

Where Does Our Food Come From?

A survey by the British Nutrition Foundation questioned children about where our food comes from.



"Cheese comes from plants, tomatoes grow underground and fish fingers are made of chicken," according to many young children quizzed on where our food comes from.

Where does cheese come from?

Some of the children thought that cheese came from a plant. Cheese is a food commonly made from cow's milk. But, did you know it's not just cow's milk that can make cheese? Milk from buffalo, goats or sheep can be used too. Mozzarella cheese (often used on pizzas) is made from the milk of buffalos.



Where does pasta come from?

When questioned, some children thought pasta comes from animals. Pasta is made from flour mixed with water or eggs. It is kneaded into a dough (a bit like bread) and then made into sheets, twists, tubes or other shapes. It is cooked by either boiling or baking.

Where do tomatoes come from?

Some children thought that tomatoes grow underground – a bit like carrots. They do, in fact, grow above the ground on a plant. The tomato plant can grow to be very tall. When they first grow, they are green but as they ripen, they turn red.



Where do fish fingers come from?

The clue for the ingredients of a fish finger is in the title. No, it doesn't mean they are made from fingers! They are made from fish. Shockingly though, some children thought they were made from chicken. Fish fingers are usually made from haddock or cod, which are types of fish.



Where does milk come from?

Do you ever stop to think where your food and drink comes from? Some children have no idea that milk comes from cows, research has revealed. Lots of children live in cities and so have never seen a cow, or even heard one 'moo'. Some children said they thought milk comes straight from the fridge or supermarket, but how did it get there? The research also revealed that some city-living children believe that a cow is the size of a double decker bus, and some think they're as small as cats.



What counts as one of your five-a-day?

Some children thought that Fruit Pastilles and strawberry jam counted as part of their daily fruit and veg. There are lots of health benefits to getting five portions of fruit and vegetables every day.



Many children say they know lots about healthy eating, but do not follow it. Why do you think that is?

Roy Ballam, Managing Director of British Nutrition Foundation, believes schools and families should work together to educate children and motivate them to make healthier choices.

Next time you're in the supermarket, stop and think about where your food and drinks have come from.

The survey by the British Nutrition Foundation questioned 5,040 UK children.

Where Does Our Food Come From? – Challenge Activity

Section B

Use the information from the text to answer the questions.

1. Who did the British Nutrition Foundation question about where our food comes from?

2. What is the cheese made from buffalo's milk called?

3. What did some of the children that were questioned think pasta was made from?

4. Tomatoes grow above the ground, on a plant. Name a vegetable that grows under the ground.

5. What are the two most common fish that are used in fish fingers?

6. Why haven't some children ever seen a cow?

7. Many children say they know lots about healthy eating but do not follow it. Why do you think that is?