

Chapter 22 Prepare to Cook

Section 22.2 Recipe Basics



Social Studies Chicken Soup

Directions Read the scenario about Estelle and her grandmother, and then answer the questions.

NCSS IV B Individual Development and Identity Identify, describe, and express appreciation for the influence of various historical and contemporary cultures on an individual's daily life.

Grandma's Famous Chicken Soup

Estelle is taking a cooking class, and the assignment for this week is to bring in a favorite recipe from home. She chose her grandmother's "famous" chicken soup. She asked her grandmother for the recipe, and her grandmother said, "Estelle, I'll do even better than that—I'll make the soup for you and you can help me do it."

Estelle arrived with paper and pencil, ready to write down the recipe and cooking instructions. But she could hardly keep up with Grandma! Her grandmother chopped chicken into small pieces and threw them in the pot. She poured oil directly from the bottle. She added the broth, then added even more broth. She selected a few jars from her cupboard and sprinkled in some parsley, garlic, and other herbs and spices without measuring. Then, Grandma opened the refrigerator and pulled out all kinds of vegetables—carrots, broccoli, onions, celery. She let Estelle chop them up and add them to the pot. It seemed like Grandma was using whatever happened to be in her kitchen at that moment!

"Grandma," said Estelle, "I thought you were going to give me the recipe for the soup. But you don't measure anything. How do you know how much broth or herbs to put in it? How do you know which vegetables to use? It looks like you're making it up as you go along!" Estelle's paper was blank. Grandma said, "I have been making this soup for so long I don't need a recipe. I learned it by making it with my mother, and she learned how to make it with her grandmother. And now you are learning from me."

1. What was Estelle expecting when her grandmother began to cook? _____

2. Do you think Grandma's soup turns out exactly the same every time she makes it? Why or why not? _____

3. Why would someone choose to keep a recipe "secret"? _____

4. Other than a tasty meal, what do Estelle and her grandmother gain by making the "famous" chicken soup? _____

5. What are the benefits of not using a recipe for everything you cook? _____
