Food Fight!

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Would you get in trouble for taking part in a food fight? Not during la Tomatina you wouldn't. La Tomatina is a big tomato fight. It takes place in Buñol, Spain, every year on the last Wednesday of August. More than 20,000 people **join** in the fun. They throw about 120 **tons** of tomatoes at each other.

On the morning of the fight, **shopkeepers** cover their windows and doors. At 11:00 a.m., trucks dump **piles** of tomatoes on the street, and the **battle** begins. A few rules make sure everyone has fun and no one gets hurt. You can't throw anything but tomatoes. You must also **squish** the tomatoes before you throw them.

By 1:00 p.m. the fight is over. Tomatoes cover everyone and everything. People wash off the tomatoes in **temporary** showers. A fire truck **hoses** down buildings and streets.

This strange **tradition** began in 1944 as a small food fight. Now it is the biggest **annual** food fight in the world. The town even **created** a **festival** around it. The week of the fight people enjoy **fireworks**, music, and good food.

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Quick Quiz

5. What is the main idea of *Food Fight!*?
   l. Rules are important to make sure food fights are safe.
   m. After la Tomatina, everthing is covered with tomatoes.
   n. La Tomatina is an annual tomato-throwing food fight.

6. How do the people clean up after the tomato fight?
   c. They wash themselves in temporary showers.
   d. They wait for the fire truck to come and hose them down.
   e. They go home and take a shower.

7. What does **annual** mean in this story?
   w. once a season
   x. twice a year
   y. once a year

8. Why do shopkeepers cover their doors and windows?
   a. They don't want their shops to get too messy.
   b. They don't want to participate in the fun.
   c. They don't want to see the battle.

Talk about what you learned
Do you think it would be more fun to participate in the food fight or to watch it? Why?