

## A Brief History of Pizza

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Pizza is popular. It's usually round but can be made into other shapes. It's often made with tomato sauce but can be made without. It often has melted cheese; it can be made with none. While often made for dinner, pizzas can also be made for breakfast or dessert.

Pizza may have begun as food for Italy's poor. They took flat bread and topped it with olive oil, tomatoes, and cheese. In 1889, a pizza was made that was fit for a king! It was made using items in the colors of the Italian flag. Tomatoes made red, the cheese was white, and fresh basil added some green. An Italian baker made this pizza for the king and queen of Italy. Pizza wasn't just for peasants anymore!

Italian immigrants brought pizza to America. This happened during the late 1800s. Pizza gained fans outside the Italian community after WWII. Soldiers had tasted it in Italy. They brought home a craving for more. In 1948, a boxed mix appeared in grocery stores. People could buy Roman pizza mix and make their own pizzas. Pizza restaurants sprang up across the land. Pizza delivery got its start in 1960. America's love for pizza continued to grow. Now there are even taco pizzas and barbecue pizzas!



On average, Americans eat 23 pounds of pizza per person each year. In October 2008, Joey Chestnut won \$5,000 in a pizza-eating contest. This 24-year-old man ate 45 slices in just 10 minutes! Pepperoni pizza is the pizza of choice for the average 10-year-old. What do you like on your pizza?

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## Questions

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Which country's poor people may have eaten something a lot like pizza?
- A. USA
  - B. Italy
  - C. Austria
  - D. France
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In which year was pizza served to royalty?
- A. 1905
  - B. 1960
  - C. 1889
  - D. 1948
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. We can assume that before WWII \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. pizza tasted weird
  - B. Americans ate 23 pounds of pizza apiece each year
  - C. most Americans had not sampled pizza
  - D. the only people who ate pizza were kings and queens

Name \_\_\_\_\_



Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. In 1948, what could be found in grocery stores?

- A. take-and-bake pizza
- B. frozen pizza
- C. All answers are correct.
- D. pizza mix

5. The colors of the Italian flag were mentioned in this article. Name them.

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\_\_\_\_\_ 6. The favorite pizza of the average American kid is \_\_\_\_\_ pizza.

- A. pepperoni
- B. barbecue
- C. mushroom
- D. cheese

**Why do you think Italian immigrants brought pizza to America? If you moved to another country, what food or foods would you choose to take with you? Explain your answer.**

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