



The big debate

Is hot cider better than hot cocoa?

One cold-weather drink is spicy and sweet, while the other is rich and creamy.

What you need to know

- Hot cider is made from fresh apples and is unfiltered, meaning it has tiny bits of apple pulp in it. The pulp contains vitamins and minerals.
- Hot chocolate is a thick, rich drink that has regular or non-dairy milk in it.
- People have been drinking hot chocolate for nearly 4,000 years, and one survey found that it's Americans' favorite holiday drink.
- The US is the third-largest producer of apples in the world. Washington is the highest-producing US state.



FRUIT FACT

Apples are originally native to Kazakhstan, where they were discovered about 750,000 years ago.

The air is getting crisp, and temperatures are dipping. Boots and jackets are coming out of storage. Leaves are starting to transform into bright oranges and yellows, while pumpkins and figs are popping up in the produce aisles and at farmers markets. If you feel like reaching for a steaming bowl of soup or a warm and comforting drink, you're not alone. For some people, the best fall beverage is a cup of hot cider, made from fresh and delicious apples. Others might like to settle down with the sweet creaminess of hot chocolate. Both drinks are satisfying and tasty, but what do you think? Is hot cider better than hot cocoa?

Yes—it's the perfect fall beverage

Nothing signals the transition from summer to fall like crisp, juicy apples and flavor-packed hot apple cider. For many people, it's a fall tradition to head to an orchard to pick the fruit themselves and sip cider made from the freshest apples. Because cider relies on seasonal fruit, it's only at its peak for a few months a year. That makes it more special than hot cocoa, which is available year-round. Hot apple cider is also healthier than hot chocolate. Traditionally, it's sweetened entirely by the fruit itself and has no added sugar. Hot cider also has spices in it, like cinnamon and nutmeg. They're flavorful and contain important nutrients.

No—nothing beats chocolate

Hot chocolate is a classic for a reason. First of all, many polls have found that chocolate is America's favorite flavor, whether it's in ice cream, cake, or a delicious beverage. And hot chocolate is so rich, creamy, and indulgent that it feels like a festive treat, even on a regular chilly day. Hot cider just doesn't have that same memorable quality. While hot chocolate tastes great on its own, it's also adaptable. You can get creative with toppings—marshmallows for added gooeyness, chocolate chips for an even deeper chocolate flavor, and whipped cream to make it richer. There are as many variations as there are personal tastes.

YES

Three reasons hot cider is better than hot cocoa

- 1 Hot apple cider is a symbol of fall and a great way to enjoy fresh apples when they're in season.
- 2 Apple cider is only available for a limited time each year, which makes it special.
- 3 Cider is healthier. It's made from apples, has no unhealthy additives like sugar, and contains nutritious spices.

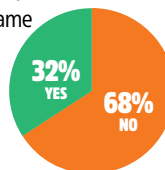
NO

Three reasons hot cider is not better than hot cocoa

- 1 Chocolate is America's favorite flavor, and hot chocolate is a classic beloved by generations of people.
- 2 It's rich, creamy, and indulgent, which makes even ordinary days feel festive.
- 3 Hot cocoa is adaptable. You can add so many different toppings to it depending on what you're craving.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if Monopoly is the best board game. Most of you said no, the real estate game does not top all the other fun options out there.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think hot cider is better than hot cocoa or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.