How French fries got their name

In your opinion, what restaurant has the best French fries?

Vocabulary

1. soldiers 2. culinary 3. stuck 4. recognition 5. preserve 6. sliced

True Story

During World War I, American _____ in Belgium tasted fried potatoes for the first time. The locals had started frying potatoes in the 17th century when the river froze, stopping them from catching fish. They _____ and fried the potatoes like fish. The soldiers called them "French fries" because the locals spoke French. The name _____, even though the fries are actually Belgian.

Today, Belgium takes pride in its fries, often served with mayonnaise from traditional frietkots (mobile stalls). Belgian fries are double-fried, making them crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. They are enjoyed not just as a side dish but often as a main meal. Belgium is currently seeking UNESCO _____ to _____ this important part of their _____ heritage.

Quiz

1. When did American soldiers first taste fried potatoes?
2. Why did the locals start frying potatoes?
3. Why did the soldiers call the fried potatoes "French"?
4. How are Belgian fries different from other fries?

True or False

1. The Americans in Belgium spoke French. True | False
2. Belgian fries are usually served with ketchup. True | False
3. Belgium is seeking UNESCO recognition for their fries. True | False

Conversation

A: Have you tried these fries?
B: Yeah, they're amazing!
A: Why do they call them French fries?
B: Erm.. Because they're from France?
A: But they are Belgian, aren't they?
B: Are they?! Huh. That's weird.

Discussion

1. What food goes well with ketchup, mayonnaise, barbecue sauce, and mustard?
2. Do you usually order French fries at a fast food restaurant? If not, what do you get?
3. Have you ever been to Belgium? Have you eaten Belgian waffles? How about Belgian fries?
4. What's the best name? French fries, Belgian fries, fried potatoes, fries, or chips?
5. What other foods do you like from different countries?

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