



LA TOMATINA (SPAIN)

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Before You Read

Discuss:

1. Why do people enjoy unusual festivals?
2. Should festivals focus on tradition, entertainment, or both?
3. Can a festival become too commercial?

Reading

La Tomatina: Fun, Tradition, or Food Waste?

La Tomatina is one of the world's most unusual festivals. Every year, thousands of people gather in the Spanish town of Buñol to throw tomatoes at each other in a giant food fight.

The festival attracts visitors from many countries and has become an important part of the local economy. Hotels, restaurants, and shops benefit from the large number of tourists who visit the town.

Supporters of La Tomatina argue that the festival promotes tourism, creates jobs, and brings people together. They see it as a unique cultural event that encourages fun, friendship, and community spirit.

However, not everyone supports the festival. Some critics argue that throwing large quantities of food is wasteful, especially when many people around the world face food shortages. Others question whether such events should continue in a modern society.

Supporters respond that the tomatoes used during the festival are grown specifically for the event and are not usually sold in supermarkets. They also point out that festivals often play an important role in preserving local identity and attracting international attention.

Today, La Tomatina continues to generate debate while remaining one of Spain's most famous and recognizable celebrations.

Vocabulary in Context

Match the words to their meanings.

Word	Meaning
1. economy	to protect and maintain
2. shortage	business and financial activity
3. preserve	a person who expresses negative opinions
4. idenbttiy	not having enough of something
5. critic	a discussion involving different viewpoints
6. debate	the character of a community or culture

Reading Comprehension

1. Where does La Tomatina take place?
2. How does the festival help the local economy?
3. Why do supporters like the festival?
4. What concerns do critics have?
5. How do supporters respond to these criticisms?
6. Why does the festival continue to generate debate?

Analysis

Discuss:

1. Is La Tomatina mainly about fun or culture?
2. Should traditions continue even if some people disagree with them?
3. What makes a festival worth preserving?

Teacher's Key

Word	Meaning
economy	business and financial activity
shortage	not having enough of something
preserve	to protect and maintain
identity	the character of a community or culture
critic	a person who expresses negative opinions
debate	a discussion involving different viewpoints