The Story of Pizza

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Question of the Week
How can different cultures contribute to the food we eat?

High Frequency Words
- country
- food
- easy
- money
- almost
- anything

Concept Words
- dough
- upset
- baker
- flag
- spice
- kinds

Learning Goals
- Some of our foods come from different cultures.
- Pizza was first made in Italy.
- People around the world eat pizza today.
The idea for pizza started in Greece.

Greece is a country in Europe. Long ago, people there started to bake flat bread. Italy is also a country in Europe. Naples is a city in Italy. In the 1800s, people in Naples started to bake flat bread too.

At that time, many people in Naples were poor. They did not have much food. But they did have flour and cheese.

People made dough with the flour. They rolled it flat. They put cheese on top. Then they baked it.
People called the flat bread pizza. Pizzas were easy to make. They were also cheap. Some people made pizzas to sell. Even poor people could buy them. They did not need a lot of money to eat pizza.

In 1889, the queen of Italy visited Naples. The queen tried pizza. She loved it! Some people were upset. Why would a queen eat poor people’s food? The queen did not care. She asked the best baker to make pizza for her.
The baker made a pizza for the queen. It had the colors of the flag. Italy’s flag is red, green, and white. The pizza had red tomatoes. It had green spices. It had white cheese.

The king and queen ate pizza.

The queen loved the pizza. Then many people started to eat pizza. Bakers made different kinds. Some pizza had meat on top. Some had vegetables.
People in other countries began to eat pizza. A baker from Naples moved to New York City. In 1905, he opened a pizza restaurant. It is still open today.

Pizza can be square or round.

Pizza comes in different shapes and sizes. Some pizzas are round. Some are square. You can buy a small pizza for one person. You can buy a large one for a family.
In Mexico, people make pizza with chili peppers. The peppers are spicy. Do you like spicy food? If you do, you might like pizza from Mexico.

Pizza from Mexico

Many people like Hawaiian pizza. It has ham and pineapple. Do you like pineapple? If you do, you might like Hawaiian pizza.
Eating pizza

In Japan, people like to eat fish. They put fish on pizza.

Pizza can have almost any food on top. Pizza has a long history. It is a history of a good food.

Talk About It

1. Poor people in Naples, Italy made pizza. Why was pizza good for poor people to make?

2. Why do so many people like to eat pizza?

Write About It

3. Draw a picture of the kind of pizza you like. Write words that tell about your picture.

Extend Language

Some people put ham on pizza. Some people put onions on pizza. What else can people put on pizza?