

# Canned food

From 1795, Napoleon, who was a prominent general, often led his army to war. At that time, when the army had to march for long distances, one of the biggest problems that they faced, besides fighting intensely, was getting or preparing food for the army. The physical strength of the soldiers would have been seriously affected if food had not been sufficient. In order to overcome this problem, Napoleon offered a reward of 12,000 francs for anyone who could improve on the fundamentals of food preservation at that time.



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In 1810, A French confectioner, Nicolas Appert invented a way to preserve food using bottles. First, he placed food in a glass bottle. He then sterilised the bottle in high temperatures to kill the germs and bacteria, and used a cork to seal the opening of the bottle. This method prevented food from going bad. The military was then able to get an adequate supply of quality food which was well-preserved. He was rewarded with 12,000 francs for his contribution.

In the same year, an Englishman also used the same method to preserve food. However, instead of using glass bottles, metal containers known as tins or cans were used. Later in 1960, a French scientist discovered that the best method of preserving food was not only by sealing them, but also by sterilising them to maintain the quality and freshness of the food.



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When the concern for food preservation was almost settled, people's anxiety on how to open the sealed cans, grew. In order to open the cans, people used hammers and chisels, which was hard and tedious. In 1855, another Englishman invented a claw-shaped can opener. A few years later, a different type of can opener was invented; it had a butterfly-shaped knob, a blade and a gear. In the 1970s, an American can company invented ring-pulled cans which are widely used even to this day.

## Food for Thought:

Demand is the source of invention. Innovation and invention involve problem-solving techniques that provide solutions to overcome inconveniences that people face. This, in turn, brings about great business opportunities.

