**PEAS** are native to Europe and Asia. Originally it grew in a wild form, but it was so long ago that it can no longer be found in that form. Most peas are raised for their seeds, but some peas can be eaten within their pods (such as snow peas). Peas need cool temperatures to grow, but a frost will injure the plants.

**BROCCOLI** originally grew in Europe. It is related to cauliflower, cabbage, and Brussels sprouts. It is harvested while it is in the bud stage.

**WILD CHICKEN**s seem to have been common in India and East Asia (China, Thailand, and Vietnam) long ago, and that is where chickens were first domesticated, maybe around 7000 BC. Recent genetic evidence shows that people tamed chickens in two different places: in China and in India. Probably the people in each place didn’t know that the other ones were also taming chickens. By about 5000 BC, people in China were certainly keeping chickens, and by 3000 BC people in India also had domesticated chickens. They ate the chickens and they also ate their eggs.

**ONIONS** The onion is believed to have originated in Asia, though it is likely that onions may have been growing wild on every continent. Dating back to 3500 BC, onions were one of the few foods that did not spoil during the winter months. Our ancestors must have recognized the vegetable’s durability and began growing onions for food.

The onion became more than just food after arriving in Egypt. The ancient Egyptians worshipped the onion, believing that its spherical shape and concentric rings symbolized eternity. Of all the vegetables that had their images created from precious metals by Egyptian artists, only the onion was made out of gold.

If you eat onions you can get rid of onion breath by eating parsley.

The official state vegetable of Georgia is the Vidalia onion. The official state vegetable of Texas is the Texas Sweet onion.

**SMALLPOX** When Europeans arrived in the Americas in 1492, the native people had been isolated from Europe/Asia for more than 10,000 years. Oviedo, one of the earliest Spanish historians of the Americas, estimate that there were one million Santo Domingo when the Spanish arrived to colonize around 1500. By 1548, only 500 natives had survived.

The first smallpox in the Aztec empire probably originated from a single man in the in the Cortes expedition. Quartered with an Aztec family, this man infected the family, who in turn infected their neighbors. Within 75 days from the onset of the disease epidemic, thousands of Aztecs had died from smallpox, including their leader, Cuitlahuac.

Europeans didn’t intend to kill of the Indian population—they wanted them as slaves. Indians had little resistance to disease, especially smallpox. The effects of smallpox were often compounded by repertory diseases, measles, starvation, and the overwork enforced by Europeans.