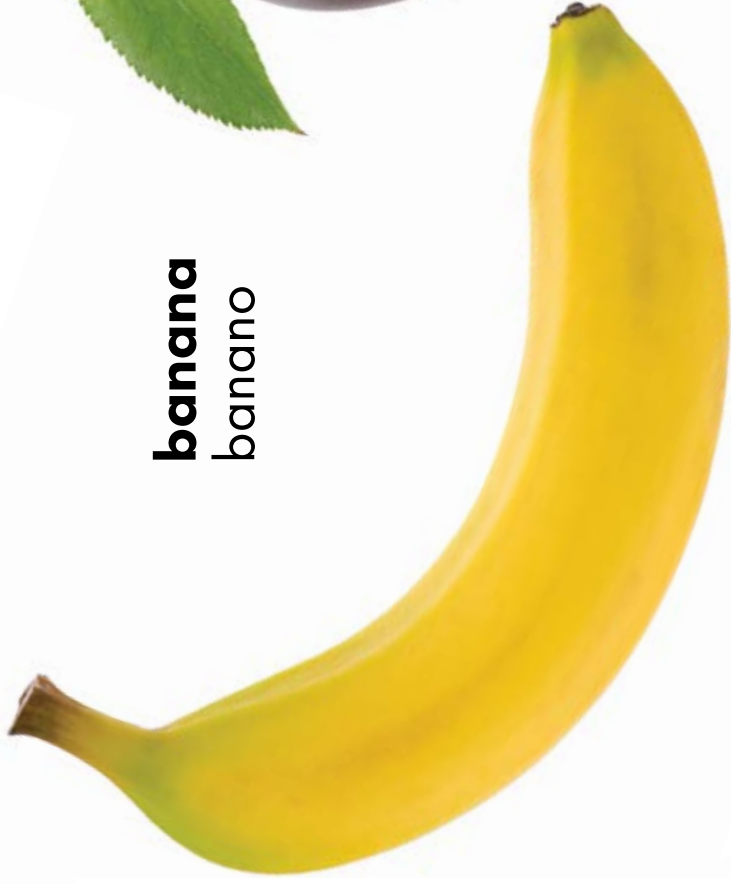


Farmer's Market

apple
manzana



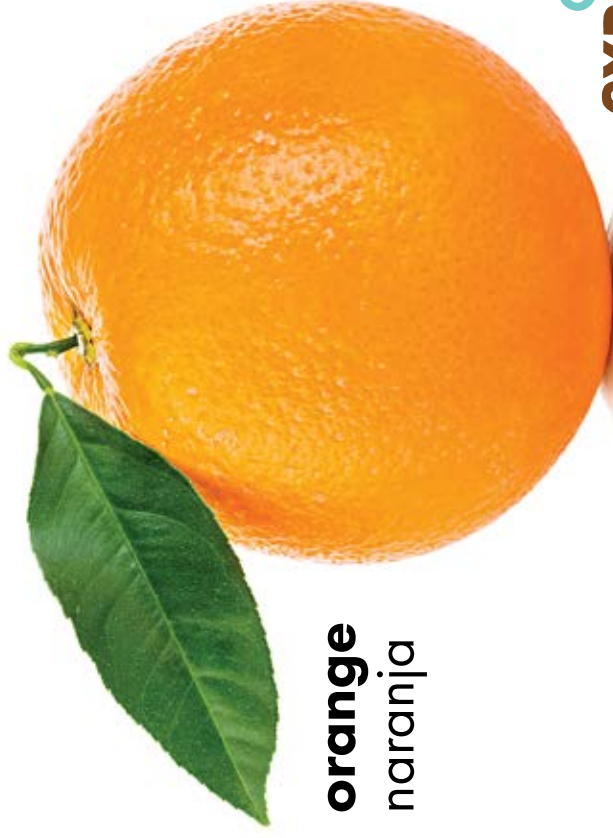
banana
banano



plum
ciruela



orange
naranja



avocado
aguacate



