

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

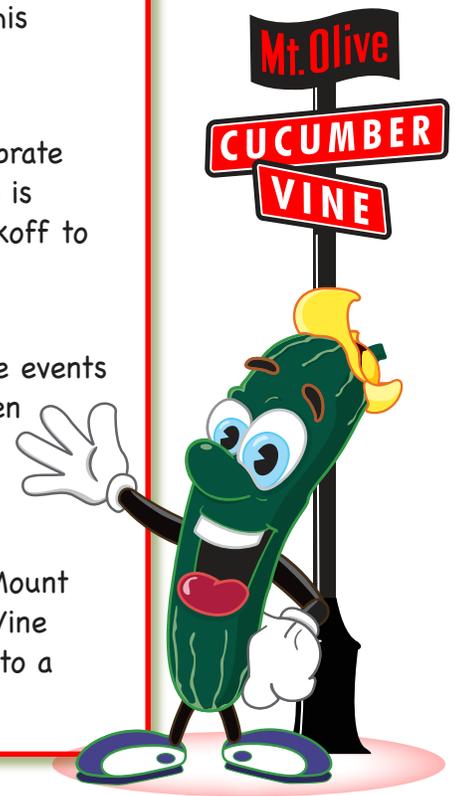
This pickle event is held each May. People across the country celebrate with fun family activities, like pickle-eating contests. The event, which is really ten days long, spans Memorial Day weekend. It is a festive kickoff to summer, which is prime pickle-eating time.

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.