

# SJ Kids: What makes popcorn pop?

Statesman Journal 12:11 a.m. PDT March 25, 2015



(Photo: Dave Sattler / Special to the Statesman Journal)

It pops because it doesn't like to be a kernel. So it puts on a fancy dress of butter and white puff.

**Molly Benson, Grade 5, Cummings**

Little popcorn monsters open up the kernels. You can't see them because they evaporate.

**Rylee Comstock, Grade 5, Cummings**

You put the popcorn in the microwave. But the popcorn thinks it's a tanning bed. They get so tan they pop. All the butter is the sunblock.

**Denessa Heiney, Grade 5, Cummings**

In a microwave, there are small amounts of radiation waves. Radiation is very hot so the popcorn pops. If on an oven it heats up the metal it is on and the heat pops it. Something my dad told me is that in Iraq, you can pop popcorn and make bacon and eggs in the desert on top of your Humvee.

**Carter Kaney, Grade 5, EAGLE**

I think popcorn is popped when much heat makes it POP!

**Rocky Apodaca, Grade 5, EAGLE**

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## THE ANSWER



(Photo: Dave Sattler / Special to the Statesman Journal)

Popcorn kernels are a special type of corn because their hard hull (coat) is just the right thickness to allow it to burst open when heated. Inside of each kernel is a small drop of water surrounded by starch and protein. When the kernel is heated up on the stove or in the microwave oven, that drop of water inside the kernel expands and turns to steam. This hot steam turns the starch and protein around it into a foamy goop. When the steam inside the kernel expands enough it bursts open the hull spilling out the starch and protein foam, which immediately cools and becomes a wonderful, delicious, puff of popcorn! Yum!! Start the movie!

*Joe Ruhl has shared the joys of science with students for 35 years. He teaches biology, genetics, and science research at Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Ind. This is this month's science question, which will publish the last Wednesday of each month.*

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Heat makes the kernels explode into popcorn and so does a microwave (with the popcorn button).

**Megan Bennett, Grade 5, EAGLE**

When the popcorn kernel gets hot, the stuff inside basically explodes and that makes popcorn! I think?

**Madelyn Phillips, Grade 5, EAGLE**

They are magical! Just kidding. They are like little grenades and it's the butter that makes it pop, FYI!

**Elizabeth S. Gile, Grade 4, EAGLE**

I think what makes popcorn pop is the heat and when it gets hotter, the kernel pops! I can't think of any other way kernels will pop. That's why I think popcorn pops.

**Aly Ulmer, Grade 4, EAGLE**

Heat.

**B'eLana Rowe, Grade 4, EAGLE**

What makes popcorn is popcorn kernels and corn.

**Andreas Strong, Grade 5, EAGLE**

I believe heat does, but if not, then aliens are real and I need to make a tinfoil hat.

**Titus Fagan, Grade 5, EAGLE**

So first it's a little seed. Then when you put it in the microwave, the popcorn kernels start to get a lot of heat. Then it starts to pop into delicious popcorn.

**Natalie Coulter, Grade 5, EAGLE**

When the seeds get hot enough, they pop and become fluffy.

**Skyler Pfingsten, Grade 4, EAGLE**

Popcorn pops by the heat from the microwave or air popper.

**Erin Valkner, Grade 5, EAGLE**

Popcorn pops because when you cook popcorn, aliens come down, steal it, then leave popped butter in its place.

**Caroline Ming, Grade 5, EAGLE**

The inside of the bag gets so hot the kernels explode.

**Kaia Cordova, Grade 4, EAGLE**

Water will explode and then builds up pressure and makes the kernels explode.

**Travis Derting, Grade 5, EAGLE**

Seeds, popcorn, bag, heat.

**Kris Fowler, Grade 4, EAGLE**

The heat. Metal + heat + popcorn kernels = popcorn + butter = yummy popcorn.

**Gavin Hedeem, Grade 4, EAGLE**

I think it's because the heat goes into the corn and it bursts into popcorn.

**Julian Urena, Grade 5, EAGLE**

The heat of a stove and a microwave.

**Kyleigh Keeling, Grade 5, EAGLE**

1. The heat. 2. The seeds. 3. Popping noise. 4. The flavor.

**Christian Sanchez-Salinas, Grade 4, EAGLE**

The heat of a stove/microwave makes it heat up the corn and makes it pop.

**William Finn, Grade 5, EAGLE**

The popcorn pops because inside is the eating white part. And the water and the heat make it inside out. It rips it open. Some of them don't get popped because it doesn't reach them and it doesn't get to be that hot.

**Sarah Ming, Grade 4, EAGLE**

Heat is the thing that makes popcorn.

**Isaac Buck, Grade 5, EAGLE**

Because it's magic and witches made it and science.

**Noah Standlee, Grade 5, EAGLE**

The heat makes it pop.

**Nekesa Higdon, Grade 4, EAGLE**

What makes popcorn pop is a little thing that you can't see inside it. It, well, looks like nothing alive or not alive.

**Zoe Levin, Grade 2, Edwards**

Heat makes popcorn pop.

**Lilly Fuentes, Grade 1, Edwards**

Maybe because there are kernels in the bag. And the microwave heats the kernels so it makes the popcorn pop.

**Cali Glenn, Grade 2, Edwards**

To make popcorn pop, you have to put the kernels in the pot.

**Jordan Montoya, Grade 2, Edwards**

I think it is the hot air.

**Logan Velaquez, Grade 2, Edwards**

I think there's a little cave man inside the popcorn and when he gets hot, he gets mad and throws a fit and gets bigger and bigger and bigger until he explodes and there's your popcorn.

**Lucy Woodruff, Grade 2, Edwards**

I think that popcorn pops because the heat makes it so hot that it blows up. And it's called popcorn because it pops.

**Victoria Rich, Grade 2, Englewood**

I believe popcorn pops because of the heat.

**Sophia Carlson, Grade 2, Englewood**

Little men come and sculpt it into popcorn.

**Branson Rogers, Grade 2, Englewood**

Popcorn pops because when the popcorn is in the microwave, the heat makes the popcorn pop.

**Randy Kessinger, Grade 2, Englewood**

Popcorn pops because the corn is cold but the heater is hot, so it touches it then it jumps.

**Ellie Mahoney, Grade 2, Englewood**

The thing that makes popcorn pop is when kettle corn gets warm, it becomes popcorn.

**Finn Manning, Grade 2, Englewood**

Popcorn pops because it pops and jumps in the microwave up and down.

**Chloe Greene, Grade 2, Englewood**

In the machine there is something that makes heat come up and pops it.

**Arianna Lewis, Grade 2, Englewood**

Popcorn pops for the air in a microwave pops up and down but the popcorn is in a bag.

**Leah Vipperman, Grade 2, Englewood**

The heat and air goes into the seed and then it explodes.

**Anthony Valerio Ramirez, Grade 4, Four Corner**

Popcorn pops because it's magic.

**Andres Garcia, Grade 5, Four Corners**

I think the heat makes popcorn pop. The heat goes in the seed and pops.

**Rufino Vargas, Grade 4, Four Corners**

The oil and heat makes popcorn pop.

**Angel Mora, Grade 4, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops by putting kernels in the microwave and making them hot.

**Jayme Rivera Hewitt, Grade 5, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because it's like the seed of a flower and when it gets hot, it makes a flower. Except instead of a flower, it makes popcorn.

**Ximena Chavez, Grade 5, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because heat gets into the kernel and the kernel explodes.

**Tracie Lees, Grade 4, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because of the oil and the seeds are like magic seeds and it's hot and pops.

**Adair Cruz, Grade 5, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because it gets really warm and pops.

**Arlet Ramirez, Grade 5, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because it gets really warm and pops.

**Dana Smith, Grade 5, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because the heat makes it pop. Last year I put the popcorn into the air popper and the popcorn exploded inside my kitchen and then my dog ate it all.

**Daniel Lokebol, Grade 4, Four Corners**

Popcorn pops because of heat and it's also because it has a little oil in it. Also, it keeps growing and then it pops like a big firework. I sometimes eat it in the microwave and other times I eat it from on the stove.

**Ian Ramirez Carlos, Grade 4, Four Corners**

There's a person inside the kernel and when it feels heat, it punches the side of the kernel and then it pops.

**J.C. Jonaie, Grade 4, Four Corners**

The popcorn machine makes it pop with heat.

**Kara Toornstra, Pre-K, Homeschool**

What makes popcorn pop is the microwave. Also the corn things inside the popcorn. I love me some popping popcorn.

**Alanna Espinoza, Grade 6, Judson**

I think little fairies use their magic wands to turn the little kernels into delicious little snacks.

**Spencer Elliot, Grade 6, Judson**

I think popcorn pops because the little kernels get really hot when they're in the microwave and they don't want to touch the bottom so they start jumping up and down.

**Keziah Denny, Grade 6, Judson**

Popcorn pops because it is trying to scare people from eating it. Or to burst into action and gearing up to fight all mighty humans.

**Andrew Jenkins, Grade 6, Judson**

Popcorn pops because when the kernels get in the bag, they get nervous about being eaten and pop a ton!

**Sam Scott, Grade 6, Judson**

I think popcorn seeds could be little aliens that pop when they get hot.

**Tristan Holway, Grade 6, Judson**

I believe popcorn pops when they're really scared. Like if someone said, "Boo!" then pop!

**Christian Bautista, Grade 6, Judson**

What makes popcorn pop is there are little animals inside. The little animals grow into a popcorn with heat. And then they look so good and someone eats them.

**Oswaldo Ascencio, Grade 6, Judson**

I think popcorn pops because of children's laughter. They laugh. "POP." Their popcorn is ready. They giggle. "POP." Well, at least you'll get a lot of popcorn.

**Jordyn Wilkens, Grade 6, Judson**

One of those popcorn poppers you see at the fair or a microwave. I like to call them poppers.

**Bella Wolf, Grade 6, Judson**

Popcorn pops because the microwave has a secret robot and it zaps the popcorn and makes it pop. When you push the popcorn button on the microwave, it gives the robot the command to zap the popcorn kernels.

**Logan Bowlby, Grade 4, Keizer**

Popcorn pops in a microwave and also popcorn is in a plastic bag. Popcorn goes kaboom and popcorn is so awesome. Popcorn machines pop popcorn.

**Jasmine Hill, Grade 4, Keizer**

Popcorn pops by heat and light because it would not pop without light or heat. That is how popcorn is made.

**Gabe Linville, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think to make popcorn pop, on a hot day, put corn on a sidewalk and it will pop.

**Peyton Tupper, Grade 4, Keizer**

What makes popcorn pop is if you can see very closely, you can see that kernels have a war because they want to get outside of the bag.

**Agustin Chavez, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think popcorn pops because they put invisible popping monsters that come out of the bag and make it pop. Then when it's done, the monsters hide up in the corner of what it got popped in.

**Jetta Mowrey, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think popcorn pops when a little popcorn man smashes the popcorn that looks like a crazy yellow marshmallow.

**Troy Turner, Grade 4, Keizer**

What makes popcorn pop is heat and a little fire and something hot.

**Griffin Dunn, Grade 4, Keizer**

There is this little guy in the popcorn and when you put the popcorn in the microwave and start it, the guy gets angry and starts to punch the popcorn. His punches are small and sound like pops. Then he starts to sweat and his sweat turns into butter then he turns into a kernel.

**Diego Martinez, Grade 4, Keizer**

The microwave has a robot and it zaps the kernels and it forms a white blob.

**Ben Rose, Grade 4, Keizer**

Some tiny creatures sneak inside a kernel by going in a tiny crack. When you heat it up, it gets mad and starts punching the sides of the kernel. And then the creature explodes by the hotness and breaks the kernel and the goo from the creature hardens around the broken kernel.

**Isaiah McBride Andrade, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think popcorn pops because it has super powers and they all pop at the same time. I also think that they have little guys in there and one tastes the butter and then he passes it around and then they all try the butter then they pop and that's why I think popcorn pops.

**Carter Hatfield, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think it is a guy you can't see. He jumps when he gets mad and then explodes.

**Daniel Mendoza, Grade 4, Keizer**

When it's a hot sunny day, you put the popcorn on the sidewalk and there are tiny people who are in the popcorn jumping up and down because their feet are hot and they are popping popcorn easy and fast.

**Jenisa Canchola, Grade 4, Keizer**

There are millions of teeny guys living in all the popcorn kernels in the whole world. They all have major anger issues. When you put them in the microwave, they get so mad at you that smoke comes out of their noses and ears. They get all hot and stuffy. They finally can't take it anymore and pop! They explode. Now you're probably thinking, "Why didn't the ones at the bottom of the bag pop?" Well, they were sleeping and their alarm clocks did not go off.

**Cheyenne Marshall, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think there are little men in the popcorn who jump around and it builds up pressure and it gets bigger. It will also pop because the man grab already popped popcorn and added it and let some pop. And to give it more corn, they pack a new corn seed and put it in the popcorn and jump out of it when it gets hot.

**Ethan Herring, Grade 4, Keizer**

Popcorn pops when chemicals react to the warmth in the microwave and then it pops!

**Eric Gibson, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think that there is a secret ingredient that they injected into each kernel so that it pops and makes a delicious treat.

**Brayden McBride, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think popcorn pops because the popcorn is alive. The seeds are babies and when it pops, they are grown-ups.

**Alicia Buhrman, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think popcorn pops because one day I was dreaming about animals making popcorn. They had salt and added chocolate and vanilla. I got to try it and it was delicious.

**Brooke Muir, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think what makes popcorn pop is that there is a little monster in a popcorn kernel and when the kernel goes in a microwave, the little monster hits the kernel and tells the kernel to start popping. When it starts to pop, the little monsters melt into delicious butter. If the kernels don't pop, it means the kernel was empty or the monster in the kernel is sleeping.

**Destiny Rodriguez, Grade 4, Keizer**

Popcorn pops by the oil and the seed. The seeds have the popcorn and the popcorn pressures out.

**Carlos Gracida Hernandez, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think a magical unicorn says, "Time to pop," to the popcorn kernels and covers them with a blanket of intense heat. There would be a crowd of popcorn ghosts that say, "Pop," over and over again until they all pop.

**Ethan Hurtado Shore, Grade 4, Keizer**

I think there are tiny, small people in every single popcorn and when you heat it up, the tiny people inside the popcorn explode. When you hear a loud pop, that means that the tiny, small people have already exploded. When they explode, they turn into little kernels. And that's what I think makes popcorn pop.

**Lluvia Vargas, Grade 4, Keizer**

There is water inside the kernels.

**Lexi Moser, Grade 5, Mari-Linn**

When they get hot it makes them pop. Instead of the sun, we use the microwave.

**Maana Young, Grade 4, Mari-Linn**

The hotness in the popcorn.

**Lorelei Ritchie, Grade 2, Mari-Linn**

What makes popcorn pop is the seed inside the shell. It pops out like a baby.

**Jacob Fobert, Grade 5, Myers**

The microwave makes popcorn pop because the heat of the microwave is hot.

**Oscar Perez, Grade 5, Myers**

Popcorn pops because there's little men in the kernel and when they get hot, they decide to pop.

**Caiden Cummings, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because all of its tastiness wants to pop right out!

**Renee Porter, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

The popcorn pops because they ate jumping beans.

**Skyla Troxell, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because it gets too hot to be corn and it becomes popcorn.

**Bridget Raffensperger, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because your enemy or evil sibling puts a reaction in it and tried to make it bad but they made popcorn!

**Ella Mhoon, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

It pops because there are tiny people inside of the kernel who work really fast to build the actual popcorn, then make a pop sound.

**Anthony Saltarello, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because I said so. If popcorn doesn't pop, I told it not to.

**Martin Lopez, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because little sack people explode and their guts are what we eat.

**Hannah Estrabo, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Scientists say popcorn pops because the moisture inside the kernel turns to steam then pops. But the real reason is because there are little popcorn chickens inside that pop out of their popcorn eggs and make popcorn-chicken.

**Aidan Ayres, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Heat makes popcorn pop because when you heat it up, it will get so hot that it gets bigger and pops.

**Isabella Boyd, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

The popcorn pops because there are little people that start playing football when it gets warm.

**Ismael Lopez, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because when the kernels are in the popper, little fairies with magical wands transfigure the kernels into popcorn.

**Ian Burchard, Grade 5, Queen Of Peace**

The companies that make the popcorn inject the kernels with edible explosives so that when they get hot, they pop.

**Kyle Fromwiller, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

If the popcorn maker wants it to pop, it pops.

**Samuel Schindler, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

The company puts little mini explosives that are edible in the middle of the kernels.

**Sebastian Ramos, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

The heat makes an explosion because the pressure is high.

**Marc Devaux, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

When popcorn pops it's because the little baby popcorn kernels grow up to be grown popcorn.

**Jasmine Manuel, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

There's these magic corn stalks that rule the corn world and they like popcorn so they make corn pop and they collect the popcorn in their huge hive. A long time ago a knight wanted to steal the popcorn for the world, and ever since then we've had an unlimited supply!

**Wyatt Williamson, Grade 6, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because there are little people who make the popcorn pop and then die as food.

**Jacob Giruc, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

There is a dragon in the microwave and it breaths fire to pop popcorn.

**Alex Cirocco, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because of science stuff.

**Santigo Blanco-Mills, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because it knows if there's a movie, you have to have popcorn for a movie.

**Spencer Kowalski, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is a volcano making the bag hot until it starts popping.

**Luis Perez, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is the kernels get so hot they explode into tastiness.

**Kellen Hayase, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is a miniature elephant hides in the bag of popcorn and when it's in the machine, it hops up and down and the popcorn pops.

**Ben Cupani, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops when it gets hot.

**Eddie Herrmann, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

The reason popcorn pops is because there are little kids inside who think it's summer and nice outside, so they jump out of the shell, making a pop sound.

**Liam Stanley, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is when you're not looking, people sneak magic in the popcorn.

**Evelyn Hernandez, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is heat starts coming in and then it says, "Pop pop pop pop."

**Emily Lopez, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because it gets hot and it just explodes into popcorn.

**Ellie Fromwiller, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

What makes popcorn pop is heat because they explode.

**Maddy Carlson, Grade 4, Queen of Peace**

Popcorn pops because it knows people like its taste better popped.

**Ziba Mokalla, Grade 5, Queen of Peace**

I think that they add a lot of butter to make it pop then they add some pop rocks.

**Breana Elmore, Grade 5, Riviera Christian**

Popcorn pops because in each bag there is a little tiny blue person who makes a "POP!" sound. Then a popcorn kernel turns into popcorn!

**Olivia Traeger, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

The heat makes it pop. You see, the heat from the microwave is like a sun. The popcorn are people. They hop all over and get buttery then, pop! They get really big.

**Jaiden Collazo, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops because it gets hotter and hotter and then it explodes and pops.

**Frances Lear, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops because there are five witches at a machine working their magic on the machine. Then a ray of magic goes around the world, allowing popcorn to pop.

**Sofia Contreras, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

I think popcorn pops because of little bits of dynamite and the heat lights the fuse.

**Bryce Harmon, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops because of a dragon's breath.

**Juan Rios, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops because the corn seeds are grenades for the little army men and their enemy is the popcorn machine.

**Luke Bischoff, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops because there is a little bomb in the popcorn. When the little bomb gets heated, it explodes!

**Aldair Cruz, Grade 4, Sacred Heart**

Popcorn pops by heat and the heat makes a yummy snack!

**Sasha Nagy, Grade 3, Sacred Heart**

The heat of the microwave makes the popcorn pop.

**Joseph Sanchez, Grade 2, Sacred Heart**

The combination of butter and popcorn makes the popcorn pop!

**Michelle Sanchez, Kindergarten, Sacred Heart**

The microwave makes popcorn pop from the heat and the air.

**Isabella Benjamin, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Popcorn gets so hot that it explodes.

**Kellen Bowman, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

The microwave has too much light that it makes popcorn pop.

**Aza Caraway, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Putting corn in a pan because that makes popcorn pop.

**Katelyn Clevenger, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Popcorn pops because it gets so hot that it pops.

**Autumn Clinton, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

What makes popcorn pop is it gets hot.

**Soraya Goeson, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

I will pop popcorn for so long in the microwave.

**Moriyah Gonzalez, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Popcorn pops because the hot air in the microwave makes it pop.

**Olivia Jenkins, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Popcorn pops because the pressure makes the kernels pop up and down.

**Devyn Johnson, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

The microwave makes popcorn pop.

**Joanna Li, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

The microwave makes popcorn pop.

**Ellyanna Lindquist, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

The hot wind makes popcorn pop.

**Jonah Strunk, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

The microwave makes popcorn pop because the oven is hot.

**Seth Sweeney, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

A little man stands in the popcorn and he gets hotter and hotter until he explodes.

**Jacob Wollman, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Corn is popcorn because the hot air makes it pop.

**Jeffrey Zambrana, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

I would make it hot so it can pop.

**Koldyn Zunck, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Popcorn pops because if you put popcorn in a pan in boiling water it pops.

**Julia Tucker, Kindergarten, Salem Academy**

Well when the popcorn is in the bag, the seeds are really little aliens from pop landia and the hotness makes them explode into popcorn.

**Alyssa Cuesta, Grade 4, Salem Heights**

I think this is how popcorn pops: The heat makes the kernels crack so the inside pops out of the big kernel. Crack ... pop! Pop! Pop! Pop! Pop! And you have popcorn!

**Rebekah McCartney, Grade 2, Schirle**

Popcorn pops because the heat pops the shell and the heat also makes the popcorn grow but the shell is what makes the pop, pop, pop sound. Then it is ready to eat. Crunch, crunch, crunch!

**Colby Phelps, Grade 2, Schirle**

I think popcorn pops because the nuts pop in the microwave and turn into funny pieces of soft corn but the nuts are still inside of the soft corn and that is how I think popcorn pops.

**Scotlynn Willadsen, Grade 2, Schirle**

I think popcorn pops when it gets hot. It grows and grows until it grows into popcorn.

**Peyton Smith, Grade 1, Schirle**

You put corn seeds in the microwave then it gets hot and it grows and evolves.

**Finn Anderson, Grade 2, Schirle**

I think what makes popcorn pop is the heat around it.

**Jaycub Valdivia, Grade 5, Scott**

Popcorn pops because the corn gets super hot.

**Haylee Romero, Grade 4, Scott**

I think popcorn pops because the seeds are only used to light heat. Intense heat causes the seeds to explode and make the popcorn we like to eat.

**Logan Criswell, Grade 4, Scott**

What makes popcorn pop is the heat, as hot as it is, changes the essence of the corn kernel. Then it pops!

**Ayden Murphy-Kirsch, Grade 5, St. Mary**

Popcorn pops because when you put it in a microwave, it makes the seed grow!

**Tristan Klascius, Grade 5, St. Mary**

Popcorn is popped by the tiny drop of water on the inside and then it is heated so hot that it puffs up the powder inside it and then it explodes.

**Wyatt Zerkel, Grade 5, St. Mary**

The heat of the popcorn popper and the kernels in the popcorn.

**Cody Ditter, Grade 4, St. Mary**

I think popcorn pops because there is so much good and yummy flavor that it pops!

**Melissa Gonzalez, Grade 4, St. Mary**

Popcorn pops by the kernels. The kernels pop and break the shell and turn into popcorn. Or it pops like on the Croods by pine cones when they turn on fire.

**Joshua Blish, Grade 4, St. Mary**

I think that popcorn pops because air is trapped inside of the popcorn and I don't know how or why, but the warmth of the microwave or stove makes the the air burst out and go pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, and continues until it's finished.

**Anna Welter, Grade 4, St. Mary**

Popcorn pops because I put it in the microwave. So it will pop and I will eat it.

**Brock Hubert, Grade 4, St. Mary**

The microwave.

**Amy Martinez, Grade 4, St. Mary**

Popcorn pops because it knows I want it to pop. If it didn't, I would smack it in the face. Then I'd mix it with ketchup (it hates ketchup) and mustard (it hates mustard too), or I'd jump on it and burst its bubble!

**Allison Hendricks, Grade 4, St. Mary**

The warm burning heat that could turn anything into an ash crisp is what makes the popcorn pop.

**Dylan Wellborn, Grade 4, St. Mary**

Popcorn pops because of how hot the popcorn seeds get in the pan or microwave.

**Casey Voltin, Grade 4, St. Mary**

I think the microwave makes the popcorn pop because there is an invisible taste testing unicorn that comes whenever popcorn is in the microwave and takes its magic cane and zaps the popcorn to make it hot.

**Reese Budlong, Grade 4, St. Mary**

Well, I think it's because of the seeds. When things get hot they explode, right? And popcorn is just a big thing of seeds getting hot and exploding!

**Emma Hedrick, Grade 4, St. Mary**

When popcorn heats up it gets really excited and starts hopping up and down.

**Talia Perez, Grade 6, Straub**

I think that popcorn pops in a big factory and in movie theaters, but when you pop it, it's already popped and it just grows. So that's my theory about how popcorn pops.

**Asher Marolla, Grade 5, Sumpter**

What makes popcorn pop? Heat! It heats up the corn and once it is heated up enough, it blows up and you get popcorn.

**Caitlyn Park, Grade 5, Sumpter**

There's little people inside, and as the kernel heats up, the people get madder and madder until ... BOOM!

**Matthew Taylor, Grade 5, Sumpter**

Popcorn pops because it knows that once it pops, it will reunite with its best friend, melted butter.

**Halley Barram, Grade 5, Sumpter**

It's the heat. When you put a bag of kernels into a microwave, they pop with joy. Plus, they also like heat.

**Lexi Wilson, Grade 5, Sumpter**

Popcorn pops because heat waves get to them and it makes the kernels so angry, eventually they just pop.

**Katie Curtis, Grade 5, Sumpter**

To start, popcorn isn't a snack at all. It's a secret tracking device the government uses to find us. Whenever popcorn pops, the tracker's circuit explodes.

**Brent Martin, Grade 5, Sumpter**

What makes popcorn pop is when you heat up the kernels, they start to pop.

**Greyson Gall, Grade 5, Sumpter**

Popcorn pops because the popcorn has nukes in them and they explode.

**Boston Ralston, Grade 5, Sumpter**

Some magical fairies appear inside the corn, then they explode, causing a chain reaction with the heat, making some foam puff out and freeze. That is what makes popcorn pop.

**Robbie Martin, Grade 5, Sumpter**

Popcorn likes heat like we like ice cream or candy. They get so excited that they pop with joy.

**Chris Rogers, Grade 5, Sumpter**

I think that the mini wizards in the microwave make it hot, cast a spell on the popcorn bag so it will get super hot and make the kernels explode.

**Lexi Olson, Grade 5, Sumpter**

**Upcoming question**

•If you could meet one person from history, who would it be and why? Answer by March 25, publication April 1.

**Join SJ Kids**

Each submission must include the student's full name, grade and school (or age and city if home schooled).

Enter your answer at StatesmanJournal.com/SJKidsform, email to SJKids@StatesmanJournal.com, fax to (503) 399-6706, mail to SJ Kids, Statesman Journal, P.O. Box 13009, Salem, OR 97309-3009 or drop off at the Statesman Journal newsroom, 280 Church St. NE, Salem.

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**Amy Read**



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Michael Davis