

Map My 4th of July Food



Introduction: Ask students how they celebrate the 4th of July. (fireworks, family get togethers, food...)

Food is a big part of any celebration. On the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams ate poached salmon with egg sauce, green peas, and potatoes served "in jackets" (unpeeled). (Revolutionary Roots: The First Independence Day Feast) How does that compare with what we eat today?

Activity:

1. With the students, make a list of typical 4th of July food. (Hotdogs, buns, corn on the cob, watermelon...)
2. Divide into small groups. Give each group one food item from the list.
3. Ask each group to write down where they think the main ingredient of their food item originates from. (for example, pork in hotdogs, wheat in buns, milk in ice cream, etc.)
4. Using selected resources, instruct each group to research the origins of their food and locate it on a world map. (Think in general regions like Asia or North America.)
5. Have each group share their findings with the class, and how it compares with what they originally thought?

Discussion: Are any of our 4th of July foods "All American?" What do our food choices say about food production? How do they reflect our American heritage?

Selected Resources:

[Smithsonian, Smithsonian Explores the History of Fourth of July Food, July 2, 2013](#)

[Texas A&M AgriLife Extension, Introduction to Feral Hogs.](#)

[Kansas Wheat Commission, Coming to America.](#)

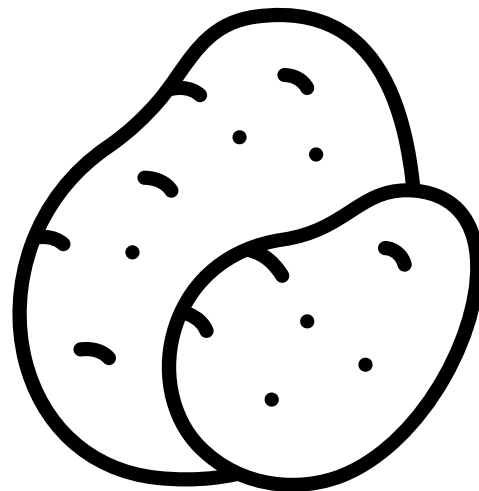
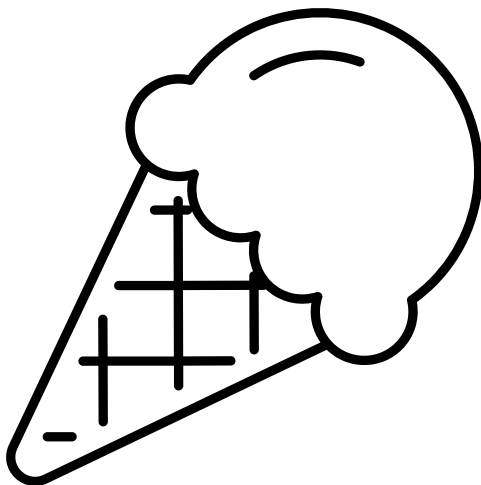
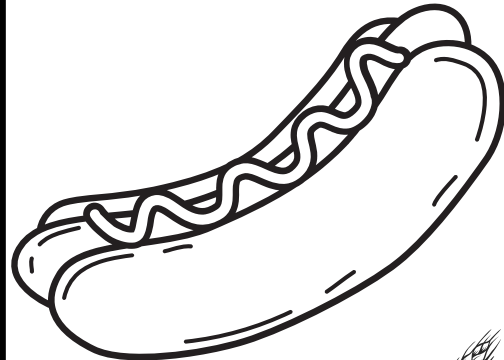
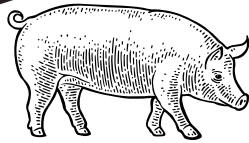
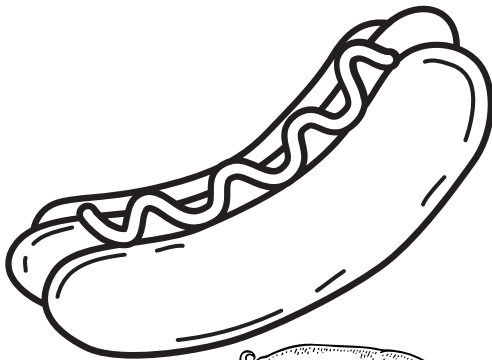
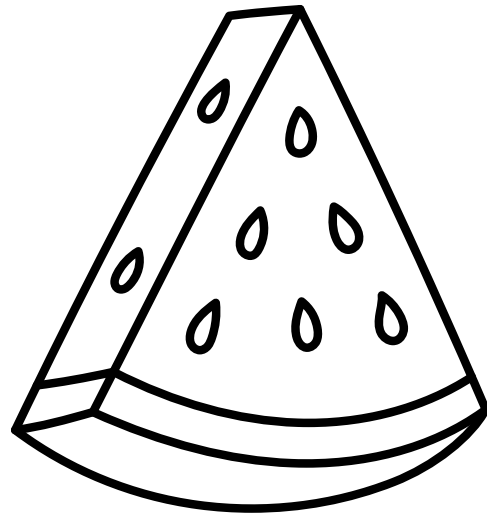
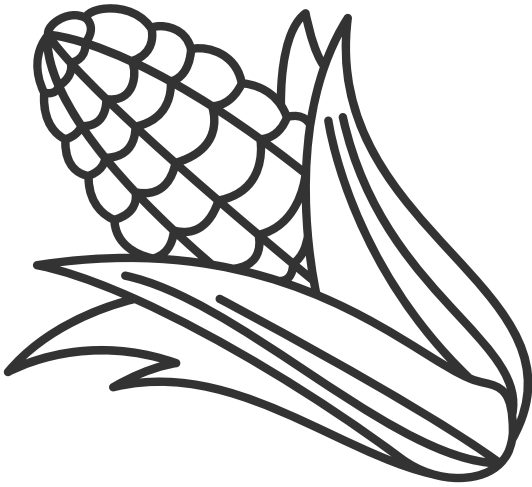
[Nebraska Corn Board, The History of Corn: from Ancient Grain to Modern Maize.](#)

[USDA, Did You Know? Watermelon.](#)

[Clemson University, The Watermelon: Journey from Weed to Commercial Cultivation.](#)

[Washington State Potato Commission, Potato History.](#)

[Michigan State University, The History of Dairy Cow Breeds: Holsteins](#)



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Food item:

Main Ingredient:

Before research:

We Think _____ comes
from _____.

After research:

We know _____ comes from _____.

