

Bread that stays fresh for 60 days

3rd December, 2012



American scientists say they can make bread last for up to two months. They have found a way to stop mould or fungus growing on bread and other food. The researchers are from a biotechnology company called MicroZap. The

company's name gives a clue to how their technology works. They use high-powered microwaves to zap the food and kill anything that could grow fungus. They started their project to find an answer to the superbugs that are found in many U.S. hospitals. However, they soon discovered that their technique could sterilise food. The scientists say they only need to microwave the bread for about ten seconds and then it is OK to eat 60 days later. They also say the taste of the bread stays the same.

The scientists believe their discovery could stop people throwing away so much food. Studies show that Americans put around 40 per cent of the food they buy into the trash. Having food that lasts longer would save people money and help the Earth. Another benefit of MicroZap's technology is in stopping disease. Illness from food has a huge impact on society. There are 76 million cases of food poisoning in America every year, with 5,000 deaths. It costs the economy about \$6 billion annually. The company hopes to use its technology soon in making safe, ready-made meals for war zones and areas hit by disasters. MicroZapping could become the best thing since sliced bread.

Sources: BBC / MicroZap / Guardian

Writing

Scientists should not change the food we eat. It becomes unnatural and dangerous to eat. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / fungus / biotechnology / microwaves / superbugs / sterilize food / taste / discovery / throwing away food / food poisoning / ready-made meals / sliced bread

True / False

- Scientists have created a technique to make bread last longer. T / F
- The name of the biotechnology company in the article is MacroZip. T / F
- The researchers used microwaves to treat the bread. T / F
- Scientists say one disadvantage is the bread tastes a little strange. T / F
- The company thinks their discovery could stop people wasting food. T / F
- About 40% of the food bought in the USA goes into the trash. T / F
- Around 7.6 million Americans a year suffer from food poisoning. T / F
- The article says the biotech company could help slice bread better. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| 1. last | a. clean |
| 2. way | b. effect |
| 3. clue | c. finding |
| 4. sterilise | d. survive |
| 5. stays | e. trashing |
| 6. discovery | f. hint |
| 7. throwing away | g. yearly |
| 8. huge | h. method |
| 9. impact | i. remains |
| 10. annually | j. very big |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about MicroZap's new technology?
- Do you think the technology could be dangerous?
- Do you have problems with food that doesn't last a long time?
- Do you like bread?
- How do people make bread in your country?
- Would you worry about eating bread that is two months old?
- Which is better – bread, pasta or rice?
- What do you think of the taste of bread?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. they can make bread last | a. sterilise food |
| 2. a way to stop mould or | b. and help the Earth |
| 3. their technique could | c. stays the same |
| 4. microwave the bread for | d. away so much food |
| 5. the taste of the bread | e. meals for war zones |
| 6. stop people throwing | f. for up to two months |
| 7. save people money | g. food poisoning |
| 8. 76 million cases of | h. fungus growing on bread |
| 9. ready-made | i. sliced bread |
| 10. the best thing since | j. about ten seconds |

Discussion – Student B

- How much food do you throw away and why?
- Why do Americans throw 40% of their food away?
- How do you think MicroZap's technology could help the world?
- What questions would you like to ask the MicroZap researchers?
- What would you do if bread disappeared from the Earth?
- What do you think of the name "MicroZap"?
- What does "the best thing since sliced bread" mean?
- What do you think is the best thing since sliced bread?

Spelling

- American insiescstt
- from a ioboheoclgtny company
- They use high-powered eaiwmoscrv
- They started their tjrceop
- their uecihenqt could sterilise food
- the seatt of the bread
- their esdircvyo could stop people
- stopping sdseiae
- food pnnsooiig
- It costs the economy about \$6 billion Innaulya
- eadyr-daem meals for war zones
- the best thing since desicl bread

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. f	4. a	5. i
6. c	7. e	8. j	9. b	10. g

Role Play

MicroZap boss - You think MicroZap is totally great - the best thing since sliced bread. Tell the other three reasons why. You don't understand why people say your discover is dangerous. You think it will help save millions of lives and billions of dollars. It is the most important discovery of this century.

Boss of bakery - You are worried about MicroZap's technology. You think it is dangerous. Tell the other three reasons why. You think bread is bread - it should only last a few days. Fresh bread tastes best. People can save money by buying less food. They can avoid food poisoning by eating fresher food.

Head of World Food Programme - You are very excited about MicroZap's new technology. You hope it will help the U.N. feed millions of hungry people. You don't like the cost - it is very expensive. You want MicroZap to give you the technology for free. The bakery boss is only worried about his/her profits.

A consumer - You are tired of companies changing food. You think it will change our bodies and give us new diseases. Food is best fresh. Tell the other 3 reasons why. People will still throw away food even if it lasts 60 days. You are worried bakeries will disappear and bread will be made by biotechnology companies.

Speaking – World Bread

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| • croissant | • Indian nan bread |
| • sandwich bread | • toast |
| • tortilla | • fried bread |
| • pizza bread | • pita bread |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.