

= Pizza Delivery (SpongeBob SquarePants) =

" Pizza Delivery " is the first segment of the fifth episode of the American animated television series SpongeBob SquarePants . The episode was written by Sherm Cohen , Aaron Springer , and Peter Burns , and was directed by Sean Dempsey . Cohen also functioned as storyboard director , and Springer worked as storyboard artist . It originally aired on Nickelodeon in the United States on August 14 , 1999 .

In the episode , the Krusty Krab receives a call from a customer ordering a pizza , and Mr. Krabs sends SpongeBob and Squidward to deliver it . When the two employees become stranded in the middle of a desert , they get into numerous predicaments . Along the way , SpongeBob tries to show Squidward the way of the pioneers .

In pitching the show to Nickelodeon , creator Stephen Hillenburg originally wanted the idea of having the characters on a road trip , inspired by the 1989 film Powwow Highway . However , he eventually gave up the idea , and resurrected it in " Pizza Delivery " . The episode received positive reviews , with most media critics considering it one of the best SpongeBob SquarePants episodes .

= = Plot = =

At closing time , the Krusty Krab receives a call from a customer ordering a pizza , a product that they do not serve . Knowing that he could get extra money , Mr. Krabs spontaneously makes a Krabby Patty pizza and has SpongeBob and Squidward deliver it . The two go to deliver the pizza ; however , SpongeBob cannot drive and is still in boating school . When SpongeBob tries to shift the boat into reverse , he becomes nervous and goes back too far , causing the two to become stranded in a desert . With the boat out of gas , they are forced to deliver the pizza on foot .

While delivering the pizza , SpongeBob sings a song about the Krusty Krab pizza , and how it is " the best pizza for you and me . " The two gradually become tired , and Squidward gets hungry , but SpongeBob prevents him from eating the pizza . They then get whirled into a tornado , where the pizza saves their lives when SpongeBob uses it as a parachute . After escaping the tornado , the two lose sight of the road , and SpongeBob shows Squidward some " pioneer tricks " to help them find it , such as hitchhiking , eating corals , telling where civilization is by looking at what direction moss points , and even using boulders as vehicles . The eternally skeptic Squidward does not believe him , but reconsiders when they end up driving a boulder to the customer 's house .

Unfortunately , their journey does not pay off well . The customer gets angry because he did not get the drink he said he ordered , and slams the door on SpongeBob . He starts crying , but Squidward , having a change of heart , confronts the customer and slams the pizza in his face . Squidward comforts SpongeBob , assuring the customer ate the pizza , cheering him up . The two drive back to the Krusty Krab , which is comically revealed to be close nearby , much to Squidward 's dismay .

= = Production = =

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Series creator Stephen Hillenburg 's original idea for the series pitch was that the writers would write a storyboard for a possible episode and pitch it to Nickelodeon . Hillenburg wanted to write an episode with SpongeBob and Squidward on a road trip , inspired by the 1989 film Powwow Highway . Derek Drymon said " It 's a road trip movie starring Gary Farmer , who is an innocent , kid @-@ like character who is traveling with a curmudgeon . " Eventually , the idea developed while they were working on it , but Hillenburg gave up the idea for the initial pitch . Instead , they used another idea for the pitch which was in the series pilot episode called " Help Wanted " . They resurrected the road trip idea during the first season and used a lot of the ideas for " Pizza Delivery " .

" Pizza Delivery " was released on the DVD compilation called SpongeBob SquarePants :

Christmas on September 30 , 2003 . It was also included in SpongeBob SquarePants : The Complete 1st Season DVD released on October 28 , 2003 . On September 22 , 2009 , the episode was released on the SpongeBob SquarePants : The First 100 Episodes DVD , alongside all the episodes of seasons one through five .

= = Reception = =

" Pizza Delivery " received very positive reviews . Nancy Basile of About.com ranked the episode No. 2 on her " Best SpongeBob SquarePants Episodes " list . She said " [It] is the perfect episode to depict SpongeBob 's enthusiasm for all things Krusty Krab against Squidward 's apathy and cynical nature . " Basile cited her favorite scene in the episode where " After the customer slams his door in SpongeBob 's face , Squidward makes sure he swallows the pizza ' in one bite . ' " Giving the episode 5 out of 5 stars , Bill Treadway of DVD Verdict said the episode is his " personal favorite of all the episodes " , writing that " this one is loaded with enough unique twists and hilarious comedy to bear repeat viewings . "

Emily Estep of WeGotThisCovered.com ranked the episode No. 1 on her " Top 10 Episodes of SpongeBob SquarePants " list , saying " But ? the pizza is for the customer , and flawless employee SpongeBob won 't let Squidward eat any of it . " She wrote " [The episode] has the undervalued nostalgia of being episode five of the entire series and it benefits from the aforementioned chemistry of Spongebob and Squidward . " She also praised the episode as " an in @-@ depth look at their [SpongeBob and Squidward] relationship , and it set the tone for just how strange the show could be . " Estep lauded the hitchhiking dances by SpongeBob , saying " These moves are amusing and charming , while Squidward 's bitterness is easy to relate to . " In 2009 , " Pizza Delivery " was chosen by viewers on Nick.com as the No. 1 episode during a television marathon called " The Ultimate SpongeBob SpongeBash " .