

Astronauts bake first ever cookies in space

28th January, 2020



Image: nasa.org

Kitchen technology has reached new heights. Astronauts on the International Space Station have made the universe's first ever space-baked cookies. The ISS residents said the chocolate chip cookies looked out of this world. The

cookies mark a first in space cookery. They are the very first kind of food to be baked in space from raw ingredients. Astronauts' food is usually pre-made on Earth. The food is dehydrated or pre-packaged and is heated or warmed up on the space station. The astronauts said eating freshly baked food will make them happy while on the space station. It will be a comforting reminder of home. This will be important for astronauts going to the moon or on the long journey to Mars.

Baking the space cookies was not as straightforward as the astronauts thought it would be. On Earth, cookies take about 20 minutes to bake in an oven heated to 150 degrees Celsius (302 degrees Fahrenheit). That was not long enough in space. The first cookie came out totally undercooked. It was more raw dough than cookie. The space bakers turned up the oven's temperature and baked the dough for longer until they were successful. The fifth cookie they made took 130 minutes to bake. And the big question is - how do they taste? No one knows yet. The space-baked cookies are now in a laboratory in Houston, Texas. Scientists will test them to see if they are safe to eat.

Sources: independent.co.uk / phys.org / cnet.com

Writing

In the future, we should have farms in space to help feed people on Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

kitchen / technology / space station / cookies / cookery / baking / ingredients / moon / straightforward / astronauts / space / dough / raw / temperature / taste / laboratory

True / False

- a) Scientists have made the highest kitchen in the world. T / F
- b) Astronauts said the cookies looked out of this world. T / F
- c) The cookies are the first food made in space from raw ingredients. T / F
- d) The article says astronauts would like freshly baked food to go to Mars. T / F
- e) The astronauts said baking the cookies was a piece of cake (easy). T / F
- f) The first cookie came out from the oven perfect. T / F
- g) The fifth cookie took over two hours to bake. T / F
- h) A scientist said the cookies were delicious, tasty and spacy. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1. heights | a. represent |
| 2. universe | b. OK |
| 3. mark | c. trip |
| 4. happy | d. easy |
| 5. journey | e. increased |
| 6. straightforward | f. satisfied |
| 7. totally | g. important |
| 8. turned up | h. levels |
| 9. big | i. completely |
| 10. safe | j. cosmos |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of kitchen technology?
- b) What do you know about the International Space Station?
- c) What do you think of cookies?
- d) What would you do on the ISS?
- e) What do you think of pre-packaged food?
- f) What experiences do you have with baking?
- g) What reminder of home would you take into space?
- h) How would you feel about going to Mars?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Kitchen technology has reached | a. longer |
| 2. the universe's first ever space- | b. ingredients |
| 3. the chocolate chip cookies looked | c. laboratory in Houston |
| 4. baked in space from raw | d. out of this world |
| 5. It will be a comforting | e. undercooked |
| 6. not as straightforward as the | f. new heights |
| 7. The first cookie came out totally | g. yet |
| 8. baked the dough for | h. reminder of home |
| 9. No one knows | i. baked cookies |
| 10. The space-baked cookies are now in a | j. astronauts thought |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What are your favourite kinds of cookies?
- What kind of food is good to eat in space?
- What food from Earth would you miss if you went to space?
- Should we make farms in space to feed people on Earth?
- How might zero gravity in space change cooking?
- Why might the space cookies not be safe to eat?
- What questions would you like to ask the astronauts?

Spelling

- Kitchen technology has reached new gesihht
- The ISS srtneisde
- The cookies mark a first in space cokyeor
- raw dsgreinenit
- a comforting mdirreen of home
- the long jueyrno to Mars
- not as dfatitsrrwaghro as the astronauts thought
- in an oven aehted to 150 degrees
- It was more raw ogduh than cookie
- turned up the oven's aemerptteru
- until they were culsufescs
- in a rrayobola in Houston

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Cookies

You think cookies are the best snack to take into space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potato chips, peanuts or rice crackers.

Role B – Potato Chips

You think potato chips are the best snack to take into space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): cookies, peanuts or rice crackers.

Role C – Peanuts

You think peanuts are the best snack to take into space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potato chips, cookies or rice crackers.

Role D – Rice Crackers

You think rice crackers are the best snack to take into space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their snacks. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): potato chips, peanuts or cookies.

Speaking – Snacks

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

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| • peanuts | • cookies |
| • jerky | • brownies |
| • pretzels | • cup cakes |
| • rice crackers | • potato chips |

Answers – True False

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