

## Is it safe to eat eggs?

### Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

Think about the food you eat each week. Put these foods in order from the one you eat the most (1) to the one you eat the least (6).

- |          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| 1. _____ | a. apples    |
| 2. _____ | b. ice cream |
| 3. _____ | c. eggs      |
| 4. _____ | d. tomatoes  |
| 5. _____ | e. bananas   |
| 6. _____ | f. bread     |

#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

poultry

Dutch

tonne

produce

export

similar

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is 1,000 kilograms. (para 1)
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ something, you make or grow it. (para 1)
3. If countries \_\_\_\_\_ a product, they sell it to another country. (para 1)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is a word for birds that people eat – for example, chickens. (para 2)
5. Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ is from the Netherlands. (para 3)
6. If two things are \_\_\_\_\_, they are almost the same but not exactly the same. (para 4)

#### 3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How many tonnes of eggs are produced around the world each year?
2. What percentage of the eggs it produces does the Netherlands export?
3. How many poultry farms are there in the Netherlands?
4. How many chickens are there in the Netherlands?
5. How many European Union countries have found eggs containing small amounts of fipronil?
6. How many egg-producing farms has the Dutch government closed?

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7 September, 2017

- 1 Eggs are a popular food and, each year, about 65 million tonnes of eggs are produced around the world. In Europe, the Netherlands is one of the biggest producers of eggs. It exports 65% of the eggs it produces. More than 40% of all egg exports in the European Union come from the Netherlands and the country exports 12% of the world's eggs.
- 2 There are about 1,000 poultry farms and 35 million chickens in the Netherlands and they produce about 10 billion eggs. Of course, not everyone eats eggs but, on average, each person in the Netherlands eats 188 eggs a year and eggs are also used to produce other foods such as cakes and biscuits.
- 3 So, everyone was shocked when they heard that some Dutch eggs contained a chemical called fipronil that could be dangerous for people's health. The chemical is often used on farms to kill small insects that live on animals such as cows and sheep. In this case, it was used on some farms to kill insects where chickens lived.
- 4 Eggs containing the chemical have now been found in 15 European Union countries as well as Switzerland and Hong Kong. Some reports say that there are more than 10 million eggs containing the chemical in the Netherlands and a similar number in Germany.
- 5 The Dutch government has now closed more than 150 egg-producing farms in the country and supermarkets in the UK and Germany have stopped selling eggs from the Netherlands. But, scientists say that it is only dangerous for people's health if they eat a large number of eggs containing the chemical.

#### 4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Fipronil is a chemical ...                              | a. ... come from the Netherlands.                               |
| 2. Eggs are used ...                                       | b. ... if people eat a lot of them.                             |
| 3. Fipronil ...  | c. ... to produce other foods such as cakes and biscuits.       |
| 4. Almost half the egg exports in the European Union ...   | d. ... eats 188 eggs a year.                                    |
| 5. The average person in the Netherlands ...               | e. ... that is used to kill small insects that live on animals. |
| 6. The eggs containing the chemical are only dangerous ... | f. ... could be dangerous for people's health.                  |

#### 5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. people's for dangerous health
2. eggs of the one producers biggest of
3. world around the
4. everyone eats not eggs
5. the containing chemical eggs
6. number of eggs large a

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#### 6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. poultry | a. food    |
| 2. popular | b. average |
| 3. on      | c. insects |
| 4. small   | d. farm    |

#### 7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their stress.

dangerous

producer

chemical

producing

containing

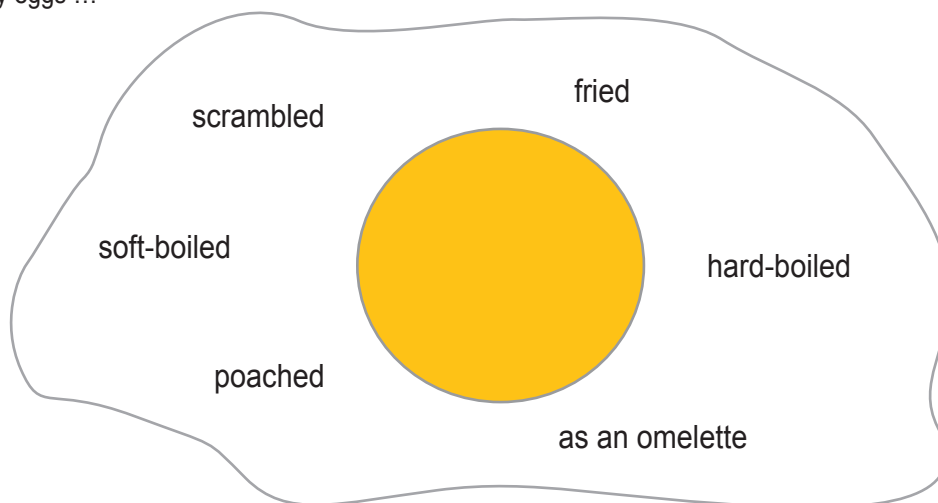
popular

A    0 0 0	B    0 0 0

#### 8 Discussion

- How do you like your eggs?

I like my eggs ...



I don't like eggs because ...

- Are you worried about chemicals in the food you eat? Why? Why not?

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#### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. tonne
2. produce
3. export
4. poultry
5. Dutch
6. similar

#### 3 Find the information

1. 65 million
2. 65%
3. about 1,000
4. 35 million
5. fifteen
6. more than 150

#### 4 Comprehension check

1. e
2. c
3. f
4. a
5. d
6. b

#### 5 Chunks

1. dangerous for people's health
2. one of the biggest producers of eggs
3. around the world
4. not everyone eats eggs
5. eggs containing the chemical
6. a large number of eggs

#### 6 Two-word phrases

1. d
2. a
3. b
4. c

#### 7 Word stress

A   0 0 0	B   0 0 0
dangerous	producer
chemical	producing
popular	containing

#### 8 Discussion

##### Definitions for reference

scrambled – With the white and yellow parts mixed together, the eggs are stirred gently as they cook.

fried – cooked whole in hot oil

hard-boiled – cooked in its shell in boiling water until it is solid inside

soft-boiled – cooked in its shell for a short time so that the yellow part is still soft or liquid

omelette – a flat round food made by mixing eggs together and cooking them

poached – cooked without its shell in water that is boiling gently