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- Cucumbers were first cultivated in India 3,000 years ago.
- There are three main varieties of cucumbers: slicing, pickling, and seedless.
- Lemon Cucumbers are lemon-sized, lemon-colored, but not lemon flavored. They have a thin skin and are crunchy.
- Cucumbers are usually eaten fresh or pickled. Pickles are made by processing cucumbers with salt, vinegar, and spices.









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## **EDIBLE ART: Cucumber Carving**

Teach students about proportions and proper cutting methods with a cucumber carving. Start by making a cute, green cat before tackling more complex creatures. Lions, dinosaurs, monsters, oh my!

## Supplies Needed (for each participating student):

Cucumber Toothpicks

Pen

\*Plastic knife for younger students; older students may be able to use paring knives.

\*Knife



- 1. Demonstrate the safe way to cut a cucumber. Firmly grip the knife and make a sawing, back-and-forth motion to gently cut through the cucumber.
- 2. Have students cut off the top three inches of the cucumber which will make the "head" of the cat, then use a pen to mark where cat's eyes should be on the head. Use a knife to dig out the eyes.
- 3. For the ears, have students use a pen to draw a "V" shape where each ear should be. Then draw a smaller "V" inside each big "V." Make shallow cuts along the pen lines. Use a toothpick to prop up each ear.
- 4. For the legs, have students cut a piece of cucumber about three inches long, then cut that piece into fourths. Use toothpicks to attach each leg to the rest of the cucumber (the cat's body).
- 5. Finally, attach the cat's head to the body using toothpicks. Use remaining cucumber scraps to make a tail and attach to the body with a toothpick. Meow!



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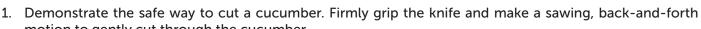
Cucumber

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