

# Cookies Around the World: How Different Cultures Make Treats

Have you ever tried cookies from different countries? Even though they are all called "cookies", they can taste very different! People around the world use local ingredients to make delicious treats. Let's explore the yummy cookies from different cultures.

In the United States, chocolate chip cookies are very popular. The chocolate chips add little bursts of chocolatey flavor. Peanut butter cookies are also loved in the U.S. These cookies have a smooth, nutty taste from peanut butter. Oatmeal raisin cookies are made with rolled oats, raisins, and spices like cinnamon. The oats give the cookies a hearty, chewy texture.

Mexico has a famous cookie called polvorones. These crumbly, buttery cookies use lots of cinnamon. The name "polvorones" means "little powders" in Spanish, describing how the cookies crumble in your mouth. Mexico also enjoys wedding cookies, which are rolled in powdered sugar after baking.

Italy has several cookie traditions. A classic is pizzelle, which means "little pizzas" in Italian. Pizzelle are thin, crispy waffle cookies made in a special iron. Italians also make rainbow cookies called brutti ma buoni. These have a meringue-like, chewy texture and are dipped in chocolate.

In France, madeleines are a delicate cookie baked in a shell-shaped mold. Their light, cakey texture goes perfectly with tea or coffee. France is also known for palmiers, which are flaky, sugary cookies made with puff pastry dough.

Austria has creative cookie designs, like springerle. These get imprinted with wooden molds before baking, making picture designs. Lebkuchen are Austria's traditional gingerbread cookies, often enjoyed at Christmas markets.

The Netherlands is famous for stroopwafels, made from two thin wafers stuck together with sticky caramel syrup. These pair great with coffee or hot chocolate. Another Dutch cookie is kruidnoten, little balls flavored with spices like cinnamon, ginger, and cardamom.

In India, laddoos are round, sweet balls made from flour, ghee, and sugar. They come in all colors and flavors, like pistachio, coconut, or saffron. Chaklis are savory Indian cookies flavored with ajwain and cumin seeds. They have a satisfying crunch.

As you can see, cookies are a tasty tradition all over the world! Even though cultures use different ingredients, cookies bring joy everywhere. So next time you

eat a cookie, think about the delicious global treats that inspired it.

## Glossary

- pastry dough - flour dough used to make pastries and cookies, often has butter or shortening added to make it flaky.
- gingerbread - a type of cookie flavored with ginger, cinnamon, and other warming spices.
- meringue - a light, airy baked good made by whipping egg whites with sugar.
- caramel - cooked sugar that becomes a thick, sticky syrup. often used as a flavoring.
- ghee - clarified butter used in indian cooking.

## Questions

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What are two popular types of cookies made in the United States?
  - a) Chocolate chip cookies and oatmeal cookies
  - b) Peanut butter cookies and sugar cookies
  - c) Oatmeal raisin cookies and chocolate chip cookies
  - d) Gingerbread cookies and sugar cookies
2. What does the name "polvorones" mean in Spanish?
  - a) Little wheels
  - b) Little candies
  - c) Little powders
  - d) Little crunches
3. What is unique about how springerle cookies are decorated in Austria?
  - a) They are dipped in chocolate
  - b) They are rolled in sprinkles
  - c) They are imprinted with wooden molds
  - d) They are iced with colorful frosting
4. What ingredient is used to flavor kruidnoten cookies in the Netherlands?
  - a) Chocolate
  - b) Caramel
  - c) Spices like cinnamon and ginger
  - d) Nuts like almonds and walnuts
5. How are laddoos different from most other cookies talked about in the article?
  - a) They have a crispy texture.
  - b) They are made into fun shapes.
  - c) They are rolled in powdered sugar.
  - d) They have a soft, rounded shape.
6. Based on the article, how do cookies show the diversity of cultures around the world?
  - a) They all use the same basic ingredients like flour, sugar, and butter.
  - b) They are only enjoyed during holidays.
  - c) They come in vastly different flavors, shapes, and textures.
  - d) They taste exactly the same no matter where they come from.

## Answer Key

1. c
2. c
3. c
4. c
5. d
6. c