Food Customs Around the World



Clearing your plate in England, India and Japan, it is considered good manners to show you enjoyed the meal. However, in China it means the host didn't give you enough food to eat.



In some middle eastern countries, **eating with your hands** is perfectly acceptable. The right hand is used for handling food. Picking up food with the left hand is believed to be an insult to the host. In Chile, you must use cutlery when you are eating.



In South Korea, families have to wait for the eldest member of the family to take a bite before anyone else is allowed to start eating.



Slurping your food is rude in many countries, but in Japan, slurping noodles is a sign you are really enjoying your food. Drinking from a soup bowl is also acceptable.

Adapted from Twinkl ESL - Class: Beyond my Culture - Professor: Ruth Dominguez

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Food Customs Around the World



If you are served fish in China, you must never flip it over. There is a superstition that turning over the fish capsizes a boat somewhere!



In Thailand, it is rude to use a fork to pick up food from your plate. People only use forks to push food onto a spoon. The spoon is then put into the mouth.



In Egypt and Portugal, asking for salt and pepper to add to your meal is deeply offensive to the cook.



The fast-food fried chicken shop is very popular in Japan and is what many people choose to eat on Christmas Day. You have to order your meal weeks in advance!

In England, many people set their Christmas Pudding on fire before eating it.

Around Christmas time, the consumption of oysters increases significantly in France.

In Lithuania, the Christmas meal is made up of 12 dishes.

Adapted from Twinkl ESL

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Food Customs Around the World

Food Customs matching game: match the custom to the country

Japan	Portugal	India	Thailand	China
Clearing your plate is seen as good manners. It shows the host you've enjoyed and appreciated the meal.	Only use a fork to push food onto a spoon. Never use it to pick the food up.	It's rude to ask for salt or pepper.	Flipping your fish over on your plate is seen as unlucky. It is like capsizing a boat.	Slurping your food is encouraged because it shows you are enjoying your food.

Adapted from Twinkl ESL

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