

From edible to incredible

Take a look at Jim Victor's amazing photos. What can you see? A car, a dinosaur, a farmhouse, a strange-looking man? Look closer because Jim has created these using real food.

Jim Victor is an American sculptor, artist and teacher. He carves beautiful sculptures from various food items, including butter and chocolate. He also creates special one-of-a-kind creations from fruit and vegetables, such as broccoli, carrots, pumpkins, cabbage and potatoes, for state fairs and festivals all over the USA. Victor's sculpted creations are the star attraction at many American annual events such as Greenfest and Chocolatefest and also at farm shows across the country.

Making these sculptures isn't as easy as it may seem, though. In fact, Victor says that it is very difficult working with chocolate and butter because they melt very quickly. To overcome this problem, Victor works in a special workshop with a low-temperature room. It's never more than 13 degrees Celsius in there and this makes the butter as easy as clay to mould. As you might expect, working with butter inspires Victor to create works with a farmyard theme and his sculptures depict milkmaids, horses, chickens, an old milk cart and – of course – all kinds of cows. Sometimes it takes days to finish one of his sculptures as it's easier to work on larger models than small ones.

Victor enjoys his work and manages to keep a sense of humour about it.

After all, as he says, it's "his bread and butter!"

Are you hungry for more? Why not visit Jim's website? It's good enough to eat! www.jimvictor.com

Check these words

edible, incredible, carve, sculpture, one-of-a-kind creation, state fair, annual event, melt, overcome, low-temperature, clay, mould, inspire, depict, sense of humour, bread and butter

Vocabulary

Food/Drinks

1 a) In one minute, write as many types of food/drinks as you can think of. What do you like eating and drinking?

b) Look at the pictures. Match the food items (1-10) to the letters (A-J).

Listen and check.

1	aubergine	6	pumpkin
2	broccoli	7	cabbage
3	carrot	8	cucumber
4	butter	9	pepper
5	chocolate	10	potato

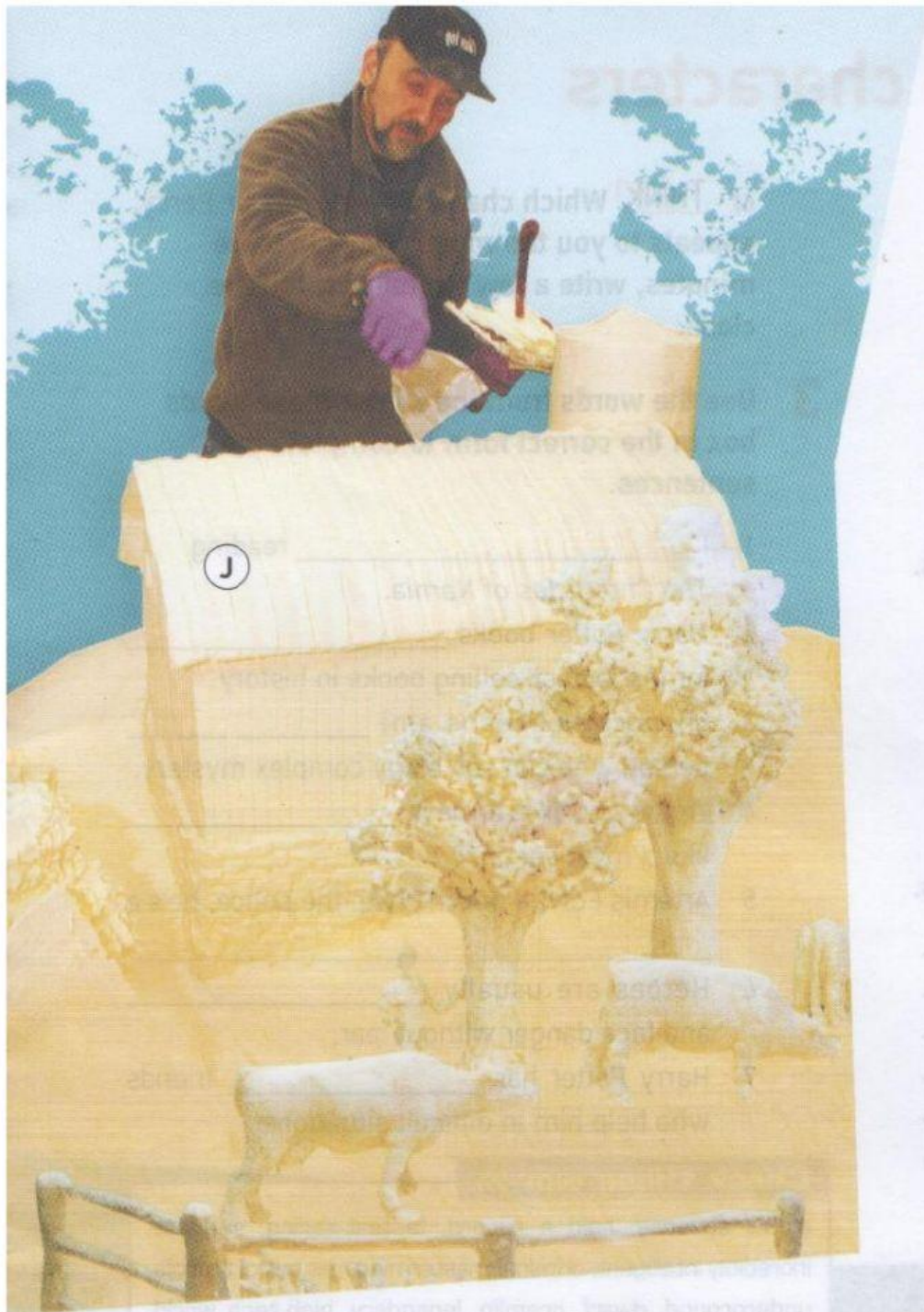
Reading

2 a) What does each photograph show? How does the text relate to the pictures?

Listen and read to find out.

b) Read the text and mark the statements T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Jim Victor only carves sculptures from butter and chocolate. _____
- 2 He travels all over America to create his sculptures. _____
- 3 He uses food he finds in festivals. _____
- 4 He thinks butter is easy to work with. _____
- 5 He often makes models of famous people from vegetables. _____
- 6 He takes his work very seriously. _____
- 7 Jim makes a living from these sculptures. _____



3 a) Complete the phrases using the words in the list. Use the phrases to write sentences about Jim Victor. Tell the class.

- sense • it takes • annual • carves • fruit
- low-temperature • food

- 1 _____ sculptures
- 2 _____ items
- 3 _____ and vegetables
- 4 _____ event
- 5 _____ room
- 6 _____ days
- 7 keep a(n) _____ of humour

Jim Victor carves sculptures from butter and