

Food Firsts

How much do you know about the history of some of your favorite foods? Do you know when people in England started cooking curry **dishes**? Do you know in which country pizzas or hamburgers were first made? The **facts** might surprise you.



Many people think the English found out about curry from people in India in the 1600s. In reality, wealthy¹ English people were eating dishes made with curry spices² hundreds of years before British **ships** traveled to India. Cooks of wealthy English families during the time of King Richard I were making curry dishes, and in fact, the word "curry" can be found in an English language cookbook as far back as 1377.



As for pizza, this dish was probably first made in Persia (what is now Iran). The Persians were eating round, flat bread with cheese in the 500s. That was nearly 1,000 years before pizza caught on in Naples, Italy!



Finally, let's look at the truth behind hamburgers. Many people think hamburgers are an American food. However, according to some stories, hamburgers came from Hamburg, Germany. A German named Otto Kuasw created the first hamburger in 1891. Four years later, German sailors **introduced** hamburgers to Americans.

Where foods come from isn't nearly as important as how they **taste**; as long as they are delicious! So, go get some of your favorite food and **dig in**.

¹**wealthy**: rich

²**spices**: a strong-smelling or sweet-smelling vegetable substance, such as pepper or cinnamon, used to season food

SKIMMING

1. **What is the main idea of this reading?**

- a. Curry was created in England.
- b. There are many foods that help your body.
- c. People created fast food long ago.
- d. Some facts about foods are surprising.

2. Write the topic sentence of the 2nd paragraph.

3. Write the topic sentence of the 3rd paragraph.

4. Write the topic sentence of the 4th paragraph.

CONTEXT CLUES

Match the words in **bold** with the next definitions and **circle** one or two key words that helped you find out the definition.

5. to test the flavor or quality of by taking some into the mouth _____
6. a large mean of transportation that travels on the ocean, rivers. _____
7. a particular type of food or preparation of food. _____
8. to start eating. _____
9. something that is real and actually exists; reality, truth. _____
10. to present (a person, product, etc.) for or as if for the first time by a formal act, announcement, etc _____

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **find out (about)** [to learn (of)]
Hey, I just **found out** that class is cancelled tomorrow.
- **catch on** [to become popular]
In the 1990s, cell **phones** really **caught on**.
- **dig in** [to begin eating with excitement]
The child was very hungry, so he **dug in** before his parents sat down.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. All of the food is ready. _____!
2. Did you _____ what time the movie starts?
3. These days, Latin dancing is _____.

SCANNING

Scan the passage and complete the chart with the correct information.

1377 created	1891 introduced	500s wealthy
Curry 	Pizza 	Hamburgers 
- Word already in the English language by 1 _____ - Cooked for 2 _____ English families	3 _____ in Persia - Was eaten in Persia in the 4 _____	5 _____ to Americans by German sailors - First made in Hamburg in 6 _____

MAKING INFERENCES. Choose true or false. Justify your answer.

11. Rich people ate curry before it was introduced by the British. **True false**

12. Pizza was born in Italy. **True false**

13. American brought hamburgers to Germany. **True false**

14. Curry was made first than pizza. **True false**

