



Reading exam 4th Grade 3rd Period

A SPICY JOURNEY

Spices are the seeds, fruit, roots, and skins of plants. They add flavor to all kinds of food—from vanilla ice cream to chili con carne. But can you imagine bathing in cinnamon? Or paying with pepper? What else have people used spices for through history? And where did spices come from?

The oldest written evidence of spices comes from ancient Egyptian, Chinese, and Indian civilizations. Ancient Egyptian documents from over 3,500 years ago list hundreds of herbs and spices—mainly used as medicines and to preserve meat.

Between 2,000 and 3,000 years ago, explorers from the Middle East went on expeditions to southern Asia. They brought back many spices, including cinnamon and black pepper. Traders from the Middle East then took spices to Europe, across the Mediterranean Sea.

In Europe, the Greeks and Romans used spices for medicine and cooking. They bathed in cinnamon, too. They also used spices as currency. Spices were very expensive—more valuable than gold at one time.

In the late 15th century, explorers from Spain and Portugal set off to discover cheaper spices. In 1493, Columbus brought chili to Europe from the Americas. Portuguese explorers then took chili with them to Asia. Like chili, vanilla traveled from the Americas to Asia, too. Today, people all over the world cook with chili. It is one of the most popular spices, perhaps because it is hot but doesn't taste bitter. You can even buy chili-flavored chocolate—yum!



Chili Fact File

- Archeologists think that people in the Americas have eaten chili spice for more than 9,000 years.
- Almost half of the world's chili now comes from China.
- In Africa, farmers use chili to keep elephants away from their plants.
- Ice cream is better than water for cooling your mouth after eating hot chili spice! Yay!

I.- Read and number the event in order they happened.

- a** The Greeks and Romans used spices for medicine and washing.
- b** People in the Americas started eating chili spice.
- c** Ancient Egyptians wrote lists of herbs and spices.
- d** Portuguese explorers took chili to Asia.
- e** African farmers used chili to protect their plants.
- f** Explorers from the Middle East brought back spices from southern Asia.

1.-

2.-

3.-

4.-

5.-

6.-

II.- Read and answer T (true) or F (false).

7.- In Europe, people used to bathe in cinnamon. T / F



8.- Spices were used to preserve meat. T / F



9.- Pepper came from the Americas. T / F



10.- Water is the best way to cool your mouth after eating chili. T / F



11.- Spices were used like money. T / F



III.- Read and complete with the words from the box.

Cinnamon / Chili / Vanilla / China / vanilla / Spices

12.- _____ are the seeds, fruit, skins, and roots of plants.

Chili and 13.- _____ are spices from the Americas.

Black pepper and 14.- _____ are spices from Asia.

Almost half the world's chili now comes from 15.- _____.

16.- _____ is a spice that is often used to flavor ice cream.

17.- _____ might be one of the most popular spices because it doesn't taste bitter.



IV.- Check the Chili fact file and match.



18.- Farmers use chili to keep elephants away from their plants.



19.- Archeologists think that people from this place have eaten chili spice for more than 9,000 years.

20.- Almost half of the world's chili now comes from this place.

