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A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

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This Month's Theme:

THE HARVEST

The Santa Barbara area was at one time a vast area of farmland.

The topsoil in the Goleta Valley is more than 30 feet deep, making it some of the richest farmland in the world. Now, however, the area is dotted in shopping malls, tract homes, and roads rather than orchards and row crops. Gas stations and fast food restaurants instead of fields and forests surround those farms left in the area. Nevertheless, late summer and fall is harvest season around Santa Barbara. Hundreds of varieties of fruits and vegetables are taken from fields and orchards and distributed to markets, stores, restaurants, and farm stands. Visit a farm, taste farm-fresh produce, watch and listen to our farmers, hide in a field of corn, pick your pumpkin from the farm that grew it, and connect in any way you can with the rich agricultural heritage of our community.

Without farms, many of us have forgotten where our food comes from and what it looks like as it grows. In the activity below you are encouraged to identify as many of the plants in the images as you can. We have provided a list of foods found in the photos below. Remember there may be more than one kind of food growing in each photo so look closely.



PERSIMMONS

GREEN BEANS

BROCCOLI

CORN

APPLES

PEPPERS

AVOCADOS



HARVEST TIME

When fall arrives, it is time for the farmers to harvest their crops.

In days gone by, the Goleta Valley had a number of fields with many different crops. Lima beans were one of the best crops to grow because they do not require a lot of water. In the earlier days, people needed to use horsepower for pulling their machines. More recently, new machines were invented or improved upon and the horse was replaced by a tractor. The threshing machine was used for harvesting the beans in Goleta.



This thresher is at work in a lima bean field in the early 1900s on the Antonio Pagliotti Ranch in Goleta. You can see the changes made in the machinery as the years went by. Notice the wheels and the tractor being used to pull the thresher.

A modern day tractor and threshing machine harvesting a crop of beans in Santa Barbara County.

Do you like to put together models? This old threshing machine was created by pioneer Charles Winters right here in Goleta during the mid 1800s. Mr. Winters drew each part of the thresher to scale. He then made wooden molds for casting the wheels, gears, pegs and all that was necessary to build the thresher. After the parts were cast from iron, he put together this full size threshing machine. This machine was then pulled by a team or two of horses.

Page prepared by Vincent Smith and Jennifer Kubel of Fairview Gardens and JoAnne Treloar of the Goleta Historical Society.

Photo credits: Historical images courtesy of Goleta Valley Historical Society; color photographs by Ried Cederlof.

Quiz Answers (top to bottom): Avocados, Green Beans, Apples, Persimmons, Broccoli, Corn/Beans, Peppers.

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