

Pepperoni Printable Reading Comprehension

Name _____

Pepperoni

Pepperoni is one of the most popular pizza toppings. It is actually a type of cured sausage made from pork mixed with beef. “Cured” means it is salted to protect against bacteria harmful to people. Pepperoni is mixed with pepper, paprika or other spices and takes on a reddish color. It is typically sliced in small, thin circles.

The word “pepperoni” means “big peppers” in Italian, though pepperoni has little to do with peppers or Italy. Its history is unclear, however, it was almost certainly invented in America, likely in one of the original pizzerias in New York City. What is clear however, is that pepperoni is America’s favorite pizza topping. Approximately 36% of pizzas produced in the United States are topped with pepperoni.

1. Why is pepperoni cured?

- A. To protect against harmful bacteria
- B. To make it red
- C. To make it salty
- D. To make it circular

2. What is unclear about pepperoni?

- A. How it is made
- B. Its actual history
- C. Why people like it
- D. Whether it was invented in the United States

3. Why did the author include the last sentence?

- A. To explain something about pepperoni’s history
- B. To show how popular pepperoni is
- C. To show how popular other toppings are
- D. To explain how pepperoni is made

4. What is not true about pepperoni?

- A. The name pepperoni means “big peppers”
- B. It is actually a type of sausage
- C. It was invented in Italy
- D. It is made from pork and beef