

Say Cheese!

Name: _____

There he was, an ancient Arabian travelling across the desert with no one for company but a camel with yellow teeth, bad breath, and a bad temper.

At least the fellow had food along with him. He had poured some milk into a pouch made from sheep's stomach. During his journey, he opened the pouch and had discovered the milk had separated and formed thick masses, which we call curd, and a watery fluid, which we call whey. The Arabian traveler had accidentally invented cheese.

Two elements transformed the milk into cheese. First, the sun warmed the bag of milk during the journey. Second, the sheep-stomach bag contained dried digestive juices. The digestive juices included "rennet", which is necessary to make cheese even today.

The Arabian traveler told his friends about his discovery and for four thousand years people have continued making cheese. Cheese quickly became important all over the world. Milk spoiled quickly, but by making cheese, people could preserve the milk's nutrition for long periods of time.

The average Canadian eats just under 14 kilograms of cheese each year, and that number is growing. The United States of America is the largest producer of cheese in the world, and the average French person eats the most cheese, just under 26 kilograms per year.

Over two thousand varieties of cheese are produced around the world. If you tasted a different kind each week, it would take almost forty years to sample all of the varieties. By that time, someone would probably have developed some new ones to try.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest cheese ever made was 18,170 kg. It was made in 1988 in Wisconsin in the United States. A specially designed, refrigerated "cheese-mobile" moved the giant cheese from place to place.

As cheese is found around the world, there are many ways to say 'cheese' in other languages. The words in the box below are the different ways to say cheese. Match the word with the correct language listed below the box.

fromage	sajt	ost	ser	queso
sir	jibini	kase	formaggio	chlizu

French _____ Hungarian _____

Spanish _____ Russian _____

Italian _____ Japanese _____

German _____ Swahili _____

Polish _____ Swedish _____

There are 7 paragraphs in the first page passage. In the space provided, write the main idea found in the following paragraphs.

Paragraph 2: _____

Paragraph 3: _____

Paragraph 4: _____

Paragraph 5: _____

Paragraph 6: _____

Paragraph 7: _____

Answer the following questions about cheese in **complete sentences**.

1. What region of the world did cheese originate in?

2. What is 'whey'?

3. What two elements are needed to create cheese?

4. About how many years ago was cheese discovered?

5. What is a 'cheese-mobile'?

6. What country eats the most cheese in the world, per person?
