

## World faces maple syrup shortage

9th December, 2021



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Changing weather patterns and an increase in demand have led to a shortage of maple syrup. Worldwide stocks of everyone's favourite pancake topping have gone down. This has caused Canada to release 22 million kilograms of the sweet, sticky stuff

into the market. Canada is the world's largest producer of maple syrup. The province of Quebec produces almost three-quarters of global supply. Canada keeps huge amounts of it for emergencies. The syrup it has just released is almost half of those emergency reserves. A spokeswoman for Quebec's maple syrup producers said there would be no shortages. She said: "That's why the reserve is made....We won't lack maple syrup."

A warmer spring this year has reduced syrup supplies. Maple trees need warm daytime and freezing nighttime temperatures to produce syrup. A warmer and shorter spring led to a poorer harvest than usual. Another factor is worldwide demand for maple syrup. This has increased by more than 20 per cent this year. One major reason for this rise is the coronavirus pandemic. More people are at home, cooking pancakes and waffles. It is possible that more of us have developed a sweet tooth. The Quebec spokeswoman said: "The pandemic helped our case because we're seeing people cook more at home and use more local products. It's not just in Quebec where the demand is increasing."

Sources: [cnn.com](http://cnn.com) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com) / [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca)

### Writing

Maple syrup is the best thing to put on pancakes and waffles. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

weather / patterns / maple syrup / pancake / sticky / market / emergency / lack / spring / daytime / freezing / harvest / demand / coronavirus / sweet tooth / local

### True / False

- 1) People wanting more maple syrup has led to shortages. T / F
- 2) Canada released 22 million tons of maple syrup from its reserves. T / F
- 3) The Canadian province of Quebec produces half of the world's syrup. T / F
- 4) A maple syrup spokeswoman said there would be no shortages. T / F
- 5) Maple trees need freezing nighttime temperatures to produce syrup. T / F
- 6) A longer spring than usual cut the supply of maple syrup. T / F
- 7) The article says we have all developed a sweet tooth. T / F
- 8) More people are at home this year cooking. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>increase</b>  | a. be without    |
| 2. <b>worldwide</b> | b. very big      |
| 3. <b>producer</b>  | c. resulted in   |
| 4. <b>huge</b>      | d. maker         |
| 5. <b>lack</b>      | e. neighbourhood |
| 6. <b>reduced</b>   | f. rise          |
| 7. <b>led to</b>    | g. formed        |
| 8. <b>major</b>     | h. cut           |
| 9. <b>developed</b> | i. global        |
| 10. <b>local</b>    | j. important     |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How does the weather affect maple syrup?
- c) Why has demand for maple syrup increased?
- d) What other things are there shortages of?
- e) How much of a sweet tooth do you have?
- f) Do you like cooking at home?
- g) Which do you prefer - pancakes or waffles?
- h) What questions would you like to ask maple syrup producers?

## Phrase Match

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Changing weather patterns and an       | a. pandemic               |
| 2. stocks of everyone's favourite pancake | b. for emergencies        |
| 3. 22 million kilograms of the sweet,     | c. producer               |
| 4. Canada is the world's largest          | d. cook more at home      |
| 5. Canada keeps huge amounts of it        | e. topping                |
| 6. A warmer spring this year has          | f. sticky stuff           |
| 7. freezing nighttime                     | g. a sweet tooth          |
| 8. coronavirus                            | h. reduced syrup supplies |
| 9. more of us have developed              | i. temperatures           |
| 10. we're seeing people                   | j. increase in demand     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of maple syrup?
- What's your favourite pancake topping?
- How serious is a maple syrup shortage?
- How healthy is maple syrup?
- What can we use maple syrup for?
- What dessert toppings do you like?
- Why is maple syrup so popular?
- Is it important to keep reserves of maple syrup?

## Spelling

- Changing weather septarnt
- everyone's favourite pancake piptgno
- the sweet, tkyics stuff
- the world's largest edporurc of maple syrup
- Canada keeps huge mntuaso of it
- almost half of those eeencmgry reserves
- reduced syrup ipulpess
- nrfzgee nighttime temperatures
- spring led to a poorer atversh
- the coronavirus ncpamedi
- more of us have pvdeoldee a sweet tooth
- use more local todpscru

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Maple Syrup

You think maple syrup is the best dessert topping. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toppings. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): cream, chocolate sauce or fruit.

### Role B – Cream

You think cream is the best dessert topping. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toppings. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): maple syrup, chocolate sauce or fruit.

### Role C – Chocolate Sauce

You think chocolate sauce is the best dessert topping. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toppings. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): cream, maple syrup or fruit.

### Role D – Fruit

You think fruit is the best dessert topping. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their toppings. Also, tell the others which is the least tasty of these (and why): cream, chocolate sauce or maple syrup.

## Speaking – Toppings

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

- |                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| • Maple syrup     | • Fruit  |
| • Cream           | • Nuts   |
| • Chocolate sauce | • Cereal |
| • Hot fudge       | • Matcha |

### Answers – True False

1 T	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 F	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.