

Warm Up:

Fig trees have been cultivated for over 11,000 years. Recently, their drought resistance and ability to survive adverse conditions have brought them to the attention of researchers. You will learn how scientists and farmers are working together to study the fruit's potential as a sustainable crop.

1. Work alone or form small groups of 3-4 students.
2. Orient yourself toward the article by focusing on its headline and the large-type pull quotes. Look at the photos and images, but don't read the captions.
3. Discuss or jot down a sentence or two about what you think is the main idea of the story. Brainstorm a few questions you hope will be answered by the time you're done reading and working with the article.