

# Pickles Are Popular!

Do you like pickles? Pickles are a popular American snack. In fact, Americans eat about 20 billion pickles every year. That's enough pickles to stretch to the moon and back—twice! Pickles are so popular that pickle-themed events are held in America each year.

## National Pickle Day

November 14 is National Pickle Day. Pickle lovers wear green and eat pickles to celebrate. The day's slogan is "Eat a pickle, hug a friend!" This makes the day a great one for celebrating friendships too.

## International Pickle Week

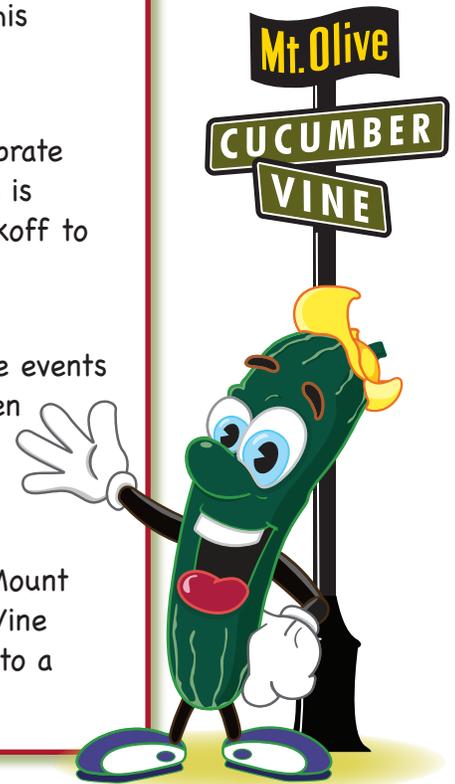
This pickle event is held each May. People across the country celebrate with fun family activities, like pickle-eating contests. The event, which is really ten days long, spans Memorial Day weekend. It is a festive kickoff to summer, which is prime pickle-eating time.

## Pickle Festivals

Pickles are enjoyed at any time of year. So are pickle festivals. The events may include parades, music, contests, and much more. Some towns even crown a Pickle Queen. There are lots of pickles and pickle products to eat too. Have you ever eaten a fried pickle or pickle soup?

## New Year's Eve Pickle Drop

If you're looking for a pickle-themed New Year's Eve event, go to Mount Olive, North Carolina. It takes place at the corner of Cucumber and Vine streets. A giant and well-lit *replica* of a pickle plunges down a pole into a pickle tank. Visitors clap, cheer, and munch on pickles!



## Write the answers.

1. How many pickles do Americans eat every year? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the slogan of National Pickle Day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is it odd that International Pickle Week lasts for ten days? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. In which state does a New Year's Eve pickle drop occur? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is a *replica* of a pickle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **Answer Key**

### **“Pickles Are Popular!” (RI.2.10, RI.3.10)**

1. about 20 billion pickles
2. Eat a pickle, hug a friend.
3. because a week is only seven days
4. North Carolina
5. It is something that looks like a pickle, but it is not a real pickle.