

# READING

## Nonfiction Passages

### Eating Bugs

**Cultures Around the World That Eat... Bugs!**

Do you know that people around the world eat bugs? Yes, you read right. Picture cooked crickets on your dinner plate. You may think it's gross but many people enjoy these critters. In fact, many of us Americans don't eat bugs, but we can still learn about it. Different cultures around the world have different ways of eating insects and we can learn to appreciate it. Let us tour the bug eating cultures around the world.

**Thailand (Crickets, grasshoppers and various worms)**

Thailand has many places where people can hang out. This is also where you can find fried insects served next to your meal. Some of the favorites are different types of worms, grasshoppers and crickets. If you visit Thailand, you will enjoy drinking Thai tea with a bowl of insects as a tasty snack.

**Brazil (winged queen ants)**

A small town in Brazil called Silveiras sells winged queen ants between October and November. The people who live there gather these ants. The ants only descend there between these months. People take off their wings and fry them in oil. Some of them even dip them in chocolate. The ants themselves taste like mint so chocolate is a perfect pair. It sounds like a candy!

**Mexico (locusts, worms and ant eggs)**

We all know how amazing Mexican food can be. Think about the beans, tortillas, taco meat and chili peppers. But if you travel to certain parts in the country, you will find ant eggs, chocolate-covered locusts and worms covered in candy on the menu.

**China (water bugs, bee larvae and silkworm moth larvae)**

People in China love eating larvae or young insects! Tourists visiting here can sample fried silkworm, moth larvae or roasted bee larvae. They are all rich in vitamins and minerals. There are many high-end restaurants that sell fully grown insects too. Some restaurants serve fried or water bugs on a stick.

**Ghana (termites)**

In Africa, people in the nation of Ghana eat bugs. It's about 60% of their protein. Many people in Ghana love eating termites because it's how many of them survive. These insects provide the important fats, proteins and oils that they need. Many of the people would be short in supply of these things if it weren't for bugs.

**The Netherlands (Crickets)**

Even in Europe people started eating crickets. Are you surprised? There are Dutch citizens today that are trying to bring the bug-eating culture to their home country. They make chocolate with ground mealworms. Dutch people love being culturally diverse. This is why it is easy for them to learn about other cultures and do new things that are not part of their traditions.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultures Around the World That Eat... Bugs!**

**Comprehension Check**

- Where can you go to get a mint flavored bug?
- Fill in the details in the graphic organizer below. Use the text to find the details for this main idea.

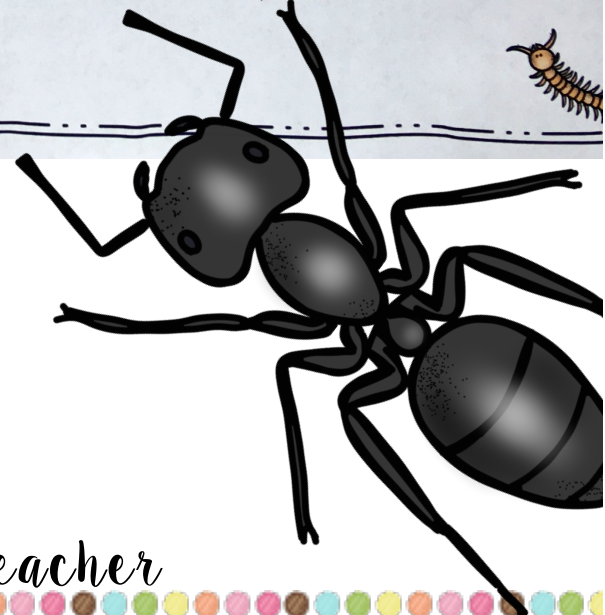
Main Idea	Details
People in China love eating larvae or insects.	

- Which title would also fit this article? Circle the best title.
  - Americans Eat Bugs
  - Tour the World
  - Bug Eaters Around the World
  - Chocolate Covered Bug
- Explain why the title you chose in question three is the best option.
- What conclusion can you draw about Ghana based on the text?
  - People in Ghana don't have a lot of food with protein.
  - Ghana has a lot of food with protein.
  - People in Ghana eat bugs because they taste like mint.
  - It's best to get protein from termites in Ghana.
- What text evidence supported your answer in question five?

Nonfiction Passages about eating bugs.



Created By The Owl Teacher



# American Food That Foreigners Find Weird

Did you know that fried insects on a stick is a popular food to eat? Did you know that guinea pigs are not just pets but food? We don't usually see this in the United States, but it's a regular part of people's diets. People in Asia see insects as a good source of protein when other sources are hard to find. In South America, our cute and cuddly pet guinea pigs are on the dinner menu. They've been food for the locals for hundreds of years. North Americans may find eating a guinea pig disgusting but non-Western cultures raise them as a source of food.

Eating insects and guinea pigs might sound strange to us. There are people from around the world that think that some of the food we eat is weird. Let us take a look at some of the American "classics" that foreigners find strange to eat.

## Corn Dogs

Who doesn't love corn dogs? Picture visiting the street cart, park, and fairgrounds with a corn dog in your hand. Sounds great to everyone, right? Wrong. Most people from different parts of the globe think it is strange to eat a hot dog dipped in corn batter and deep-fried. It's even stranger when they are drowned in mustard and ketchup.

## Olive Loaf

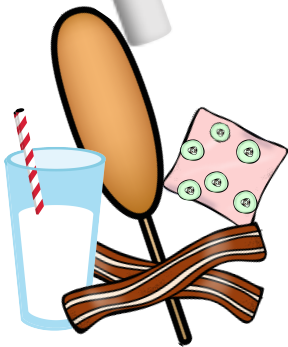
The olive loaf is a strange concept especially to those who have not tried it. The loaf is made with an olive loaf which would include green olives, meat blends, spices and water. It is usually made with pork and beef, but could also be made with turkey and chicken meat.

## Spray Cheese

Spray cheese and crackers go together like two peas in a pod. This is nothing new for Americans. It's not as popular as it used to be, but it's still an American classic. Also, it's safe to say that it's one of the most processed kinds of cheese that has ever been made. Many cultures around the world pride themselves in the fresh cheeses that they make. To foreigners, this is indeed one of the weirdest American food products.

## Grits

Some say bizarre, Americans say southern classic. Grits originated in the southern United States. The dish is made up of ground corn kernels that are boiled in milk and enjoyed with butter. It is hard to explain the texture to some people but it is like porridge or mashed potatoes.





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Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Want to Eat a Bug?

### Comprehension Check

1. Why did people start eating insects?
2. What benefit is there to eating insects?
3. Fill in the graphic organizer using the second paragraph.

Main Idea	Details

4. Create an alternative title for this article. Why is your title a good fit for this article?
5. What conclusions can draw about why American don't eat insects or worms?
6. How might you get people to start eating insects?