

Pizza Pi

Which do you think is longer—the distance around the pizza or across it? By how much?

Cut a length of string or yarn equal to the blue line. This distance is called the **diameter**. Now measure out a second piece of string that's three times longer than the first, plus a little extra. The long piece of string should be about equal to the distance around the outside edge of the pizza. Lay it down on the red line to see if it fits. This distance is called the **circumference**.

The circumference of a circle is always a little more than three times as much as the diameter. This number, **about 3.14**, is called **pi**. Use string to measure other circles in your house and you'll see that this is true. Measure around and across a flowerpot, a cooking pot, an upside-down drinking cup, a lampshade, or a pizza pan.

