

THE GROWING POPULARITY OF EATING INSECTS

July 29th, 2023

WARM-UP QUESTIONS: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s).*

1. What's your favorite food? How often do you get to eat it?
2. Read the headline above. Have you heard this news story? If so, say what you know. If not, can you guess what it is about?

VOCABULARY: *Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.*

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|-------------------|--|
| 1. Gag-inducing | a) to use something as a basis |
| 2. Agriculture | b) makes you feel like vomiting |
| 3. Build on | c) a gas that causes global warming |
| 4. Forecast | d) the practice of farming |
| 5. Greenhouse gas | e) the public attention that something gets |
| 6. Emission | f) rising |
| 7. On the rise | g) a long thin piece of wood or metal that goes through food |
| 8. Albeit | h) an insect that hops and chirps |
| 9. Profile | i) a small worm that later becomes a fly |
| 10. Cricket | j) although |
| 11. Skewer | k) a gas that is sent out |
| 12. Maggot | l) to predict or calculate a future event or condition |

LISTEN: *Listen to the audio track on eslnewsstories.com or to a reader of the text. Try to fill in the missing words. Then check your answers with the full text (below).*

"What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?" the old _____ goes. "Finding half a worm in your apple," comes the answer. Indeed, seeing an insect in a restaurant is, for many people, a reason to walk out. Finding an insect in one's food, moreover, can be gag-inducing.

Reactions like these are not _____ in every culture. According to research, people in 80% of countries eat 1000-2000 types of insects. The UN Food and Agriculture _____ (FAO) wants to

build on those numbers. FAO wants to encourage insect-eating as a response to the rising world population that is forecast to go over 9 billion by 2050. While the demand for food is increasing, there is greater recognition that the _____ of food sources like cows, pigs, and sheep, contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

In Japan, some people have responded to FAO's encouragement, and the eating of insects is on the rise. Historically, the Japanese have eaten insects, albeit in greater amounts during hard times, like _____ and after World War Two. Currently, several restaurants in Tokyo are raising the profile of insects as food. Mushi-ya, a stall in Ueno, sells cricket and silkworm skewers. Water bug cider and cricket curry are popular at Take-Noko, a cafe near Asakusa. Rice & Circus has multiple branches that serve _____ with maggots and bee-larvae sprinkled on top. Antcicada, not far from Akihabara, is known for its cricket ramen.

The founder of Antcicada, Yuta Shinohara, was inspired to activism by FAO reports while still at school. Since then, his passion for insect-eating has lost and gained him friends, and in 2020, he opened the restaurant. Shinohara wants people to know that insects are delicious and high in nutrients. If he has his way, people in Japan and _____ will be opening their eyes to the benefits of eating insects.

WORD FORMS: *Fill in different forms for the vocabulary from the article. Use a dictionary if you need to. Where there is an x, the word is unimportant for ESL students, has a different meaning, or does not exist. Sometimes there are multiple possible answers, and sometimes the adjective form is a past or present participle.*

VERB	ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN
x			agriculture
forecast		x	
		x	emission

FULL STORY:

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to build on those numbers. FAO wants to encourage insect-eating as a response to the rising world population that is forecast to go over 9 billion by 2050. While the demand for food is increasing, there is greater recognition that the farming of food sources like cows, pigs, and sheep, contributes significantly to greenhouse gas emissions.

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Sources: reuters.com, tokyocheapo.com, mainichi.jp, wikipedia.org, theguardian.com
For source links, see the article on ESLNewsStories.com

COMPREHENSION: *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F), and then discuss your answers with your partner(s).*

1. In many countries, people eat insects. (T / F)
2. The global population is over 9 billion. (T / F)
3. In Tokyo, there are several places where insects can eat people . (T / F)
4. A Japanese man lost friends because he eats insects. (T / F)

COMPLETE: *Re-order the following sentences. Capitalize certain words and add punctuation.*

1. stand / people / insects / some / can't / some
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2. maggots / can / you / sprinkled / order / with / dumplings / on top
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DISCUSSION: *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What did you think about this story? Was there any surprising information?
2. Does your country have a history of eating insects? Are they still eaten today?

3. Have you ever found an unexpected insect in your food? How did you react?
4. Have you eaten any insects? How were they cooked? How was the taste?
5. Some people are scared of insects. Why is this?
6. Is insect-eating a good response to the problems of food supply and global warming?
7. Is there a food that you hate? If so, what makes you hate it?
8. People say that shrimp are similar to insects. Do you like eating shrimp?
9. Do you eat meat from animals like cows, sheep, and pigs? How often? Have you considered limiting your eating of them for the environment?
10. Would you try the food at any of the places mentioned in the article? Which would you choose?
11. Have you been to Tokyo? What do people usually eat when they go there?

WRITING: Write a paragraph that clearly states your opinion on the above news article. Give reasons for your opinion.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY: 1-b, 2-d, 3-a, 4-l, 5-c, 6-k, 7-f, 8-j, 9-e, 10-h, 11-g, 12-i

WORD FORMS: agricultural, agriculturally, forecasted, forecast, emit, emitted

COMPREHENSION: 1-T, 2-F, 3-F, 4-T

COMPLETE: 1. Some people can't stand insects. 2. You can order dumplings with maggots sprinkled on top.