

McDonald's says no GM French fries

17th November, 2014



The U.S. government has said a new, genetically modified potato is OK to eat, but McDonald's said it will not use it in its French fries and hash browns. The potato

company said it changed the DNA of normal potatoes to make the vegetables better. It said the new potato has less sugar and fewer things inside it that can give people cancer. It also said the potatoes are stronger. It was confident that people would buy the new potato in supermarkets. McDonald's made a statement about the new potato. It said: "McDonald's USA does not source GMO potatoes, nor do we have current plans to change our sourcing practices." The company did not say what it thought of McDonald's not using its new potato.

French fries are one of the most commonly eaten foods in the world. They are very popular with fast food restaurants. The expression 'French Fried Potatoes' was first used in English in an 1856 book called 'Cookery for Maids of All Work'. In the early 20th century, the term 'French fried' was being used to mean 'deep-fried'. Food historians say French fries actually come from Belgium and not France. Both countries say they were the first company to cook French fries. Belgians say the word 'French fries' is used instead of 'Belgian fries' because France has a worldwide image for good food. Some people think the term 'French' was used when U.S. soldiers arrived in Europe during World War I.

Sources: *WorldFoodNews* / *NBC News* / *wikipedia*

Writing

GM food is better than non-GM food. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

government / OK to eat / French fries / hash browns / confident / statement / source / commonly eaten foods / fast food restaurants / cookery / Belgium / worldwide image

True / False

- The U.S. government has said no to a new genetically modified potato. T / F
- McDonald's said it would not use the potato for its hash browns. T / F
- A company said the new potato reduces people's risk of getting cancer. T / F
- McDonald's said it had no plans to use the new potato in the future. T / F
- The term "French Fried Potatoes" was first used in 1856. T / F
- The term 'French-fried' was used to mean 'shallow-fried'. T / F
- France agreed that Belgium first made French fries. T / F
- British soldiers in World War I took the term 'French Fries' to the USA. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. OK | a. term |
| 2. changed | b. get |
| 3. confident | c. methods |
| 4. source | d. altered |
| 5. practices | e. rather than |
| 6. popular | f. fine |
| 7. expression | g. global |
| 8. instead of | h. troops |
| 9. worldwide | i. positive |
| 10. soldiers | j. well-liked |

Discussion – Student A

- How would your life change if French fries did not exist?
- Why are French fries so popular?
- How healthy are French fries?
- What is the best way to eat French fries?
- Why are French fries called 'French fries'?
- What do you think of French food?
- What other things can you do with potatoes?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of McDonald's?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. a new, genetically | a. of 'Belgian fries' |
| 2. it changed the DNA | b. buy the new potato |
| 3. fewer things inside it that | c. what it thought |
| 4. It was confident that people would | d. eaten foods in the world |
| 5. The company did not say | e. to mean 'deep-fried' |
| 6. one of the most commonly | f. of normal potatoes |
| 7. the term 'French fried' was being used | g. arrived in Europe |
| 8. Both countries say they were | h. can give people cancer |
| 9. 'French fries' is used instead | i. modified potato |
| 10. used when U.S. soldiers | j. the first country |

Discussion – Student B

- How important are potatoes in your life?
- What do you think of genetically modified (GM) food?
- What do you think of McDonald's not using the new potato?
- What do you think of McDonald's?
- Would you buy GM potatoes?
- What are the good and bad things about GM food?
- What are the good and bad things about potatoes?
- Which is best, rice or pasta?

Spelling

- a new, genetically idemifod potato
- make the etsaeblevg better
- It was froncited
- made a nseamttt about the new potato
- McDonald's does not cerous GMO potatoes
- change our ucgsorin practices
- very apluorp with fast food restaurants
- In the early 20th nectryu
- Food ssoitranih
- used itansde of 'Belgian fries'
- France has a worldwide mgaei
- lisoserd arrived in Europe during WWI

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. a	8. e	9. g	10. h

Role Play

Role A – French fries

You think French fries are the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fast food isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pizza, burgers or hot dogs.

Role B – Pizza

You think pizza is the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fast food isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): French fries, burgers or hot dogs.

Role C – Burgers

You think burgers are the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fast food isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pizza, French fries or hot dogs.

Role D – Hot dogs

You think hot dogs are the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their fast food isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pizza, burgers or French fries.

Speaking – Fast food

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| • French fries | • Falafel sandwich |
| • Pizza | • Fish and chips |
| • Hot dogs | • Tortilla |
| • Fried chicken | • Burger |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.