

Whether it's to celebrate something, have a party or to save time when feeding the family, pizza is an excellent choice of food. It's very popular anywhere in the world. Pizza was originally an Italian dish but its popularity took off after the Second World War and now it's truly a global treat.

Let's discover the biggest reasons why. To begin with, it's delicious, quick, and best of all, there's a combination of toppings for absolutely everyone. What's more, when pizza is made to include the four food groups, it can even be a healthy choice. Pizza can almost always meet your expectations, whether you opt for a classic or reinvented version.

At a birthday party, office celebration, or get-together to watch a game on TV, you can opt for a couple of large pizzas, with all the traditional toppings that everyone loves. And last but not least – you can enjoy your pizza with your hands, right off a paper plate.

Modern scientists have always been doing much to learn more about our world. One important thing is to investigate the ocean but it can be hard. For instance, measuring average global sea level is very complex stuff. Winds can move large volumes of water around, temperature shifts can make the ocean shrink in some places and not others, while the daily tides, currents, and other variables make it really difficult to read the measurements accurately. So experts use a variety of different measurements and data streams to get something accurate and useful. Sea levels do not rise when icebergs or ice sheets floating in them melt because the water has already been displaced. Melting land ice does make sea levels rise, and this is the cause of sea level rise that most people know. However, the heat being pumped into the oceans from the greenhouse effect not only increases the temperature, it also causes the water to expand, which makes sea levels rise.

Look at some facts about the planet we call home. The incredible natural resources and the ingenuity of the people that live on Earth combine to make an impressive output of goods and services that are traded to sustain, inform and entertain.

The scale of the world economy is great. Earth facts teach us that each year, humankind produces \$72 trillion worth of goods and services. The natural resources of the Earth are used to produce them. It means that after all, everyone uses the Earth's resources! When we examine historical Earth facts, we see that the production of goods and services across the world really took off about 200 years ago with the dawn of the Industrial Age. Humankind has gotten really good at exploiting the many materials the Earth has to offer, including forging metals mined from the surface at extreme temperatures that are as hot as lava from a volcano.

Looking at Earth facts about the word *Earth*, we learn that not everyone agrees whether the word should be capitalized. Originally, the word *earth* wasn't capitalized. Once the word *Earth* began to be used in scientific circles, it started to be capitalized when compared to other planets, such as Mars, Neptune and Jupiter.

Following the historical Earth facts about how the word *Earth* originated, we see that it comes from Old English, which is one of the Germanic languages. Digging deeper into historical Earth facts, we find that this old Germanic word actually dates back to the time of the Indo-Europeans. This early culture dates from some time around 5000 BCE.

Linguists have revealed Earth facts about the origin of the word. The word changed its pronunciation over time until it became the word that we pronounce as *earth* today. It shows to us how a language can change over thousands of years.

People as well as animals and other living creatures need air to breathe all the time. Oxygen is very important for us. However, it can be a big surprise for us to learn that there is no clear boundary between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space. While we typically think of the Earth as this perfect sphere, scientists have already proved for sure that it's more like a squashed ball. The farther we get away from the ground, the thinner the atmosphere becomes. The atmosphere slowly becomes thinner and thinner until it fades into outer space. There's no clear line or sign that says something like "Welcome to outer space!"

The atmosphere of Earth is one of the unique features that allows such an amazing variety of life forms to exist on the planet. The atmosphere protects us and the other forms of life on Earth from some of the most harmful energy that's produced by the Sun.

The life of Indians is centered in the family. Extended families often live together, with two or more adult generations, or brothers, sharing a house. In much of the countryside, neighboring houses share a wall, so from the street one sees a continuous wall pierced by doorways. In other areas, in the south for example, the main house will have a veranda on the street, with an open courtyard behind. As people get richer, they introduce improvements like tiled roofs to their houses. Most home activity is outside in the compound courtyard or on the verandas of the house.

Only in a few parts of do people live on their farmland. The village is thus a settlement area, or a set of settlement areas, surrounded by unbroken fields, with farms frequently made up of separated plots. A large village will have a primary school, and a small shop or two.

Japan is an island nation in East Asia, located in the North Pacific Ocean off the coast of the Asian continent. Japan comprises the four main islands in addition to numerous smaller islands. Tokyo is the country's capital and largest city.

Mountains dominate Japan's landscape, covering 75 to 80 percent of the country. Historically, the mountains were barriers to transportation, limiting the economic development of isolated areas. However, with the development of tunnels, bridges, and air transportation in the modern era, the mountains are no longer an obstacle. The Japanese have long celebrated the beauty of their mountains in art and literature, and today many mountain areas are preserved in national parks.

Most of Japan's people live on plains and lowlands found mainly along the lower courses of the country's major rivers, on the lowest slopes of mountain ranges, and along the sea coast. This concentration of people makes Japan one of the world's most crowded countries.

Canada's original inhabitants are Indians. The very name Canada comes from a word meaning "village" in one of the local languages of Indian tribes. These tribes lived on the territory of modern Canada before the first Europeans arrived in the 11th century. They soon left, but more Europeans came in the 16th century and were made welcome because they brought manufactured goods and traded them for furs and other native products. However, the Europeans settled down and gradually displaced Indians over the next 250 years.

European settlers came in a series of waves. First were the French, followed by the English, and these two groups are considered the founding nations. France lost its part of the territory to Britain in a war in 1760, but most of the French-speaking colonists remained. Their effort to preserve their language and culture is still an issue of Canadian history and has led in recent years to a movement to become independent of the rest of Canada.



Since ancient times humans have loved and cherished cats as their pets. Today more than 80 million cats reside in US homes, with an estimated three cats for every dog on the planet. Yet there is still a lot we don't know about our feline friends – including what they think of their owners.

After observing pet cats for several years, scientists have come to an intriguing conclusion: cats don't really understand people the way dogs do. They tend to feel it's they who own their masters, not vice versa. On the contrary, dogs perceive people as being very different from themselves. As soon as they see a human, they change their behaviour. The way a dog plays with a human is completely different from the way it plays with a dog. Cats are independent creatures and they can easily change their owner without changing their habits.

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Many lands that had once been swamps were drained or filled in. There are different reasons why people drained swamplands. Some were drained to fight diseases caused by insects that lived in them. Because swamps were considered unpleasant places in which to live and harmful to health, many people thought that unless they were drained the land was worthless.

Other swamps were drained to make new land. As the population grew and more land was needed, people drained swamps or filled them to make room for more farms and factories, more roads and airports.

Few people thought that it might be harmful to get rid of swamps. As swamps disappeared, other things happened. There were both more floods and more droughts than before. There were also more fires, for swamps had acted as firebreaks. Hunters noticed that there was less wild game. Wild life that once lived in the swamps was dying out, because it had no place to live.

As soon as spring brings a new growth of bushes and berries, bears start feeding. They eat and eat. All through the spring and summer their feeding goes on. The bears build themselves up. They store food and fats that they will need in the fall when they start their long sleep.

As days grow shorter, and the temperature begins to fall, bears hunt for a sleeping place. It may be a shallow cave, or a deep crack between rocks. Some bears end up sleeping in hollow logs. Logs seem to be bears' favourite places. Bears seem to choose small spaces. They can keep warmer in a cave that's just large enough to hold them than in a larger cave. They often line their sleeping place with leaves and dried grass.

All through their winter naps, bears will not eat. Often they will sleep for 7 months, moving only now and then.

A hobby is an activity you enjoy doing, it is something of your choice, something unique to your taste and talent. A hobby can improve our well-being; it can give more meaning to our life.

Just as physical exercise is important for the body, relaxation of the mind is also essential. In fact, studies reveal that people who cultivate themselves through such activities are less likely to suffer from anxieties, depression and other negative feelings.

A hobby is the easiest way to restore your balance whenever you are over-worked or stressed. Since it is an activity of your choosing, it will always give you pleasure and help you to relax.

Even if you indulge in your hobby for a short period of time, you still can feel the difference in your energy level and spirit. When you have a hobby, you will always find time for it.

Human beings are complex creatures. Our thoughts, feelings and emotions are all tied to each other and impacted by things like physical sensations and memories. Feelings and emotions are very similar, but they are not exactly the same. Feelings are often immediate and transient things. We feel before we think. Sometimes the feeling remains, sometimes it doesn't. You can feel emotions, and you can also feel sensations. You feel cold or hot; you feel uncomfortable or nervous.

On the other hand, a feeling can be a complex mix of emotions. The way you feel about your Uncle Tom, for instance. You may feel love, but you may also feel anger, resentment or embarrassment, or a combination of them. Feelings are intensely personal and are always near the surface of our consciousness. Emotions can be described as intensely felt feelings. They are very tied to our thoughts, but often battle against them.

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The first maps were drawn by explorers to help them find their way home and show people where they had been. The maps showed the shape of the land, distances between places and special features such as caves and old trees. Nowadays, maps show the towns and villages, and the roads, railways, rivers and mountains. Symbols are used to show all the different things on a map and there is a key to explain what the symbols stand for.

Over the centuries, people explored most of the Earth and put together the map of the world we use today. Maps of the world or large areas are often either “political” or “physical”. The political map shows territorial borders. The purpose of the physical map is to show features of geography such as mountains, soil type or land use including roads, railroads and buildings.



People have enjoyed sports for thousands of years. Children, men and women play sports both for pleasure and for challenge. Every sport involves physical skill. Every sport has a set of rules that the players of the sport follow. In some sports one person competes against other individuals. Examples of these sports include boxing, tennis and so on. In many games one team competes against the other team.

People can go in for winter and summer sports. Summer sports are typical for warmer countries. Those who live in regions that experience cold winters have long enjoyed ice skating, skiing, and sledding. These activities have grown immensely in popularity over the years. Today thousands of resorts cater to the winter tourist trade, and millions of people each year take winter sports vacations.

## Holidays with a difference

People work too much these days and it's no wonder they are looking forward to enjoying their holidays to the full. Once package holidays were popular and every tourist was dreaming to see traditional sights like the Pyramids. Now people have been there and have done that and they want more. An underwater hotel or a safari in the wild or white water rafting or whale watching – that's what modern travel agencies offer people.

You can spend a night in the ice hotel or watch birds in Scottish mountains. You can travel and volunteer helping poor people in Africa. You can even become a space tourist if you can afford it. Many people prefer to go off the beaten track on their holidays and one can't blame them for that. What kind of holiday are you dreaming about?

## Space exploration

People all over the world have always dreamt of flying into space. It's now possible and international teams of scientists are working in the space to explore the Earth and the universe. Why do people need space? Lots of our modern technology, like TV or mobile connection, works with the help of thousands of satellites orbiting our planet and that is possible thanks to the space programme.

People will probably be able soon to get mineral resources on other planets and we are also dreaming of building houses on the moon. We may even meet other civilizations if there are any and share our experiences and achievements to help one another. The list of opportunities is endless and so is the universe so we may only await millions of mysteries the outer space holds for us

Why do people need hobbies? It seems like our modern world is too hectic for us to have some time to devote to do something like that. Still, most people find some time in their packed schedules to read, paint, embroider, knit or sew, look after fish or do some carving. It is so because most people need some time for themselves and hobbies help us relax and forget about stresses of the world around.

People also feel the need to do something creative – there's so much routine in our everyday life. For some people hobbies become such an important part of their life that they leave their regular jobs to turn their much-loved hobby into their new occupation and make money out of it. Anyway, hobbies help people to do what brings them fun and pleasure and that's their greatest meaning and importance.

Sport has always been popular with people all over the world. Lots of people, both young and old, do different kinds of sport – winter or summer sports, competitive or non-competitive sports, team or individual sports. Still, even more people enjoy watching sports on TV. If you think about it, you will definitely see how much money is invested into sports advertising now, how expensive the tickets to sports competitions are, how high sportsmen's fees are.

Is it fair to waste so much money into just showing sport to people? On the other hand, winning doesn't matter so much for sportsmen now it's getting the money prize that's much more important than fame or medals. It makes sportsmen use drugs or do other unfair things. The very essence of sport is lost in such a way.

