

## Food Around the World

We often forget that people in other countries eat different things from us. There are many different kinds of food in the world. In some Asian countries, for example, rice is the main food. In other countries, such as Britain and America, bread made from wheat is the most important food. In many African countries a kind of corn called maize is the most important food.

Most countries have their own special dishes. Here are some examples. In China sweet and sour pork, shark's fin soup, and fried rice are very common dishes. People from Thailand and India eat many different curries. They like their food hot and spicy. In England, a favorite dish is roast beef. People eat it with potatoes and peas. The Italians like to eat pasta, which is a kind of noodle made from wheat. French food is very famous all over the world. It is often very rich.

Fast food is sometimes also called "junk food." In recent years, fast food has become very popular not only in Taiwan but also in many other countries in the world. It was invented in the USA, and the first fast food was the hamburger. An interesting fact is that a hamburger does not actually contain ham. It's made from beef. There are restaurants and takeout places selling hamburgers in most cities of the world. It is easy for people to get fat if they eat a lot of hamburgers but seldom exercise.

The most common international food, however, is Chinese food. There probably isn't a city anywhere in the world that does not have at least one Chinese restaurant. This is because there are so many different dishes from so many different parts of China. Indeed, whatever kind of food one likes, there is always something for everyone with Chinese food.

### **Finding a seat on the bus**

Miss Miller lived beside a church in a small town. She did not have a car. On Fridays she always walked to the bus stop, and took a bus to the market to buy food for the next week. There were usually a lot of people on the bus, but Miss Miller always found a seat.

One of the houses on the corner of Miss Miller's street was empty for a long time. One week a family with a couple and two children moved into it. That Friday, after the children went to school in the morning Miss Miller went to the house and visited the children's mother. She said to her, "Good morning. My name is Jane Miller and I live beside the church on this street. I'm going to the market now. Do you need any food?"

"Good morning," the woman said to her visitor, "That's very kind of you. My name's Mary Adams. Yes, I need food for my lunch today and for our supper tonight. I also need some fish for the cat, but I don't know the way to the market yet.

Can I come with you?

"Please do," Jane answered. Mary put her coat on and the two women went out and walked to the bus stop. While they waited there, Jane said to her new friend, "There's a bus at five minutes to ten. It's usually full but I always get a seat."

"Oh? How do you do that?" Mary asked.

Jane smiled and answered, "Wait and you'll see."

The bus came and the two women got in. It was full but Jane said quite loudly, "Perhaps those two very handsome men will give us their seats."

Six men stood up quickly and both women went and sat down in the nearest seats.

## **The Frog In The Well**

Once upon a time, there was a frog who made his home in a shallow well. Sometimes he would roll around in the mud with delight. Other times, he would gaze up at the changing clouds. He lived happily until one day he met a turtle from the East Sea.

“I'm very happy!” the frog told the turtle.

“In my free time, I dance up and down the railing of the well. Back in the water, I lift my head high up out of the water and enjoy the refreshing feeling. When I'm tired, I rest on the broken bricks.”

The turtle listened to the frog quietly with a smile. The frog went on, “When I walk in the mud, I bury my feet deep in it, giving myself a mud bath. I am much happier than the worms, crabs, and other frogs who share the well with me.”

The turtle just smiled without saying a word. The frog went on boasting, “The well is mine and the water also belongs to me. I'm the king of this well. It's my greatest pleasure!”

The frog said proudly, “You should visit me some time!”

The turtle tried to get into the well with the frog. He lifted his right foot to enter the well, but it got stuck before he could even try the left foot. So the turtle gave up.

The turtle told the frog with a smile, “I can't tell you how vast the East Sea is, for it is not measurable. Flood and drought cannot change its depth. Time and rainfall cannot change its size, either. This shows how great the East Sea is. That's why I'm so proud of it.”

On hearing what the turtle said, the frog was surprised and couldn't say a word.