

California Strawberry Festival

A Local Legacy

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/es/ca/es_ca_strwbrry_1.html#:~:text=If%20you%20went%20to%20Oxnard,in%20all%20sorts%20of%20ways.

Have you ever tried a strawberry pizza? If you went to Oxnard, the "Strawberry Capital of California," in May, you could!

Oxnard is in Southern California and this part of the state takes its strawberries very seriously. At the two-day California Strawberry Festival you can sample strawberries prepared in all sorts of ways. In addition to traditional treats such as strawberry shortcake, strawberry jam, strawberry tarts and strawberries dipped in chocolate, there is strawberry pizza! This dessert pizza is topped with strawberries, sour cream, cream cheese and whipped cream on a sweet bread baked like a pizza. Strawberry kabobs dipped in powdered sugar are another delicacy. And drinks such as a strawberry smoothie can wash it all down.

Strawberries are big business in Oxnard. The annual strawberry revenues are \$100 million from Oxnard's bountiful 6,600 berry acres. Twenty-four companies harvest and cool nearly 16 million trays of berries, which are shipped throughout North America as well as to Germany and Japan. The festival, which attracts more than 85,000 visitors, features three stages with musical entertainment, 335 arts and crafts exhibits, strolling musicians, clowns, artists, face-painting, contests, and a "Strawberry land" for children with puppets, magicians, musicians, and a petting zoo.



Vocabulary:

cream – thick, fluffy, milk-based product

dessert – sweet dish served after the meal

dip – put light into water or liquid

harvest – gather crops at the end of growing season

jam – sweet preserved fruit spread

magician – one who performs illusions

puppet – doll or toy that can be animated by manipulation

revenue – earning, income from the business

sample – try or test food for taste

treat – special delight

Discussion:

What is a festival?

What kind of festivals do you have in your home town?

How did such traditions start, and why do they continue?

Can you guess where the “Strawberry Capital of California” is? (What city?)

What do you think people do at the Strawberry Festival?

