

# Webquest: La Tomatina

by Karen Kovacs

**Level:** Intermediate +

**Target age:** Teenagers / Adults

**Time needed:** 60 minutes

**Key skills:** Reading, speaking

**Materials:** One copy of the worksheet per student

## Introduction

Some festivals are stranger than others. La Tomatina is one of the world's most unusual celebrations. In this webquest, your students will find out more about this unique Spanish festival.

## Activity 1

Students follow the link and read the text. They then complete the summary using the information from the text.

[www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/bunol-1340894/travel-tips-and-articles/la-tomatina-a-guide-to-spains-messiest-festival/40625c8c-8a11-5710-a052-1479d2771468](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/spain/bunol-1340894/travel-tips-and-articles/la-tomatina-a-guide-to-spains-messiest-festival/40625c8c-8a11-5710-a052-1479d2771468)

### Key:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. 1945      | 5. 120      |
| 2. Buñol     | 6. tomatoes |
| 3. Wednesday | 7. goggles  |
| 4. August    |             |

## Activity 2

Students read the information on the websites and answer the questions. You could split the topics up between groups of students, and then students could present their findings to the other groups. Encourage students to illustrate their report with images that they can find using a search engine.

[www.pilotguides.com/articles/celebratory-tomato-fighting](http://www.pilotguides.com/articles/celebratory-tomato-fighting)

[www.spanish-fiestas.com/festivals/la-tomatina](http://www.spanish-fiestas.com/festivals/la-tomatina)

### Key:

#### Topic 1: History

*Theories given: a local food fight among friends; an anti-Franco protest; started by bystanders at a carnival parade who began throwing tomatoes at their opponents; started by youngsters grabbing some tomatoes from a nearby vegetable stall and throwing them at a giant from a parade*

#### Topic 2: The festival

1. Trucks deliver the tomatoes and the throwing beings at 11 am.
2. around 125,000 kg
3. local people and tourists
4. two hours
5. A siren sounds.
6. Water is pumped from a nearby Roman aqueduct.

#### Topic 3: Advice

1. You can only throw squashed tomatoes.; You mustn't rip people's clothing.; It is illegal to bring bottles or other objects that could cause an accident.; You must be careful to avoid the lorries carrying the tomatoes.; As soon as you hear the second banger/siren, you must stop throwing tomatoes.
2. You will need to buy a ticket.; Catch an early train from Valencia (8.08 am / 9.08 am / 10.08 am) or rent a car.; Take a change of clothes.; Don't wear your holiday best.; It's best not wear a baseball cap or carry a camera.; Bring some beer money.; You can clean up at the public showers.

#### Topic 4: Other events

1. There are parades, fireworks, music, dancing and a paella cook-off contest.
2. Valencia; the medieval town of Morello; the Roman ruins at Sagunto; the historic palm gardens at Elx