

Bologna: A Global Food Journey

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This lesson focuses on the origins of bologna (often pronounced "baloney") and its connection to the Italian city of **Bologna**.

Part 1: The Geography and Origin

- **Introduction (5 minutes):**
 - Start by asking students if they know what bologna is and how it's usually pronounced ("baloney").
 - Introduce the correct spelling, **Bologna**, and reveal that it's named after a famous city in **Italy**.
- **Locating Bologna (10-15 minutes):**
 - Use a large map or a digital projection.
 - Have students locate **Italy** on the map, pointing out its distinctive "boot" shape.
 - Have them find the city of **Bologna** in the northern region of Emilia-Romagna.
 - **Discussion Point:** Explain that the Italian version of this sausage is called **mortadella** and is a high-quality product, traditionally made with specific ingredients like cubes of pork fat (lard) and sometimes pistachios.

Part 2: History and Language

- **The Journey to America (10 minutes):**
 - Discuss how the food came to the U.S., likely brought by immigrants, and how the name evolved due to different spellings and pronunciations.
 - **Vocabulary:** Explain that the popular American spelling, **bologna**, is often pronounced "**baloney**," which is an example of an "**Americanized pronunciation**" of a foreign word.
 - **Fun Fact:** In the 17th century, the recipe for *mortadella* was actually protected by the Papacy with an official definition to ensure quality!
- **"Baloney" as Slang (5-10 minutes):**
 - Introduce the common slang use of the word: "*That's a load of **baloney**!*"

- **Discussion:** Ask students what they think this phrase means (nonsense, untrue, ridiculous). This is a great way to explore how food names can become part of common language and culture.

Part 3: Creative Wrap-up Activity

- **The Bologna Shape Challenge (15-20 minutes):**
 - **Science/Art Connection (No food required!):** Hand out circles of paper (the size of a piece of bologna) or have students draw a circle on construction paper.
 - Challenge them to come up with creative ways to use the circular shape: **"What else in the world is round like a piece of bologna, or what can we *make* it into?"**
 - **Examples:** A clock face, a smiling sun, a coin, a planet, or even, if you *fry* a piece of bologna (as is popular), it curls up—so they can draw a "Bologna Boat" or a "Bologna Flower."

