



The Best Pizza

Bess and her friend Leon go into a restaurant. The restaurant's name is Little Italy. Bess and Leon order a cheese pizza. They begin to eat. After just a few bites, Leon says, "This is the best-tasting pizza I've ever had! It is **delectable**."

Mr. Costa owns the restaurant. He smiles proudly when he hears Leon say the pizza is delectable. He says, "Let me tell you why this pizza is delicious. It comes from an old family recipe. You see, long ago, my ancestors made the first pizza."

Mr. Costa explains, "My ancestors made the very first pizza in Italy in 1392. Italy is a country in southern Europe. It's the one that is shaped like a boot kicking a rock. My ancestors lived in Paris, which is the capital of Italy."

Mr. Costa continues, "From the start, my ancestors knew it was important to use the freshest ingredients. They grew their own tomatoes. They waited till they ripened on the vine. I don't grow my own tomatoes today, but I only use fresh ones. The tomatoes can be big or small. They don't have to be red or round. They just have to be fresh! When I make my sauce, I use the same herbs and seasonings my ancestors did. The cheese amount is the same, too."

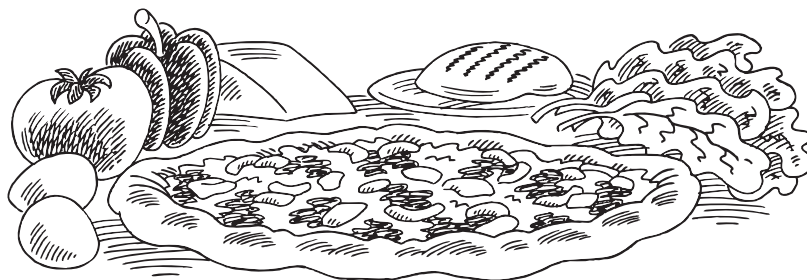
Bess smiles at Mr. Costa and says, "Something isn't quite right with your story."

"How can you say that?" asks Mr. Costa curiously. "You are a little girl. You don't know anything about my ancestors."

"I know about Christopher Columbus," says Bess. "Columbus was the first to sail to the Americas. He didn't sail until 1492."

"So what?" replies Mr. Costa. "Columbus has nothing to do with pizza. He's not an ancestor. I said the first pizza was made in Italy. I didn't say it was made in the Americas. I said it was made in 1392. I didn't say it was made in 1492. You say my family got the facts wrong. You weren't alive in 1392. How could you know what the first pizza was like?"

Bess says, "The first pizza may have been delectable. It may even have been made by your ancestors. It was most certainly not made in Italy in 1392."



The Best Pizza *(cont.)*

How could Bess know? What does Bess know that Mr. Costa doesn't? It's time to check facts.

Thesaurus



1. Can a pizza be delectable? **Yes** **No**
2. Name three things you think taste delectable. _____

3. Give three synonyms for *delectable* that could be used to describe pizza.

Atlas



Read the statements made by Mr. Costa. Write **True** or **False**. If your answer is **False**, cross out the incorrect word(s) and write the correct word(s) on the line.

- _____ 1. Italy is a country in southern Europe. _____
- _____ 2. Italy is shaped like a boot kicking a rock. _____
- _____ 3. Paris is the capital of Italy. _____

Image Search



Mr. Costa says his tomatoes can be any size. They don't have to be red or round. Find pictures of tomatoes. Describe how some of the tomatoes look. Can you find one that is not red or round?



Search Engine/Encyclopedia

Which part of the world did tomatoes first come from?

In Your Own Words

Write a paragraph on a separate piece of paper. Use information from the paragraph and the answers to the questions to explain why Bess knew the first pizza could not have been made in Italy in 1392.

Answer Key

Fact Find #1: The Best Pizza

Thesaurus:

1. Yes
2. Answers will vary.
3. Possible answers include *savory, delicious, tasty, yummy, and scrumptious*.

Atlas

1. True
2. True
3. False, Paris, Rome

Image Search: big, small, red, pink, orange, yellow, oval, round

Search Engine/Encyclopedia: South America

In Your Own Words

Columbus could not have brought tomatoes to Europe until after 1492.

Fact Find #2: Packed for Australia

Dictionary:

1. person who studies history and structure of Earth
2. C

Temperature Converter:

1. 100°F
2. 115°F
3. 37.8°F

Metric Converter:

1. 5.8 miles
2. No
3. about 2 hours

Image Search: imaginary

In Your Own Words

Rose can't take a picture of imaginary line, and she won't need her winter clothes because it's summer in Australia in December.

Fact Find #3: The Man Who Was Fed Penguins

Thesaurus:

1. No
2. Possible answers include *withdraw, back away, leave, and quit*.

Currency Converter: Answers depend on the current exchange rate.

Search Engine/Encyclopedia:

1. Yes
2. krill, squid, fish
3. Yes
4. Yes

Fact Find #4: Guide for the Amazon

Dictionary:

1. Possible answers include *huge, gigantic, and enormous*.
2. No, because the roller coaster is most likely huge.

Calculator:

1. 2,550
2. 7,150
3. 13 anacondas

Search Engine/Encyclopedia:

1. True
2. True
3. False, Spanish, Portuguese
4. False, poisoning, squeezing

Translator:

1. I can speak Spanish and English.
2. *Eu posso falar Espanhol e Inglês.*

Fact Find #5: Letter from Betsy Ross

Thesaurus:

1. actual item
2. real, genuine
3. fake, counterfeit

Atlas:

1. Yes
2. B

Image Search:

1. 5 points, 13 total, in a circle, on a field of blue
2. 13, red at top and bottom
3. No

Search Engine/Encyclopedia:

1. Yes
2. Yes, because she had a daughter Elizabeth and died in 1836
3. Yes
4. Fold the paper in half.