



WHY POPCORN POPS

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Warm-up - What Do You Think?

Discuss with a partner.

1. Do you like popcorn?
2. Have you ever made popcorn at home?
3. When do you usually eat popcorn?
4. Why do you think popcorn pops?



Vocabulary & Pronunciation Focus

Word	Sounds Like
kernel	KER-nul
steam	STEEM
pressure	PRESH-er
shell	SHELL
expand	ik-SPAND
fluffy	FLUF-ee
starch	STAR-ch
special	SPESH-ul
science	SYE-uns
inside	in-SIDE



Reading Story

Why Popcorn Pops

Have you ever watched popcorn pop? One minute you see small, hard kernels. A few moments later, they become big, white, fluffy snacks!

So, what happens?

The secret is **water**. Every popcorn kernel has a tiny drop of water trapped inside it. The outside of the kernel is very hard, so the water cannot escape.

When the kernel gets hot, the water turns into **steam**. The steam needs more space, so the pressure inside the kernel becomes stronger and stronger.

Finally... **POP!**

The hard shell breaks open, and the soft starch inside quickly expands. In just a second, the tiny kernel changes into the fluffy popcorn we love to eat.

Not all corn can do this. Popcorn is a special type of corn with a hard shell and just the right amount of water inside.

Today, people all over the world enjoy popcorn while watching movies, playing games, or spending time with family and friends. The next time you hear that familiar "pop, pop, pop," you'll know the amazing science behind every bite!



Vocabulary Match

Match the words (1–10) with their meanings (A–J).

Words

1. Kernel
2. Steam
3. Pressure
4. Shell
5. Expand
6. Fluffy
7. Starch
8. Special
9. Science
10. Inside

Meanings

- A. Soft and light.
- B. The hard outside covering.
- C. The study of how the world works.
- D. The soft part found in many plants, including corn.
- E. The small seed that becomes popcorn.
- F. To become bigger.
- G. Hot water in the form of gas.
- H. Different from ordinary.
- I. The force pushing against something.
- J. In the inner part of something.



Reading Comprehension

1. What is trapped inside every popcorn kernel?
2. What happens when the kernel gets hot?
3. Why can't the steam escape?
4. What makes the kernel pop?
5. Why is popcorn different from other types of corn?
6. True or False: Every type of corn pops.
7. True or False: Steam creates pressure inside the kernel.
8. Where do people often eat popcorn?



Did You Know?

A popcorn kernel can pop to **40 times** its original size!

Teacher's Key



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Teacher's Key

- 1–E
- 2–G
- 3–I
- 4–B
- 5–F
- 6–A
- 7–D
- 8–H
- 9–C
- 10–J