

Pineapple Quiz

TRUE or FALSE? The pineapple originated in Hawaii. (FALSE. We always associate the pineapple with Hawaii, but it's really native to South America. It spread to Central America and the Caribbean before the arrival of Columbus. The pineapple didn't reach Hawaii until the 19th century, carried there by Spanish explorers and traders.)

TRUE or FALSE? When Columbus arrived on the island of Guadeloupe (on his second, less famous voyage to the New World) he was served pineapple wine. (TRUE. Columbus was served both fresh pineapple and pineapple wine. In his journal he wrote, "It is shaped like a pine cone, but is twice as large with excellent flavor. So tender that it can be cut with a knife like a turnip." He described the wine as "agreeable.")

TRUE or FALSE? Pineapples grow on large sprawling trees. (FALSE. Pineapples grow from a rosette-type plant with long spike-like leaves that can be up to three feet long. In the Caribbean, pineapple plants are planted under windows for security.)

TRUE or FALSE? In colonial America, the pineapple was a status symbol. (TRUE. In colonial America, the pineapple was considered the ultimate symbol of success. It was often the most expensive food on the table, and pineapples were commonly rented out as an item of decor. The pineapple symbol was used to decorate bed posts, tablecloths, napkins - anything associated with welcoming guests. Today, the pineapple remains a fitting symbol for the hospitality industry, and pineapple-themed products still abound. From lamps to candle holders to salt and pepper shakers and beyond, the pineapple motif says "Welcome!")



TRUE or FALSE? The name "pineapple" is derived from the native word for the fruit, "pia-apela." (FALSE. It was called "pineapple" because it looked like a pinecone and was a fruit.)

Apple was a generic term for almost any fruit. The Spanish word for pineapple is "pina," which means "pinecone." The Caribbean natives called this fruit "nana," which can be translated to "flavor." The botanical name for this plant is *Ananas*, or "flavor of flavors.")

TRUE or FALSE? Sir Walter Raleigh named it the King Charles Fruit because it was a fruit that wore a crown. (FALSE. Sir Walter Raleigh called it "the princess of fruits." Others called it the "king of fruits" because they thought it looked like God had placed a crown on its head.)

TRUE or FALSE? The pineapple is in the same family as Spanish moss. (TRUE. The pineapple is in the bromeliad family, as is Spanish moss. This family has a couple thousand members, almost all of them native to the Americas.)

TRUE or FALSE? Pineapple makes a great meat tenderizer because it contains an enzyme called bromelain that digests certain proteins. (TRUE. The enzyme bromelain is so powerful that it should be used sparingly or it will make the meat fall apart. Pineapple workers usually wear gloves to protect their hands. Prolonged exposure to the bromelain can cause serious irritation.)



TRUE or FALSE? In some parts of the world, people were reluctant to eat pineapple because it was thought to make them sterile. (TRUE. Along the coast of South America it was commonly believed that eating too much pineapple would cause women to become sterile and some claimed it would make men impotent. Other cultures viewed it as an aphrodisiac.)

TRUE or FALSE? One variety of pineapple may weigh as much as 20 pounds when ripe. (TRUE. While most pineapples weigh 3 to 5 pounds, a variety called Giant Kiwi can weigh as much as 20 pounds.)