

Chocolate over the Years

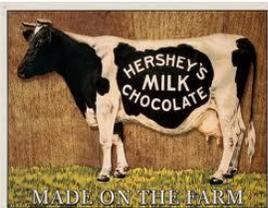


The chocolate candy we enjoy today has a history that goes back over 500 years ago to the Maya civilization in Mexico and Central America. In those days, chocolate was not a candy bar but a bitter, spicy drink. The Mayas mixed roasted ground cacao beans with water, chili peppers, and vanilla. They served this drink to kings, queens, and other important people.

In 1519, Hernando Cortez, a Spanish soldier was welcomed by Montezuma and served a chocolate drink in a golden cup. Cortez didn't like the bitter taste but he still took cacao seeds back to Spain. The Spanish began drinking chocolate and soon they started to add sugar. Chocolate was beginning to taste like what we drink today.



By the 1600s, people in other countries like England and France began to drink chocolate. It was very popular but only the rich could afford it. The climates of France and England were too cold to grow cacao trees, so they began to set up plantations to grow the cacao trees in warmer climates near the Equator.



By 1900, Milton Hershey, who had been a candy manufacturer of caramels, decided to sell his successful caramel factory and give his undivided attention to chocolate. He decided to build his new factory in Pennsylvania where there was plenty of pastureland for the cows that would be needed to produce milk for his "milk" chocolate. There was a nearby railroad to transport cacao beans and sugar into town and carry his chocolate products out of town. He then decided to build a town for his 600 workers. He built houses, schools, banks, an amusement park, golf course, and zoo. In 1970, the amusement park Hershey built became the Hershey Park you now visit with rides, live entertainment, and water-play attractions.

As the years passed, the chocolate factory grew. Milton and his wife, Kitty, found that they were unable to have children. They decided to build an orphanage which would teach orphans to work hard, do their chores, go to school and have fun swimming, ice skating, and visiting the amusement park and zoo.





Today, one of the most popular chocolate candies is the Hershey Kiss. It was first introduced in 1907. Kisses were hand wrapped until 1921, when the signature ribbon was added to make sure you were getting an official Hershey kiss. Today over 80 million kisses are made every day.

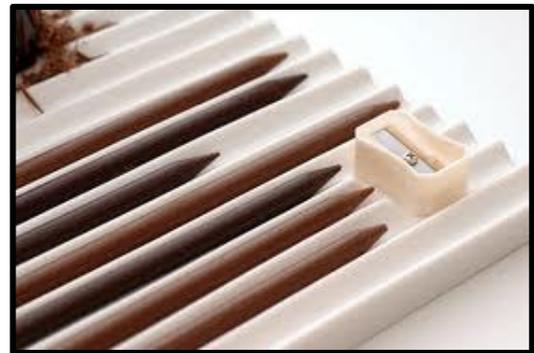
Another famous chocolate candy maker is Forrest Mars who got the idea for M&M's during the Spanish Civil War. While visiting Spain he encountered Spanish soldiers eating chocolate pellets covered by a hard candy shell. M&M's were first sold in 1941, as a convenience snack for men serving in World War II. The candies were a big hit because the candy coating kept the chocolate from melting. The M&M name comes from the last names of Forrest Mars and his business partner Bruce Murrie. The original candy colors were yellow, green, brown, orange, red, and violet. Over the years, the color of coatings has changed and the candy shell of M&M's can now cover a variety of fillings such as milk or dark chocolate, peanuts, almonds, or pretzels.



Leo Hirshfield began production of Tootsie Rolls in New York City in 1896. The chewy chocolaty candies were named after Hirshfield's daughter, whose nickname was Tootsie. Tootsie Rolls were the first penny candy that was individually wrapped. The Tootsie Pop was introduced in 1931.



It is easy to see the different ways chocolate has been enjoyed and changed into so many delicious forms. Perhaps you would enjoy a job in the candy manufacturing business. Someone has to develop new products, taste test all the ingredients, and use their chemistry background and the skills of a food scientist to blend ingredients carefully into a new candy. Attractive packaging, display ideas, and marketing ideas are also needed. If engineering is your interest, perhaps you could design a machine to wrap candy kisses or tootsie rolls more efficiently. Whether you just want to eat some chocolate or work in the chocolate business, chocolate will continue to be an important part of our lives!



Can you believe it? Chocolate pencils!!



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Chocolate over the Years

Name: _____

Date: _____

Chocolate - Reading Passage

Directions: Read each question and fill in the best answer

1. Originally, chocolate was

- A. made into kisses.
- B. a bitter, spicy drink.
- C. grown in Pennsylvania.
- D. a drink with sugar and milk added.

2. The cacao beans grow on trees

- A. anywhere.
- B. in Pennsylvania.
- C. in cold climates.
- D. in warm climates.

3. Milton Hershey first made

- A. an orphanage.
- B. Hershey Park.
- C. caramels.
- D. Tootsie rolls.

4. The idea for M&M's came from

- A. Leo Hirshfield.
- B. Milton Hershey.
- C. Spanish soldiers.
- D. Bruce Murrie.

5. Milton Hershey could best be described as a person who

- A. loved children.
- B. took care of his workers.
- C. created chocolate candies.
- D. all of the above.

6. Which of the following is NOT necessary if you want to manufacture a new kind of candy?

- A. a great tasting product
- B. a plantation to grow cacao beans
- C. an attractive package
- D. a food scientist

Extended Responses:

1. What three things did you learn about chocolate that you did not know before reading this article?
2. Explain why and how candy is an agricultural product.
3. What do you think is special about each kind of candy mentioned in the article? Which is your favorite? Why?
4. Why do you think a job in a candy factory would or would not be a fun job to have? Explain your answer.

Candy Trivia

- ❖ Chocolate all begins on a plantation in tropical climates within 10 degrees of the equator.
- ❖ One cacao tree, planted in the shade of a larger tree, will produce 5 pounds of chocolate per year (each seedling takes 5-8 years to mature, so starting a plantation can take a while).
- ❖ Seventy-one percent of American chocolate eaters prefer milk chocolate.
- ❖ The melting point of cocoa butter is just below the human body temperature -- which is why it literally melts in your mouth.



Fun Activities for You to TRY...

1. How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?

Ask your teacher or parent to give you and your friends a Tootsie Pop. Each of you needs to predict the number of licks it will take for you to get to the Tootsie roll center of the pop. Now, lick away. Watch out! The temptation is to bite the pop to get to the center. No fair...just lick away.

Students at Purdue University and the University of Michigan both created a "licking" machine to try to discover the answer to "how many licks?" We aren't telling you their results...you just have to keep licking away!

Whose estimate was the closest? What is the average number of licks?

2. Are there an equal number of colors of candies in a package of M&M's or Skittles?

Get a bag of either kind of candy and fill in the chart below with your prediction. Then open the bag, sort the candy, and fill in the chart. How close was your estimate? If the entire class does this activity, compare the results of each group.

Candy - M&M's Estimate how many total candies are in the bag? I think _____ candies.	I estimate there will be this many of each color in the bag?	How many of each color were actually in the bag?
Brown		
Yellow		
Green		
Blue		
Red		
Orange		

The chart can be modified if you use Skittles. Regular Skittles come in the following colors: red, green, purple, orange, and yellow. Differently flavored packages of Skittles come in other colors.



✓ Check Out These “Delicious” Books with Chocolate Themes

Chocolate by Hershey: A Story about Milton S. Hershey by Betty Burford

At age 18, in 1876, Hershey started his own candy business, and, after some failures, went on to build a town and a chocolate factory in a cornfield and named them after himself. Today, Hershey, PA, attracts millions of tourists. Thousands of orphaned and disadvantaged young people have graduated from the Milton Hershey School, which he and his wife founded. Hershey's candies are recognized worldwide. This biography is a well-rounded presentation that shows the successes and difficulties of this entrepreneur's life.

Milton Hershey: Young Chocolatier by M. M. Eboch

Did you know that the man behind Hershey's chocolate used to work in an ice cream parlor? Or that he had to try over and over again to get his now-famous chocolate to taste as delicious as it does today? Milton Hershey's life wasn't always a bowl of chocolate Kisses. When he was in fourth grade, he even had to drop out of school and work to help his poor family make ends meet. Read all about how the man we know as the famous young chocolatier finally struck it rich -- in money, love, and chocolate!

What's for Lunch? by Claire Llewellyn

The story of chocolate from a cocoa bean to a delicious treat is told. It reveals how chocolate is made and how people all around the world eat it in a variety of ways.

The Chocolate Touch by Robert Kimmel Smith

A boy acquires a magical gift that turns everything his lips touch into chocolate.

Chocolate Fever by Patrick Catling

From eating too much chocolate, Henry breaks out in brown bumps that help him foil some hijackers and teach him a valuable lesson about self-indulgence. Henry Green loves chocolate so much that he eats it for every meal--and in between meals. In fact, Henry eats so much chocolate, that he comes down with the first case of Chocolate Fever in history.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Mr. Willy Wonka, the eccentric owner of the greatest chocolate factory in the world, has decided to open the doors of his factory to five lucky children and their parents. In order to choose who will enter the factory, Mr. Wonka devises a plan to hide five golden tickets beneath the wrappers of his famous chocolate bars.



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