

Using *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* in the Classroom



Hello!

Thank you for your interest in *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*!

You may know this already, but I am a teacher too! Everyone assumes that I'm an elementary teacher or an art teacher, but I'm actually a high school English teacher who just loves to draw. However, I also love research and learning about new things, and one of my big goals for my readers is to inspire that same level of curiosity in them. And because kids will get interested in the stories they read in *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*, it's a great time to do some activities surrounding the book, no matter whether you do it as a read aloud or have a classroom set.

For one thing, it's a perfect opportunity to help kids understand the concept of **culture**. Kids may think of spaghetti as "Italian food" or tacos as "Mexican food" but the reality is that food is influenced by many cultures over time. It's also important to understand that many of us have the luxury to be able to eat food that we think tastes good, but early on people had to eat to survive. They cooked and ate the food that was nearby and gave them the nutrients and strength to go about their daily work. It didn't really matter if it tickled the taste buds.

I also hope that students are inspired to research foods from their own cultures. *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* covers foods that are easily identifiable to everyone, so some culturally specific foods were not included. Kids can research the origins of a food to get a better understanding of their own culture and heritage.

And as a result, *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* provides an opportunity to reinforce research strategies that they learn as kids that are the same skills that I used while researching the book: check that your websites are credible, double check your sources and facts, and consider what your audience might find interesting to know.

David Rickert

HOW TO BE A FOOD HISTORIAN!

Is there a food you love that isn't in this book? Are you curious about it? Become a food historian! Here's how.

First, choose a food that you are curious about.



Next, go to the internet and search for information. Type "[your food] history" in the search bar. Don't just use the first source you find! Check out some of the others too.



Books are good sources too!



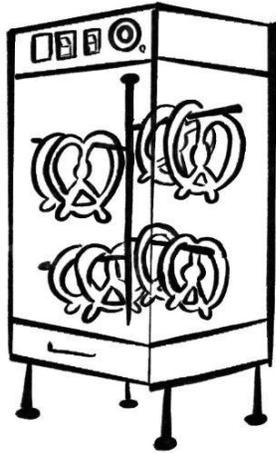
Are you curious about how old your food is? Try to find the first recorded evidence of your food being eaten. Who ate it, where was it, and how long ago?



Maybe you want to know about your food's superheroes. Search for the people who made your food popular, or changed the way it was prepared.



Look for amazing inventions: the advances in technology that helped your food out in a big way.



Also search for how-tos. Is there a specific recipe or technique that you have to learn to be able to call yourself an expert on your food?



Also look for how your food is eaten in different parts of the world.



If you can't find any of those things, don't worry! You can just look for facts that your friends don't know.



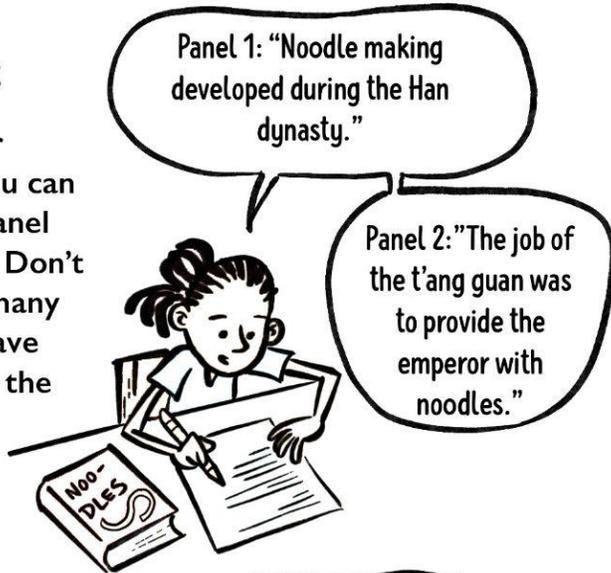
Congratulations! You have now earned the title of food historian. Be sure to share your knowledge with the world! (Or at least your family)



How To Create a FOOD COMIC! (or any comic, really.)

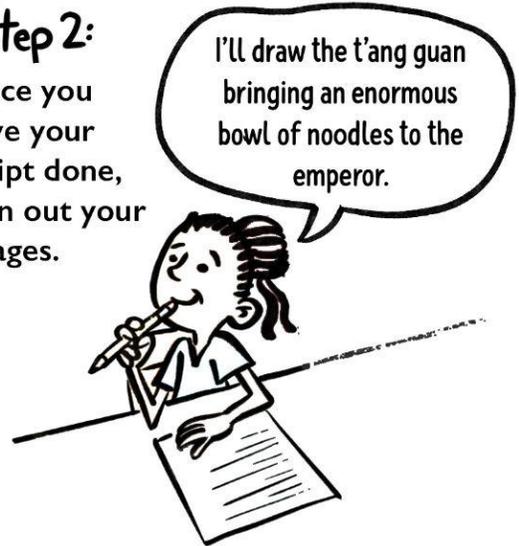
Step 1:

Plan your script. You can do this panel by panel. Don't use too many words! Save room for the artwork.



Step 2:

Once you have your script done, plan out your images.



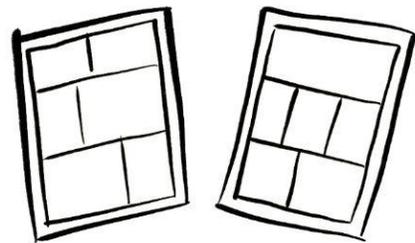
Step 3:

Now it's time to create your comic all you need is paper and something to draw with.



Step 4:

Divide your paper into three rows. Divide the rows into panels. Six is a good number, but you can use as many panels as you want.



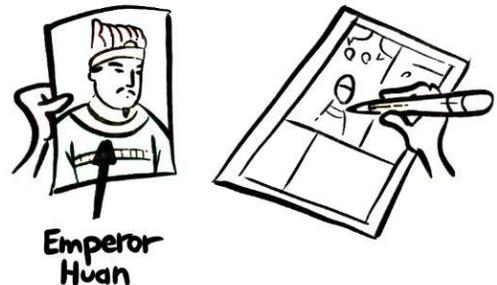
Step 5:

Add words before you draw to make sure you have enough room for the text. If you don't, divide your text into two panels, or take out some of the words.



Step 6:

Use the Internet for reference photos if you don't know what certain people look like, or what people wore.



Step 7:

Don't forget to add backgrounds to your comic. You can do research on the internet or in books to see what buildings looked like during the time period



Step 8:

Color your work if you want to. Markers tend to bleed. Use crayons or colored pencils instead.

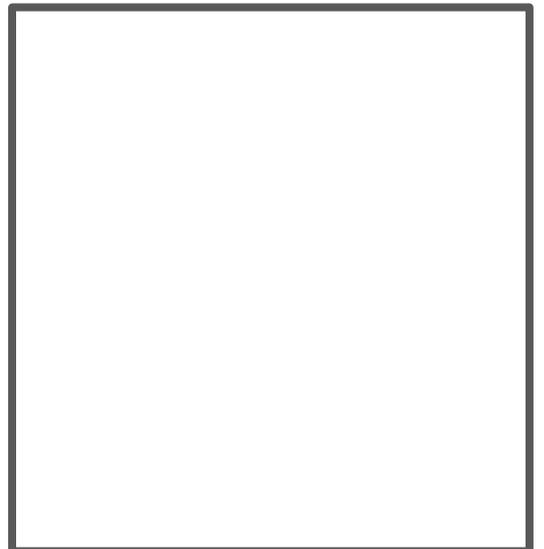


Step 9:

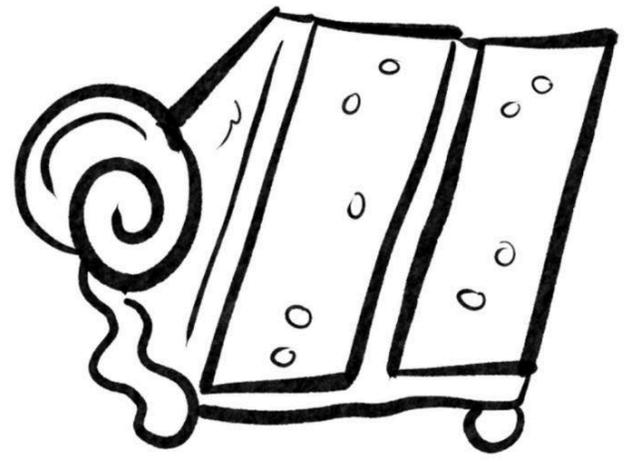
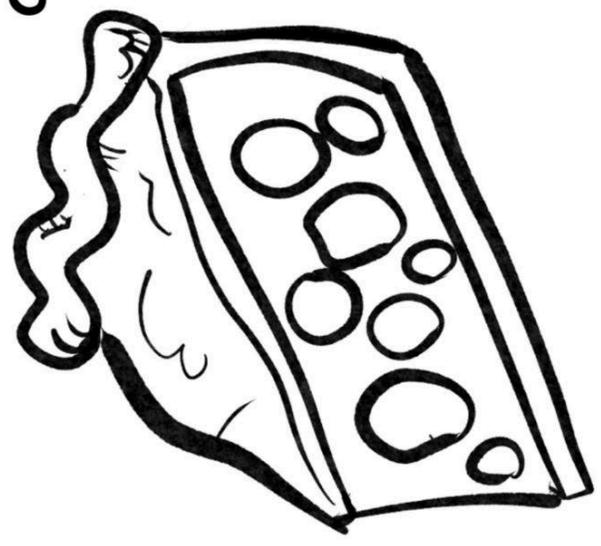
You did it! Share your finish comic with your friends, family, and teachers, hopefully they will learn something new!

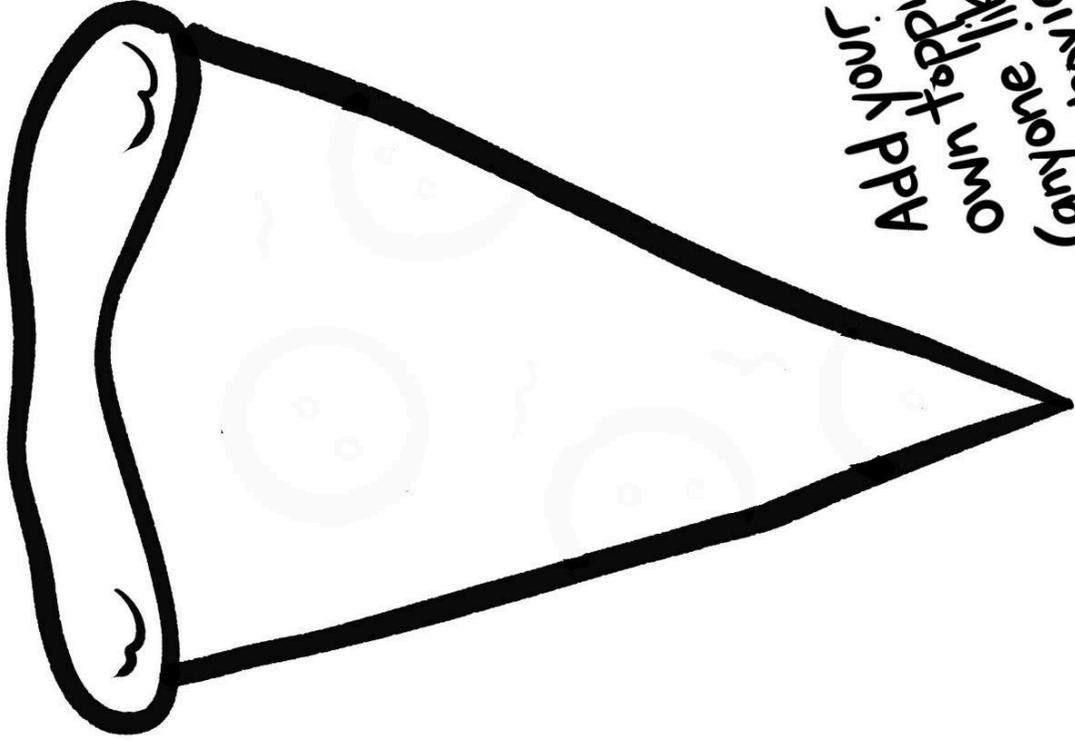


Now draw your comic!

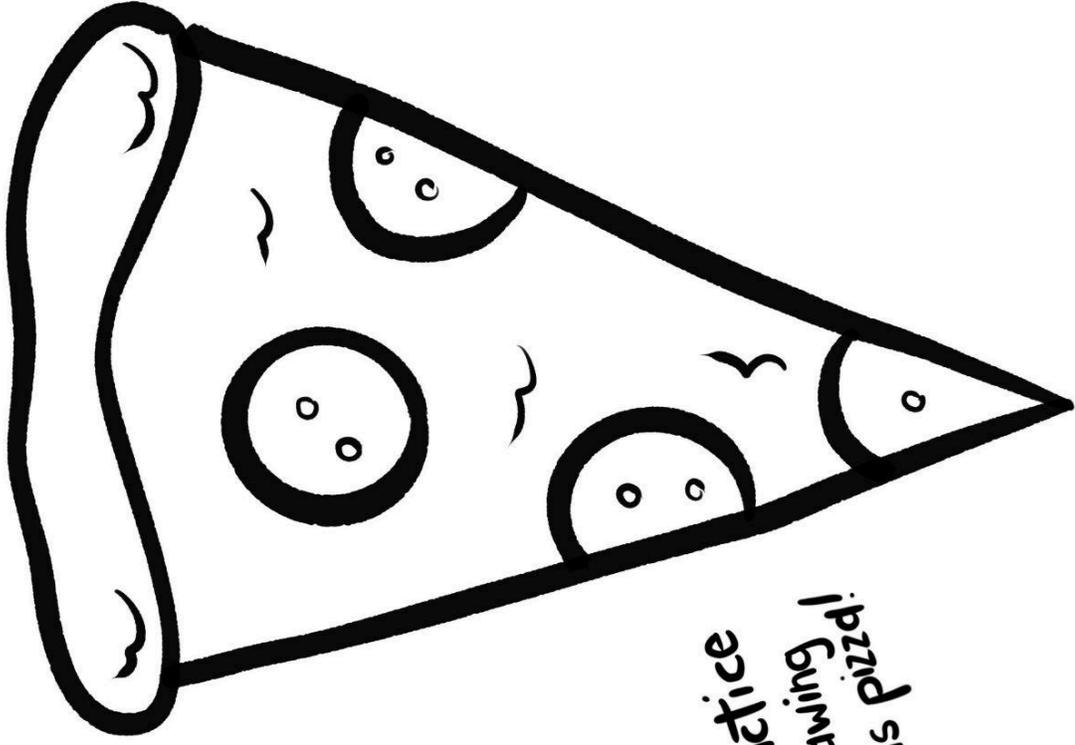


More food to
color (or draw)





Add your
own toppings!
(anyone's?)



Practice
drawing
this pizza!

WRITING ACTIVITIES



1. **Become a Time-Traveling Food Detective!**

Imagine you're on an exciting adventure to discover the hidden origins of a famous food from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*. Write a thrilling story about the twists and turns of your journey and the incredible secrets you uncover!

2. **Food Face-Off!**

Pick one of the tasty foods from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* and write a persuasive essay to convince everyone why it's the coolest, most interesting food ever. Use fun facts and stories from the book to make your case!

3. **Yummy History in a Letter!**

Write a letter to your best friend spilling all the juicy details about what you learned from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* about one of your favorite foods. Why was it so surprising or cool? Share the scoop in your own words!

4. **Diary of a Foodie from the Past!**

Pretend you're living in the time when one of the foods in *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* was just invented. Write a diary entry about what it was like to try this new food and how people around you reacted. Were they amazed, confused, or totally grossed out?

5. **Tasty Memories!**

Think about a special meal where you enjoyed one of the foods from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*. Now, write a mouthwatering description of that meal, using all five senses to bring the experience to life. Can you make the reader's mouth water? Alternatively, write a food you think is really gross!

6. **Food Detective: The Sequel!**

Do some detective work and dig up the history of a different food that wasn't in the book, maybe something from your culture that wasn't covered.

7. **Chef's Challenge!**

Imagine you're a top chef, and you've been asked to give a modern twist to an ancient recipe

from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*. Write a fun, creative recipe for your new dish and explain what inspired you to come up with it!

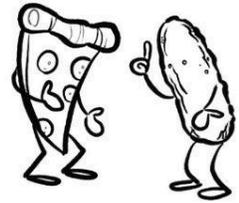
8. Poetry in a Pickle (or Pizza, or Pie!)

Get inspired by one of the foods in *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* and write a playful poem about it. Whether it's a haiku about pickles or a limerick about apple pie, let your creativity flow like melted cheese on a hot pizza!

9. Future Food Fantasies!

Fast forward to the future and imagine how one of the foods from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* might change. Will there be crazy new flavors? Will it be eaten in space? Write a fun story about what this food might look like in the future and how people might enjoy it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



1. **From Yuck to Yum!**

Some foods weren't always popular. Can you name a food from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* that had a rough start but had an interesting journey to becoming a food superstar? What's its story?

2. **World Tour on a Plate!**

Foods travel the world just like people do! What did you learn from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* about how foods are connected to different cultures? Can you think of another food not mentioned in the book that started far, far away?

3. **Back to the Flavor Future!**

If you could hop in a time machine to taste one of the foods from the book as it was originally made, which one would you choose? What makes you want to try it?

4. **History on a Plate!**

How do you think the stories of the foods from *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* help us understand our history and culture better? Why are these tasty tales important?

5. **Mind-Blown Foods!**

Did *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* totally change the way you think about your favorite foods? Tell us why or why not! How do you see your go-to snacks or meals differently now?

6. **Family Feast Traditions!**

According to *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie*, how do tradition and family shape the foods we love today? Do you have a family food tradition that connects to something in the book?

7. **Your Food Story!**

If you could add a new chapter to *Pizza, Pickles, and Apple Pie* about your favorite food, what would it be and why?