

# Exploring Street Food Culture

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

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## Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** Street food is a vibrant part of many cultures around the world. In cities like Bangkok, Mexico City, and Istanbul, food stalls line the streets, offering delicious and affordable meals. In Bangkok, you can find Pad Thai being cooked right in front of you. The aroma of spices fills the air as vendors prepare their dishes. Similarly, in Mexico City, tacos al pastor are a favorite. The soft tortillas filled with marinated pork and topped with pineapple create a unique flavor that many people love. These meals are not just tasty; they also bring people together. Families often gather at street food markets to enjoy a meal and spend time together.
- B** Street food culture is also about the experience of eating. In Istanbul, people enjoy simit, a sesame-covered bread, while walking along the Bosphorus. Street vendors often have their own special recipes, making each dish unique. Many travelers seek out street food because it offers a taste of local life. Eating street food can be an adventure, where you try new flavors and meet interesting people. Overall, street food is not only about the food; it is about culture, community, and the joy of sharing meals with others.

## Vocabulary Glossary

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Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
<b>vibrant</b>	full of energy and life	<i>The festival was vibrant, with music and dancing all day.</i>
<b>stall</b>	a small shop with an open front where goods are sold	<i>We bought fresh fruit from a stall at the market.</i>
<b>aroma</b>	a pleasant smell, especially from food	<i>The aroma of fresh bread filled the kitchen.</i>
<b>marinated</b>	soaked in a mixture of oil, vinegar, or other ingredients to add flavor	<i>The chef marinated the chicken in lemon juice and herbs.</i>
<b>gather</b>	to come together in a group	<i>Every Sunday, the family would gather for dinner.</i>
<b>adventure</b>	an exciting and unusual experience	<i>Going hiking in the mountains was a real adventure for us.</i>
<b>community</b>	a group of people living in the same place or having a shared interest	<i>The community worked together to build the new playground.</i>
<b>unique</b>	being the only one of its kind; different from others	<i>Her cooking style is very unique and special.</i>
<b>recipe</b>	instructions for making a particular dish	<i>Grandma's apple pie recipe is my favorite.</i>

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### Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The market was full of colorful \_\_\_\_\_ selling all kinds of goods.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the flowers in the garden was lovely.
3. My mom has a secret \_\_\_\_\_ for chocolate cake.
4. Our trip to the jungle was a real \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The artist's style is very \_\_\_\_\_, unlike anyone else's.
6. The villagers \_\_\_\_\_ every year to celebrate the harvest festival.

## Comprehension Questions

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*These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.*

### Question 1

**What is one reason people enjoy street food?**

- A. It is always free.
- B. It offers a taste of local life.
- C. It is very expensive.
- D. It is served in fancy restaurants.

### Question 2

**What is the main idea of the passage?**

- A. Street food is only popular in Asia.
- B. Street food is about culture and community.
- C. Street food is not healthy.
- D. Street food is only for tourists.

### Question 3

**Why might travelers seek out street food according to the passage?**

- A. To avoid local people.
- B. To try new flavors and meet people.
- C. Because it is always healthy.
- D. To eat very quickly.

### Question 4

**What is a simit, according to the passage?**

- A. A type of spicy meat.
- B. A sesame-covered bread.
- C. A kind of soup.
- D. A sweet dessert.

### Question 5

#### What experience does street food offer besides eating?

- A. Learning to cook.
- B. Shopping for clothes.
- C. Experiencing local culture.
- D. Visiting museums.

### Discussion & Writing Prompts

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*Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).*

1. Paragraph A mentions Bangkok, Mexico City, and Istanbul as famous for street food. Which city do you think has the most diverse street food options, and why?

2. According to Paragraph B, street food is about the experience of eating. How important do you think the environment is when enjoying street food?

3. The passage describes street food as an adventure. Have you ever had an adventurous meal experience? How did it compare to what is described in the passage?

# Answer Key

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 B

Q3 B

Q4 B

Q5 C

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 stalls

FIB2 aroma

FIB3 recipe

FIB4 adventure

FIB5 unique

FIB6 gather

## Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

### 1. What is one reason people enjoy street food?

✓ B — It offers a taste of local life. B is correct because the passage states that street food offers a taste of local life.

✗ A — It is always free. A is incorrect because street food is not always free.

✗ C — It is very expensive. C is incorrect because the passage mentions street food as affordable.

✗ D — It is served in fancy restaurants. D is incorrect because street food is not served in fancy restaurants.

### 2. What is the main idea of the passage?

✓ B — Street food is about culture and community. B is correct because the passage emphasizes that street food is about culture and community.

✗ A — Street food is only popular in Asia. A is incorrect because street food is popular worldwide, not just in Asia.

✗ C — Street food is not healthy. C is incorrect because the passage does not discuss the health aspects of street food.

✗ D — Street food is only for tourists. D is incorrect because the passage mentions locals also enjoy street food.

### 3. Why might travelers seek out street food according to the passage?

✓ B — To try new flavors and meet people. B is correct because the passage states travelers enjoy trying new flavors and meeting interesting people through street food.

✗ A — To avoid local people. A is incorrect because the passage suggests street food brings people together.

✗ C — Because it is always healthy. C is incorrect because the passage does not claim street food is always healthy.

✗ D — To eat very quickly. D is incorrect because the speed of eating is not mentioned as a reason.

### 4. What is a simit, according to the passage?

✓ B — A sesame-covered bread. B is correct because the passage describes simit as a sesame-covered bread.

✗ A — A type of spicy meat. A is incorrect because simit is not meat.

✗ C — A kind of soup. C is incorrect because simit is not soup.

✗ D — A sweet dessert. D is incorrect because simit is not described as a dessert.

### 5. What experience does street food offer besides eating?

✓ **C — Experiencing local culture.**

C is correct because the passage mentions street food as a way to experience local culture.

✗ **A — Learning to cook.**

A is incorrect because the passage does not mention learning to cook.

✗ **B — Shopping for clothes.**

B is incorrect because shopping for clothes is unrelated to street food.

✗ **D — Visiting museums.**

D is incorrect because visiting museums is not connected to street food.

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