

**Food in World History:
Guidelines for short paper assignment #2: Where did it come from?**

Research and write a short history of some food product or dish. Bring the product in for us if you can.

This assignment is built around secondary sources. I want you to cite at least three books or scholarly articles in footnotes. These sources will not necessarily have your key food in their titles—in fact, it is a show of good research if some don't. You may find useful material on the internet, and should include citations if you do, but writing found on the internet is only of value if, like any scholarly publication in paper form, its authorship and sources are identified.

No object of study is too minor, provided there is a story to tell and historical writing to cite in the telling. Nor is anything too large: if you have a lot of material, you can select some aspect of the story. Offer some analysis, demonstrating how the particular food product or dish tells us something about its historical context.

Just to take a random example, you might write about the bagel. I have not checked, but I would imagine there are quite a few articles plus perhaps a book on the subject. If you narrow your discussion to early origins, the material should take on considerably more focus. Or you might look exclusively at the importation and popularization of bagels in New York. Here sources on the history of Jewish immigration to the U.S. would be relevant. Perhaps New York bagels can teach us something about immigration, assimilation, and the American ethnic mosaic as well. If you try to do the bagel in Santa Fe, chances are there won't be much scholarship, even though there might be an interesting tale to tell.

I encourage you also to think about foods less close to home. Here are some other random possibilities. I have not researched any of them myself, so I am just guessing at what might work.

Pomegranates
Cassava
Tomato sauce
Foie gras
Port or sherry
Dog meat

The hot dog
Ice cream
Mayonnaise
Chilli peppers in Asia
Potatoes in Latin America
The phenomenon of "dessert"

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