

02 - Pizza

Hello from WHO SMARTED? the new educator-approved audio series for kids, from the creators of Brainchild!

3 things your smart kid will discover in today's Pizza episode:

Baked flatbread dates back over 2,000 years, but what we call pizza wasn't invented until 1889 in Naples, Italy as a tribute to Queen Margherita by Chef Raffaele Esposito.

Pizza became popular in America in the 1940's when soldiers coming back from WW2 wanted some of that delicious street food they'd been eating in Europe.

Pizza TOPPINGS didn't happen until the 1950's in America, when a chef experimented with putting cured meats on top of the pizza, instead of serving them on the side as antipasto.

And if you want to look cool for the kids, here's something we left for you to share:

While the average American eats 23 pounds of pizza a year, Christian Dumitru currently holds the record at 200 lbs for most pounds of pizza eaten in a WEEK. He broke Takeru Kobayashi's record in 2006; but Takeru claims Christian's pizza didn't have enough sauce to count as pizza. Think you can beat him?

1Wanna keep the learning going after the episode? Here's an easy game to play:

While we know of toppings like pepperoni, onions, mushrooms, and meatballs - in other places they top their pizzas with things that we would find a little weird.

In Tokyo, Mayonnaise is a pizza topping, they use bananas in Sweden, Mackerel fish in Russia, and Coconut topping in Costa Rica. Ask the kids where they think they top their pizza with Crocodile? (If they - or YOU - said Australia, you're right, smarty pants!)

Now that you've got their minds thinking about weird pizza toppings, ask them to come up with some of their own crazy pizza combinations. Ask the kids to describe what they think their kooky pizza would taste like, and why they might taste good, bad, or even be the best thing since sliced...pizza??