

Mincer

1 INTRODUCE



What is this object called?

A Mincer.

What job did this object do?

It minces up meat to make mince

What object today does the same

job? A food processor would do the same job but usually we just buy mince from the butcher shop.



2 INVESTIGATE



Let the children feel the weight of the mincer and investigate its different parts.

3 DESIGN/MATERIALS



What is this object made out of? Cast iron with a wooden handle.

Why is it made out of this? It is hard, would not break easily and could be cleaned easily.

Why is it so heavy? Because iron is heavy.

How would this weight affect the person using it? They wouldn't want to drop it on their toes.

4 HOW DID IT WORK?



Set up the mincer and let the children turn the handle.

How did it work? The mincer was screwed onto the table (demonstrate). The person using it would then place cut up pieces of meat into the top. When they turned the handle, blades inside the mincer would mince the meat up and it came out the end looking like mince.

Is it dangerous to use? It can be. You have to be very careful to screw it to the table tightly and you have to be careful not to put your fingers in it while the handle is being turned.

PTO

Why don't we have mincers today?

Because we normally buy mince straight from the butcher shop or we cut things up in the food processor.

Who used it? Generally Mum and the older girls. In more affluent households maids would do this job.



5 LEARN MORE...SAY...

When butcher shops became popular, Mum could buy minced beef (mince) but most homes still had their own mincer. These were often used to mince left-over cooked meat such as the Sunday roast to make pies or curries - nothing was wasted. Shepherds' pie was a favourite.

Sausages were also made from minced meat. Pig intestine was used for the skin of the sausage. These could be bought from the local butcher shop. Besides left over roast, other items of food that were minced included carrots, apple, and onions. In fact almost anything can be minced.



6 COMPARE IT TO TECHNOLOGIES TODAY

How is the mincer different to other kitchen items such as food processors today?

Different fuel - electricity vs. man power.
Different materials - iron vs. plastic.
Quite heavy.
Takes a long time to use.



7 THINK

What does this item tell us about life in the past?

That people made their own mince. That people did not waste food. They used up all their leftovers.

How would your life be different if you had to make your own mince? Would you still have your favourite mince meals as much?