

TOPICAL TIDBITS



March/April 2012

Volume 1 Issue 2

FUN FOODS

Welcome to the second edition of *Topical Tidbits*. This issue is all about fun foods like candy, popcorn, and chocolate.

Be sure to read page 20. There is information about an exciting contest. You get to design a chocolate bar wrapper that promotes stamp collecting. After reading the rules, send your entry in by May 15, 2012. The winning design will be featured in the September/October edition which will be all about the world's number one hobby—stamp collecting. A free packet of stamps will be sent when your candy bar wrapper is received. Entries should be sent to:

MaryAnn Bowman

Topical Tidbits- Fun Foods

P.O. Box 1451

Waukesha, WI 53187



In 2008, Belgian Post celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Smurfs by issuing a souvenir sheet featuring an outdoor party scene.

HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE



On May 23, 2009, France issued a miniature sheet to commemorate 400 years of chocolate's arrival in that country. This sheet takes on the look of a candy bar complete with foil wrapper AND it smelled like dark chocolate! Each of the individual pieces of the chocolate bar is a separate stamp and together they tell the story of chocolate. From the origins of chocolate in Central America to the Royal Courts of Europe and now as a favorite treat for adults and children worldwide.

Chocolate has been around for a very long time. Chocolate is made from the seeds of the cacao tree. These trees grow in hot, tropical rain forest areas near the equator, usually in Central America, South America, and Western Africa. The trees produce oval-shaped, foot-long pods that change color from green to yellow to purple-red as they ripen. When the pod is split open, there is a thick whitish pulp and in its center are rows of pale, almond-sized seeds. It is from these seeds that chocolate is made.

The Maya and Aztec Indians were among the first to use the cacao beans to create a chocolate drink. Ancient natives of Mexico valued chocolate so much that they used the cacao beans as a type of money.

After Columbus discovered the Americas in 1492, Hernando Cortez and Spanish soldiers searching for gold conquered the Aztec empire and brought chocolate back to the European continent. Originally the bitter drink was a mixture of ground, roasted cacao beans with hot water, vanilla, and pepper. In Spain, sugar was added to make the drink more palatable.

For a few decades, only the Spanish were aware of the new chocolate drink. In 1609, skilled chocolatiers brought the art of chocolate making to Bayonne, France, upon fleeing persecution in Spain and Portugal.

In 1615, chocolate was used in France for a royal wedding. But as it became known to the rest of Europe, it was a drink only royalty and the wealthy could afford.

In the early 1700s, cocoa became a popular drink in England with the addition of milk, and all of Europe's men and women began to enjoy the special beverage.

It was not until the 1800s that several inventions and processes improved the taste and quality of chocolate. In 1847, a method was developed to produce chocolate in a solid form and that allowed chocolate to be eaten, not just used as a drink. Chocolate becomes an industry.

The first Hershey's milk chocolate bar was invented in 1894. Many new chocolate bars and candies have been invented since then – more than 30,000! Eating chocolate is a favorite treat for people of all ages. Chocolate contains sugar that our bodies can use to produce energy.

CHOCOLATE GAMES

Use the story from page 2 to fill in the blanks. Answers are on page 21.



1. Chocolate comes from almond-shaped _____ that are found in the _____.



5. The art of chocolate making was brought to Bayonne, France, by chocolatiers who were fleeing persecution in _____ and _____.



2. To the _____ and _____ Indians, cacao beans were almost like _____.



6. Chocolate became a French tradition and all of Europe's _____ and women began to enjoy the special _____.



3. Cortes and Spanish _____ conquered the _____ empire and brought chocolate back to _____.



7. With the invention of special machines, chocolate was able to be produced in a _____ form, which could be _____ and not just used as a drink.



4. At first, only royalty and the _____ could afford to _____ chocolate.



8. There are more than _____ different kinds of chocolate _____ and candies.

CHOCOLATE FUN

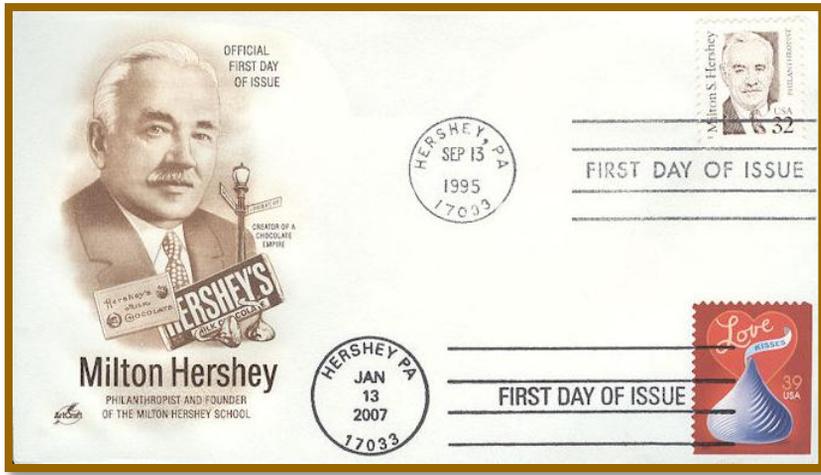
See how many candy bars you can name by reading the clues below. Answers can be found on page 21.

Example: 100 Grand equals 10 million pennies.

1. _____ is a constellation of stars.
2. _____ is a clumsy person.
3. _____ is a baseball player.
4. _____ is a planet.
5. _____ is what a worker looks forward to at the end of the week.
6. _____ is one of Charlie Brown's friends.
7. _____ is nutty happiness.
8. _____ is the sound a fire makes.
9. _____ were sword fighters.
10. _____ contains two pronouns for girl.



Purdy's Chocolates, from Canada, made 10,000 of these envelopes, or covers, to celebrate 100 years of making chocolate.



HERSHEY'S CHOCOLATE

Luckily for us, Milton Hershey didn't give up easily. In 1873, he finished his apprenticeship to a confectioner and decided to open a candy shop in Philadelphia. After six years of hard work, though, the business failed. He moved to New York and tried his hand at manufacturing candy. He didn't succeed at this either, so he returned to Pennsylvania.

Once back home, Hershey started a new company called the Lancaster Caramel Company, which finally proved successful. In 1903, he decided to focus on chocolate, so he sold the caramel company and started building a plant in his hometown of Derry Church.

His milk chocolate bars soon became very popular. Four years later, he came up with a new candy and called it, "Hershey's Kiss." These were hand-wrapped in squares of foil. It wasn't until 14 years later that a machine was invented to wrap the candies. At this time, a small paper ribbon was added to show that it was a genuine Hershey product.

Did you know that 80 MILLION Hershey's Kisses are made each day. Now that's a lot of chocolate! Derry Church, PA has since been renamed, "Hershey, PA."

Chocolate

Tidbits



Switzerland consumes the most chocolate per person per year.

Americans buy 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates each Valentine's Day.

The streetlights in Hershey, PA are shaped like chocolate kisses.

The largest chocolate slab ever made weighs 12,000 pounds.

Dark chocolate is better for you than milk chocolate.

Americans spend about \$345 million on chocolate each Valentine's Day.

THE CANDY MAN

(From the movie, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory")

**Who can take a sunrise, sprinkle it with dew
Cover it in chocolate and a miracle or two?**

**The Candy Man, the Candy Man can
The Candy Man cause
He mixes it with love and makes
the world taste good.**

**Who can take a rainbow, wrap it in a sigh
Soak it in the sun and make a strawberry-lemon pie?**

**The Candy Man, the Candy Man can
The Candy Man can cause
He mixes it with love and makes
the world taste good.**

**The Candy Man makes everything he bakes
Satisfying and delicious.**

**Talk about your childhood wishes.
You can even eat the dishes.**

**Who can take tomorrow, dip it in a dream
Separate the sorrow and collect up all the cream?**

**The Candy Man, the Candy Man can
The Candy Man can cause
He mixes it with love and makes
the world taste good.**

**The world taste good because
the Candy Man thinks it should.**

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Charlie and the
Chocolate Factory was written in 1964 by British author Roald Dahl. The story tells the adventures of Charlie Bucket, who finds a golden ticket in a chocolate bar. The ticket allows him and four other children to visit Willy Wonka and his chocolate factory.

In the sequel, Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator, Willy Wonka gives Charlie ownership of the chocolate factory.

Two movies have been made of the first book.



HAVE A



The New England Confectionery Company (NECCO®) is America's oldest multi-line candy company. Each Valentine's Day season they produce eight billion Sweethearts or conversation hearts- that's about 100,000 pounds of candy! These sweets have been a Valentine's Day staple since the time of the Civil War.

It all started in 1866. Daniel Chase, whose brother founded NECCO, invented the process that allowed sayings to be printed directly onto candy, which was then cut into shapes such as postcards, baseballs, and horseshoes. There was plenty of room for long sayings, like "Please send a lock of your hair by return mail," or "How long shall I have to wait? Pray be considerate." Since the candy hearts used today are so small, the modern sayings must be short and sweet. Still in use, though, are some of the original sayings such as, "Be Mine," "Be Good," "Be True," and "Kiss Me." Outdated sayings like, "Dig Me" are replaced by more current ones such as, "Text Me," and "You Rock."

Sweetheart candies are made at the company headquarters in Revere, Massachusetts.

Sweetheart Flavors:

Pink- cherry

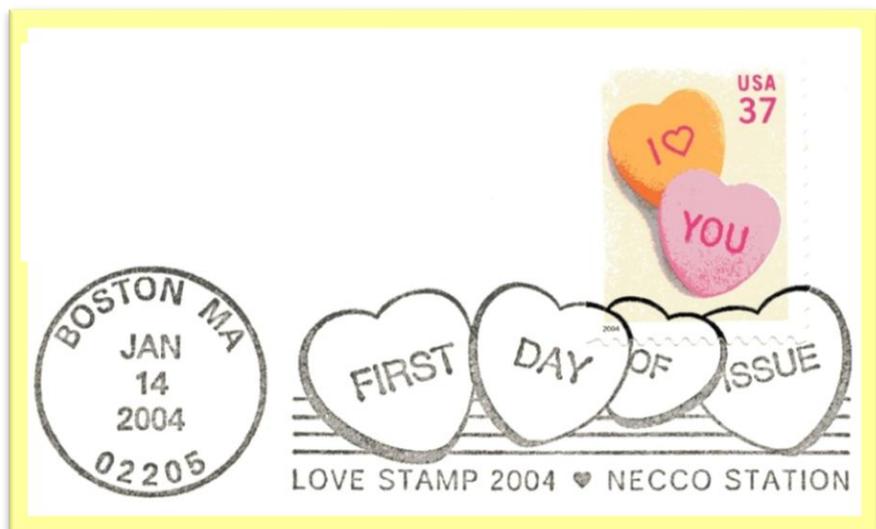
Yellow- banana

Orange- orange

Green- lemon

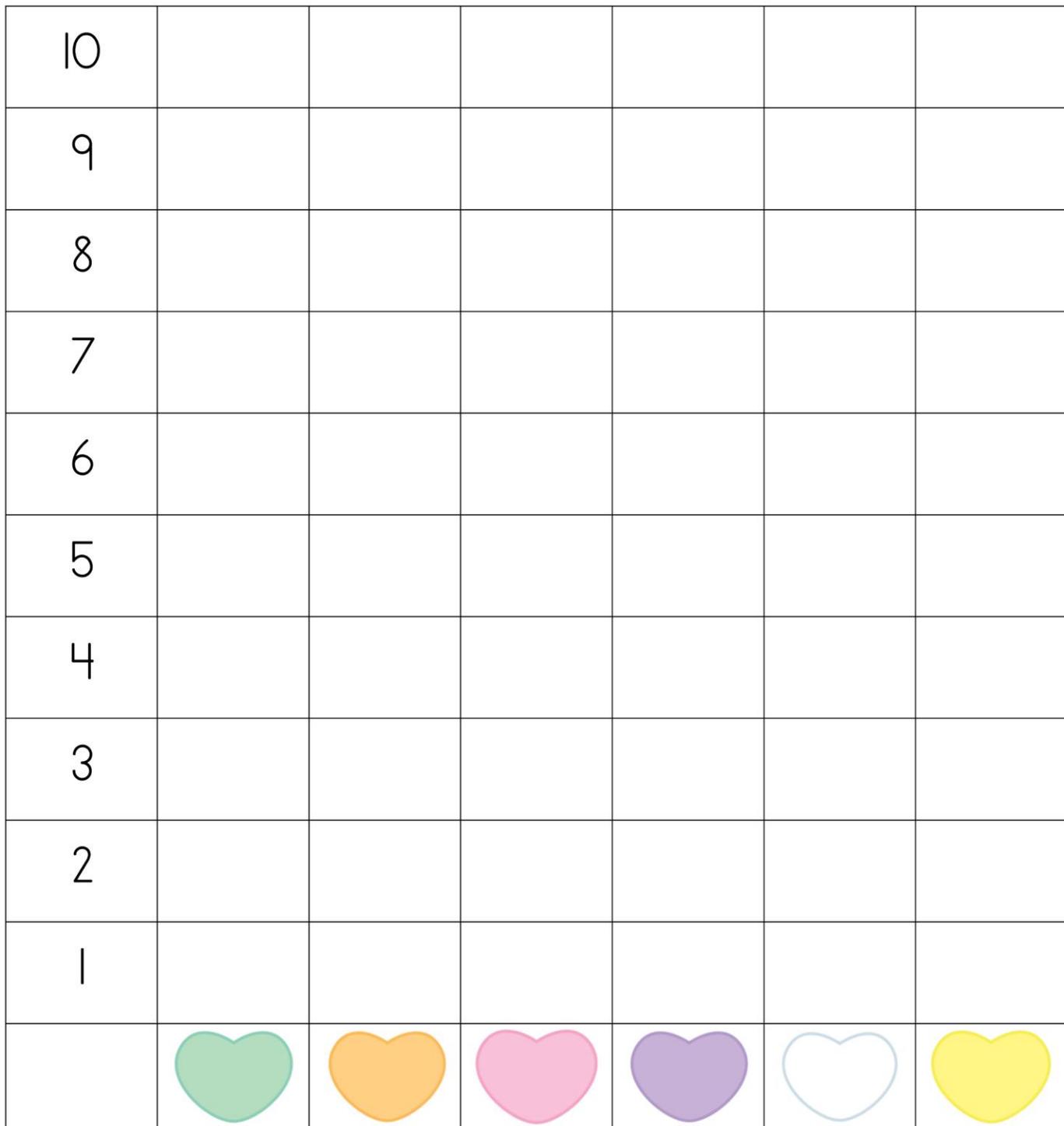
Purple- grape

White- wintergreen



Sweethearts Graphing

Directions: Dump out one box of Sweethearts and place each heart on the graph above its corresponding color. Which color has the most?



Candy Quiz

Did you know that you can design your very own stamps? It's easy at sites like www.zazzle.com. Take a look at these candy stamps from that site and see if you can match them to their clues. Answers are on page 21.



Gumdrops



Jelly Beans



Candy Corn



Conversation Hearts



Gumballs



Peppermint

The Easter Bunny might leave these in your basket.

This candy has a lot to say.

Be careful! This candy could blow up in your face.

This “vegetable” candy makes an appearance each fall.

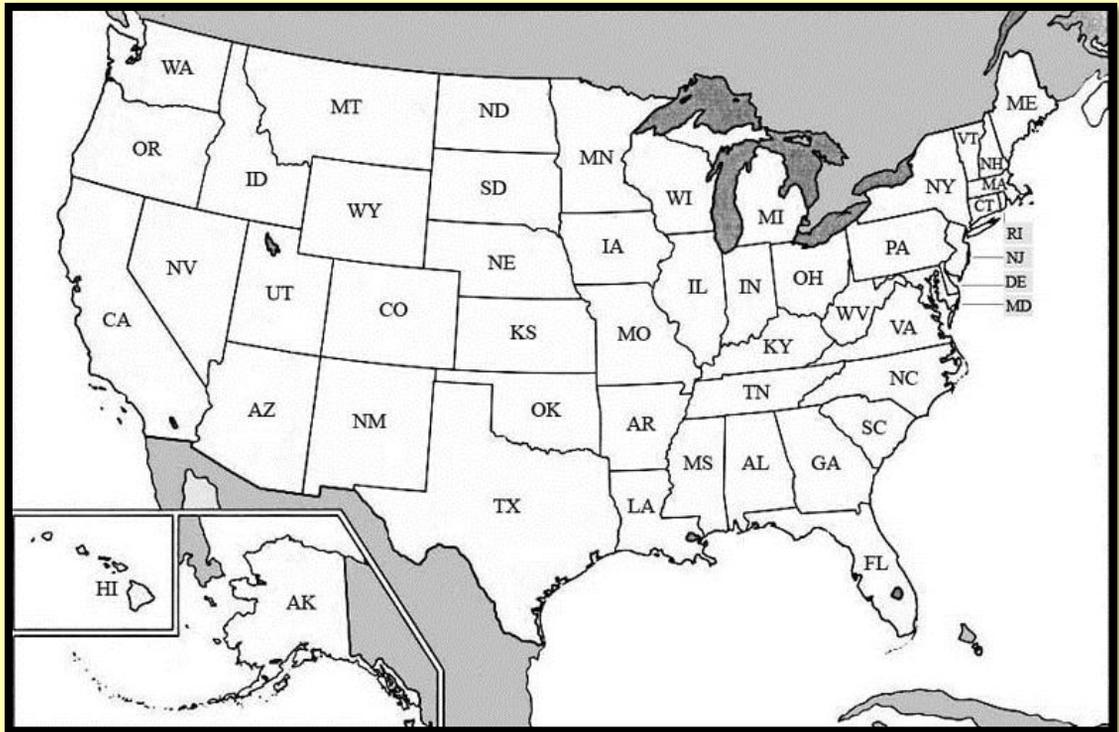
This candy helps freshen your breath.

Goody, goody, _____!

POPCORN

The major popcorn producing states are Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska and Ohio.

To find the “Corn Belt” on the map, color all the states mentioned in the paragraph above.



POPCORN PASTIMES

Here is a new kind of maze. Start at the center block.

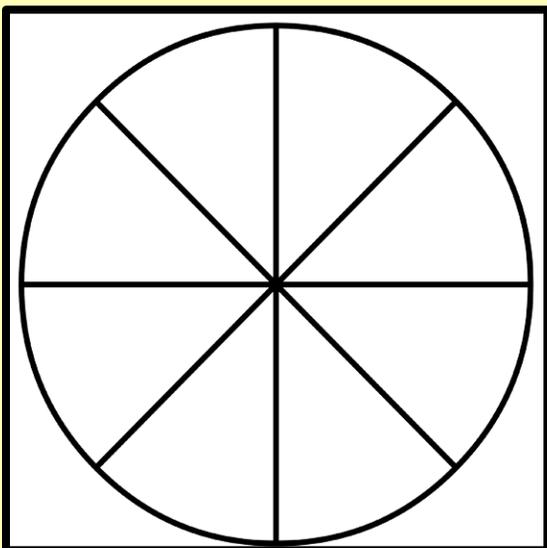
Go block to block, up, down, or sideways through the blocks to reach a corner by spelling POPCORN POPPERS. The answer is on page 21.

S	O	C	P	C	O	S
O	C	P	O	P	C	O
R	P	O	P	O	P	R
N	C	P	START	P	C	N
P	O	O	P	O	P	E
O	R	N	P	O	P	R
S	N	P	O	P	P	S

From the Mini Page by Betty Debnam c. 1981 Universal Press Syndicate



Survey 8 friends to see what type of popcorn they like best.
Create a graph by making a color-coded key and filling in the sections on the graph.



Caramel __

Butter __

Cheese __

A KERNEL OF TRUTH

Americans eat 17 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year.

More popcorn is eaten in the United States than in any other place on Earth.

Popcorn can pop as high as 3 feet in the air.

The oldest popcorn, over 5,600 years old, was found in a cave in New Mexico.

The unpopped kernels are called "old maids."

Most of the popcorn consumed in the world is grown in the United States.

The Japanese eat their popcorn with seaweed or shrimp flavorings.

During colonial days, pop corn with sugar and cream was breakfast food.

Popcorn was eaten at the first Thanksgiving feast.

POPCORN WAGON STAMP

First Day of Issue Ceremony
July 7, 1988 • Chicago, Illinois

Nearly 3/4 of all pop corn is eaten at home.

Ice Cream

Eighteen Flavors

By Shel Silverstein

Eighteen luscious, scrumptious flavors

Chocolate, lime and cherry,

Coffee, pumpkin, fudge banana

Caramel cream and boysenberry.

Rocky road and toasted almond,

Butterscotch, vanilla dip,

Butter brickle, apple ripple,

Coconut and mocha chip,

Brandy peach and lemon custard,

Each scoop lovely, smooth and round,

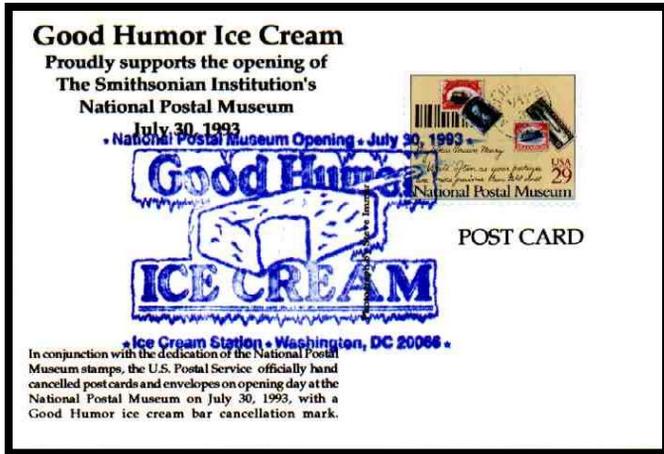
Tallest ice cream cone in town,

Lying there (sniff) on the ground.

The origins of ice cream can be traced back to at least the 4th century B.C. The Roman emperor Nero (A.D. 37-68) ordered ice to be brought from the mountains and combined with fruit toppings. King Tang (A.D. 618-97) of Shang, China had a method of creating ice and milk concoctions. Ice cream was likely brought from China back to Europe. Over time, recipes for ices, sherbets, and milk ices evolved and were served in Italian and French royal courts.

After the dessert was imported to the United States, colonists began calling it "ice cream." The name came from the phrase "iced cream" that was similar to "iced tea". George Washington and Thomas Jefferson served ice cream to their guests, as did Dolly Madison in 1812.

There is considerable proof that ice cream cones were served in the 19th century, even though many people believe they were invented at the 1904 World's Fair. According to legend, an ice cream seller ran out of the cardboard dishes used to put ice cream in, so he got the waffle booth next door to make cones by rolling up the waffles.



The Ice Cream Sundae

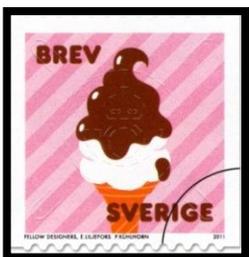
There is much debate between the cities of Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and Ithaca, NY, as to which one invented the ice cream sundae. Below are their stories. Who do you think should get the credit?



While ordering ice cream one day in 1881 at Edward Berner's soda fountain, customer George Hallauer spotted a bottle of chocolate syrup and asked if some could be added to his ice cream. Mr. Berner said it would spoil his ice cream but went ahead and poured some over the dish. Mr. Berner soon came up with more fancy ice cream concoctions and sold them for a nickel, but only on Sundays. The "sundae" label is credited to a little girl who asked for ice cream "with that stuff on top," saying they could "pretend that it was Sunday." In order not to make fun of a religious day, they changed the spelling of Sunday. A replica of Mr. Berner's ice cream parlor is open year round in Two Rivers.



One spring day in 1892, the Rev. John Scott stopped by the Platt and Colt Pharmacy after church services. While visiting with Mr. Platt, the two decided to have some ice cream from the store's soda fountain. Mr. Platt dished up some plain vanilla ice cream and then added cherry syrup and candied cherries to the top. The Rev. Scott was delighted and suggested they call it a "Cherry Sunday" after the day on which it was made.



Q: In which school do you learn to make ice cream?

A: Sunday School.

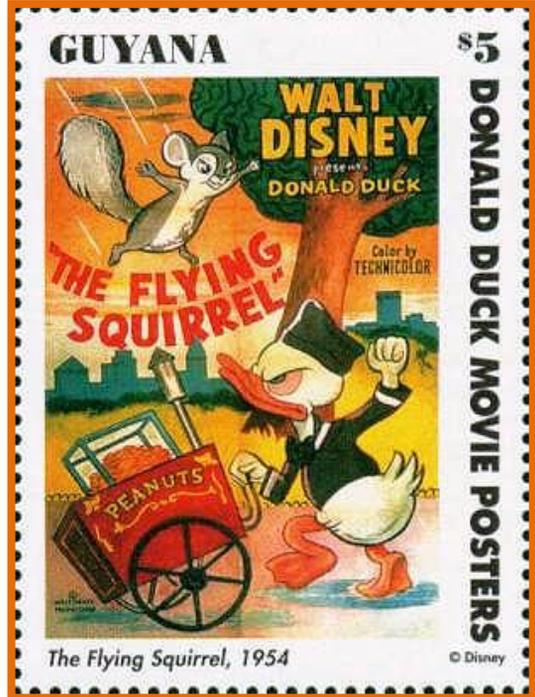
Q: Why did the reporter go into the ice cream shop?

A: He wanted to get the scoop



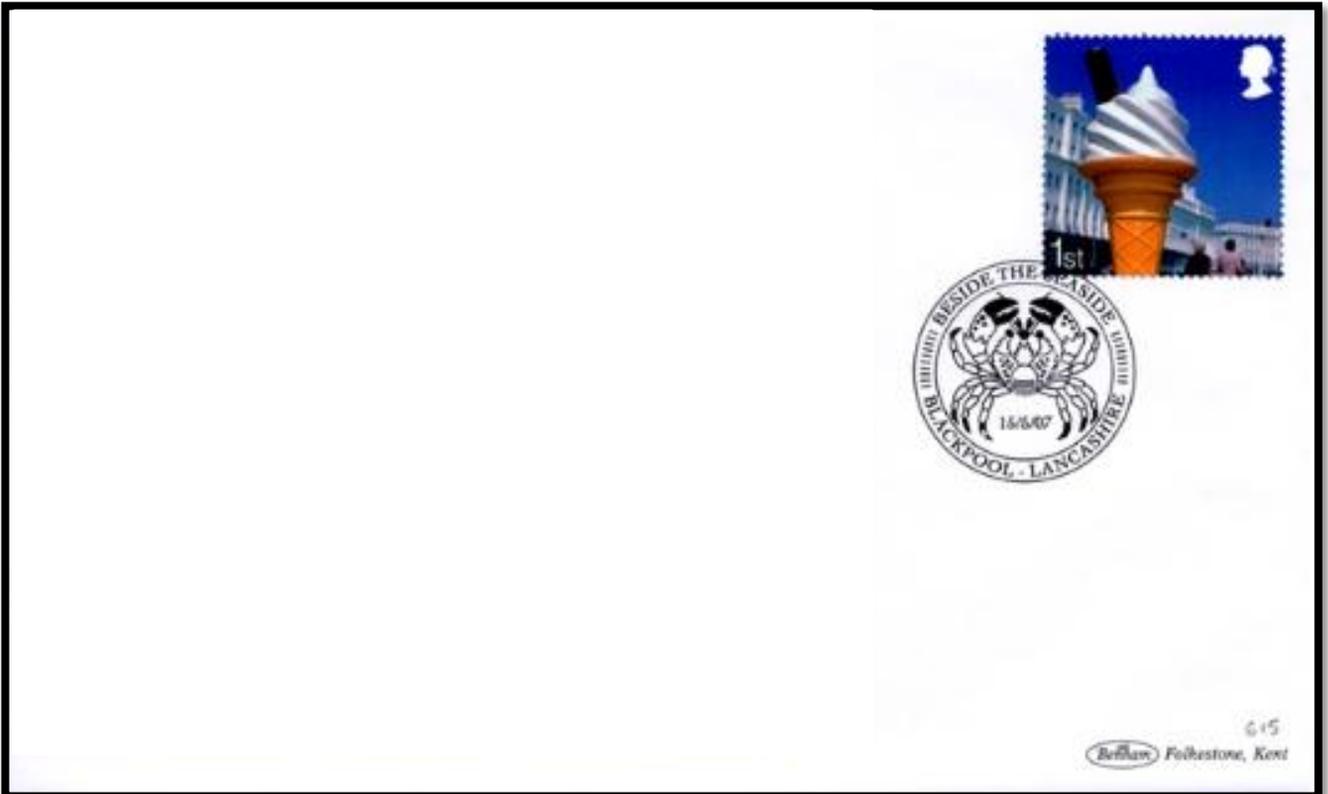
Totally Topical

This stamp from Guyana is from a souvenir sheetlet that featured Donald Duck on vintage movie posters. This one is called "The Flying Squirrel." It is fun to look at a stamp and see how many different topics it could go illustrate. Can you see why this stamp would fit under "Fun Foods?" Hint-- what is Donald pushing?! Some other topics could be: ducks, birds, trees, Disney, movies, and flying squirrels. (Yes, there are people who collect flying squirrels on stamps!) Can you think of any other topics this stamp could fit with?



Cachet Creator

Make your own design, or cachet, for this ice cream stamp from Great Britain.



Fun with Food



Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Doughnut.
Doughnut who?
Doughnut bother me
while I am eating.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Ice cream.
Ice cream who?
Ice cream every time
I watch a scary movie.

There once was a woman
named Grace,
Who wore chocolate
all over her face.
When asked why that's so,
She replied, "Don't you know?
I can't find a towel any place!"

This souvenir sheet of a candy store is from Belgium. How many different kinds of candy can you find? _____

Q: What do you call a cow
that can't moo?

A: A Milk Dud.

Q: What do you call candy
that was stolen?

A: Hot chocolate!



Q: What did the baby corn
say to it's mom?

A: Where is pop corn?

THE HISTORY OF GINGERBREAD



Gingerbread has been baked in Europe since the eleventh century. In some places, it was a crisp, flat cookie, and in others, warm, thick, dark squares of "bread." It was either light or dark, sweet or spicy, but was almost always cut into shapes and decorated or dusted with white sugar.

In the Medieval Ages it was a popular treat at festivals. Ladies would often give their favorite knight a slice of gingerbread as a sign of good luck during the tournament. Gingerbread is even mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays -- "*An I had but one penny in the world, thou shouldst have it to buy ginger-bread.*" The first gingerbread man is credited to Queen Elizabeth I, who presented visiting dignitaries with ones baked in their own likeness.

In colonial days in North America, recipes were guarded with pride. It was a custom to add mincemeat or candied fruits to gingerbread. George Washington's mother's recipe must have been very good- it can be found online today. Mrs. Washington cut the cookies in the shape of little kings before the Revolution. After the Revolution, she cut them in the shape of eagles.

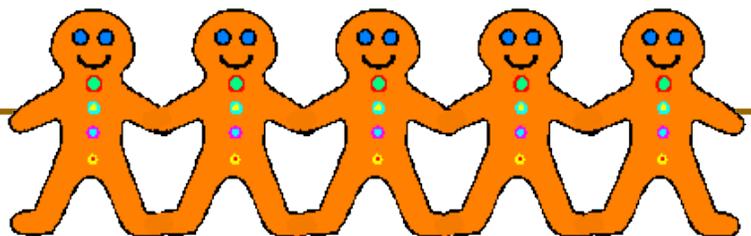
During the 19th century, the Brothers Grimm collected volumes of fairy tales. They discovered one from Germany about a brother and sister who find a gingerbread house covered with candies.

The German practice of making "witches' houses" soon caught on in the United States. Making gingerbread houses is now a Christmas tradition with many families.



GINGERBREAD MAN CHAINS

- Cut the bottom off a paper bag and slit up one size. This will give you a very long piece of brown paper (you could use a regular piece of paper, but your chain won't be as long).
- Cut a 5 inch wide strip out of the paper (as long as you can make it) and accordion fold it (back and forth, back and forth). Make the folds the width or a bit less than the template pieces.
- Trace the template piece onto the top fold.
- Cut out (don't cut the ends of arms or feet or your chain will fall apart!)
- Unfold your chain and decorate with markers, paints, wiggly eyes, sequins, bits of lace, and ribbon or anything else you have on hand.



Use one of these men as your template. Make them as big or little as you like.

HANSEL AND GRETEL



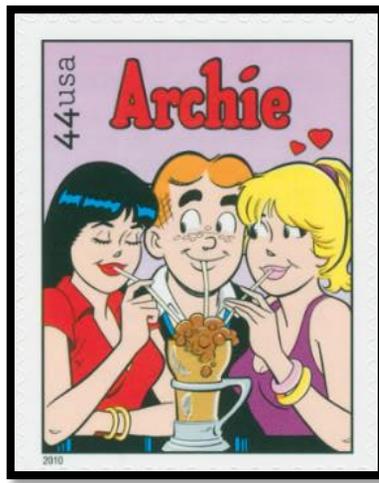
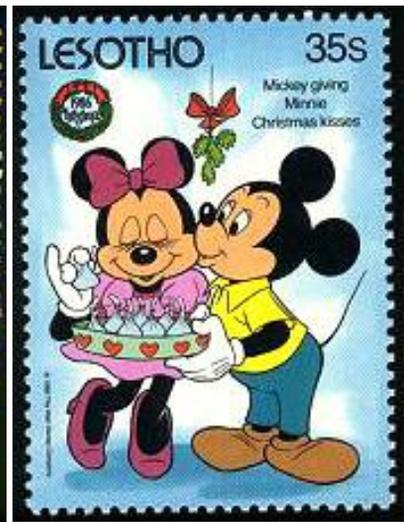
Hansel and Gretel is an opera by nineteenth-century German composer Engelbert Humperdinck. It was written by his sister for her children one year at Christmas. She based it on the fairy tale of the same name. It was first performed on December 23, 1893 and has been associated with Christmas ever since. Have an adult do a search online and listen to the music. The most famous song is called "Evening Benediction."

Can you put the 4 stamps below in order to tell the story of "Hansel and Gretel?"



STAMP GALLERY:

These stamps can be used on the blank album page until you get real "Fun Food" stamps.



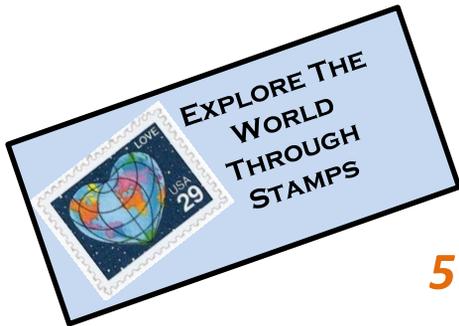


Fun Foods

CONTEST!!!!

Do you like chocolate? Have you ever thought about designing your own chocolate bar wrapper? Well, here's your chance! Use the template below to make a wrapper that encourages kids to collect stamps. You can use markers, crayons, paint, or whatever else you like. Just make sure it's about stamp collecting. Fill in the form and mail your entry by May 15, 2012, to:

MaryAnn Bowman
Topical Tidbits- Fun Foods
P.O. Box 1451
Waukesha, WI 53187



5 Philatelic Prizes Will Be Awarded!!!

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Stamps I Collect _____

ANSWER KEY

Chocolate Games, Page 3:

1. seeds, pods
2. Aztec, money
3. Soldiers, Europe
4. wealthy, drink
5. Spain, Portugal
6. men, beverage
7. solid, eaten
8. 30,000, bars

Chocolate Fun, Page 4:

1. Milky Way
2. Butterfinger
3. Babe Ruth
4. Mars
5. Payday
6. Peppermint Patty
7. Almond Joy
8. Krackel
9. The Three Musketeers
10. Hershey

Candy Quiz, Page 8:

1. The Easter Bunny might leave these in your basket— jelly beans.
2. This candy has a lot to say— conversations hearts.
3. Be careful! This candy could blow up in your face—gum balls.
4. This “vegetable” candy makes an appearance each fall— candy corn.
5. This candy helps freshen your breath— peppermint.
6. Goody, goody— gumdrop.

Popcorn Pastimes, Page 10:

S	O	C	P	C	O	S
O	C	P	O	P	C	O
R	P	O	P	O	P	R
N	C	P	START	P	C	N
P	O	O	P	O	P	E
O	R	N	P	O	P	R
S	N	P	O	P	P	S

Hansel and Gretel, Page 17:

