

Red Peppers

Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

What is the most _____ fruit in the world? It might be the red chilli pepper. About _____ per cent of the world _____ peppers every day. How did they become so _____ ?

The history of peppers begins _____ of years ago.

The red chilli pepper _____ first started to _____ in Mexico. The Aztecs and Mayas ate red peppers and used them as a _____ to help sick people.

Red pepper's _____ started with Christopher Columbus. In 1492, he visited a small _____ near Mexico called the Dominican Republic. He took red chilli peppers _____ to Spain, but not much happened after that. Some people grew peppers in _____ because they looked interesting, but it was not _____ food. In time, someone discovered that peppers made food _____ good.

Portugal took the red chilli pepper _____ the world. By the early _____, Portugal controlled the buying and selling of many _____. They had a large _____, many ships and lots of products to _____. The red pepper probably first went to India. From there it moved to other parts of Asia and _____. By the end of the _____, chilli peppers might have been the world's first _____ food.

Around the world, there are many _____ of peppers. Some are _____ and some are not. The hot ones contain a special _____ inside the white part of the pepper. That oil makes food hot. It also helped people in different _____ create a wonderful _____ of food, like Korean kimchi, Indian curry or Mexican salsa.

Without a _____, this _____-year-old fruit has influenced food and _____.

Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. drug | a. likely |
| 2. spices | b. medicine |
| 3. international | c. regarded |
| 4. probably | d. seasoning |
| 5. considered | e. global |

True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Red peppers probably first came from Portugal. T or F
2. Some people thought red peppers could cure people. T or F
3. Seeds are the hottest part of a chilli pepper. T or F
4. The chilli pepper is a fruit. T or F
5. Portugal once dominated the global spice market. T or F

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Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

DAILNS _____

REWKNOT _____

UUTECLR _____

TSETA _____

ARETD _____

SROINEG _____

ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
 2. Do you like spicy food? What's your favorite?
 3. Why are peppers hot?
 4. What are the pros and cons of eating spicy food?
 5. Why, do you think, red peppers are so popular?
 6. Can you name six kinds of spices?
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Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. other / Asia / and / From / of / moved / Africa / it / there / parts / to

2. to / The / grow / probably / in / chilli / started / Mexico / red / first / pepper

3. help / Aztecs / to / peppers / Mayas / and / them / people / drug / a / sick / used / as / and / The / ate / red

4. of / They / a / network / trade / many / ships / and / lots / to / products / had / large

5. pepper / part / the / white / contain / of / ones / inside / The / hot / special / a / the / oil
