

Lesson 2 Curry Travels around the World

Part 1

Hello there! Today I'm going to talk about curry. When you hear the word "curry," what country do you think of? Yes, India! Many of you know that India is the home of curry. However, do you know that curry is not the name of the dish in India?

Of course, there are many dishes similar to curry in India. For example, people often stew meat or vegetables with various spices. However, they do not call such dishes "curry." A long time ago, the British people began to use the word "curry" to explain such Indian dishes. It comes from the word "kari." It means a sauce or soup in Tamil.

Part 2

In the past, India was a British colony. I think you have learned about it in world history class. In 1772, Warren Hastings, a clerk in the East India Company, brought back rice and many spices from India. He had often eaten curry with rice in India, so he wanted to eat it in the UK, too. Other people in the UK tried it and liked it. After that, curry gradually became popular in the UK.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the first curry powder appeared. Until then, people needed to work hard to mix the many spices to make curry. With the help of curry powder, people were able to make curry more easily and its popularity spread across the UK. Also, the British began to make curry thicker with flour. They used a recipe for stew, a traditional British food, to change curry to their own taste.

Part 3

British curry later sailed across the sea and came to Japan. Early in the Meiji era, Japanese people first imported curry powder and started to make curry. At that time, curry was an expensive dish. For the price of a plate of "curry and rice," a person could eat eight bowls of soba. Also, in those days, curry was a little strange. Surprisingly, people put long green onions and frog meat in it!

Since the late Meiji era, curry has been popular all over Japan. Some people say it is because the Japanese military adopted curry as a food for its soldiers. Curry was an ideal food for soldiers because they could make it in large amounts and serve it to many soldiers at once. When the soldiers went back home, they took the recipe for curry with them. Because of this, curry became popular in many parts of Japan.

Part 4

With the spread of curry, a lot of new curry-based foods appeared in Japan. For example, a Japanese restaurant invented curry-*udon* around 1904. A Japanese bakery started to sell curry-*pan*, curry-filled bread, in 1927. Later, curry-flavored snacks also appeared. You have probably eaten some of them. Among all these curry-based foods, curry roux and curry in a pouch were the most successful. These foods were exported to countries such as China, South Korea, and the US. Now curry in a pouch is eaten even in the International Space Station (ISS).

Curry was born in India. Later, people in the UK and Japan started to eat curry. Now people all over the world eat it.

That's all for my speech. Thank you. I suppose you are very hungry now. Let's go to the cafeteria and have some curry!