

Name _____

Date _____

Comprehension 4 - The Avocado (Part 1)

The avocado is a tree. Its fruit is also called avocado. This tree, originally from Mexico, has spread across the world and is now grown in most tropical countries, including Barbados, Nigeria, India and Australia. The fruit of this tree is quite amazing and useful. It has a hard skin which ranges in colour from green to dark brown or even purple. The texture of the skin may be smooth or rough and bumpy. Beneath the skin is the edible flesh which is soft and yellow when fully ripe but green and hard in the immature fruit. In the centre can be found the large ovoid seed.

This fruit goes by several names including alligator pear, avocado pear and butter pear in Peru, Barbados and India respectively.

1) In which country did the avocado originate?

2) Name one country in which the avocado can now be found growing.

3) How can you distinguish a ripe avocado from an unripe one?

4) Which word in the passage means "can be eaten"?

5) Which word in the passage means not ripe?

6) In which country is the fruit known as the butter pear?

7) Suggest a reason for the name alligator pear being given to the avocado.
