

# Chewing Gum

Chewing gum, also known as bubble gum, is one of the oldest candies in the world. Long time ago, people began to chew a type of substance made from tree resin. They chewed on this type of gum as their after-dinner candy, as teeth cleaners or as mouth fresheners.

Chewing gum was invented when a Mexican ex-general, Santa Anna, met with Thomas Adams, an American, on Staten Island. Santa Anna introduced chicle (a type of gum-like substance) to Thomas Adams. Thomas Adams tried to make toys, masks, and rain boots out of this type of gum-like substance, but all his efforts and experiments failed.



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One day, the tired and discouraged Thomas Adams sat in his workshop. He popped a small piece of the surplus substance into his mouth and liked the taste of it. While chewing the candy, he suddenly thought of adding some flavour to the chicle. Soon after, he created a licorice-flavoured gum, but the gum could not hold the flavour for long.

In 1880, peppermint was added as a flavour to the gum by a man named William White. The flavour stayed in the gum when it was chewed. Other condiments such as sugar and corn syrup were also added as additional flavours.



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In the early 1950s, sugar-free gum were introduced. These mint flavoured and sugarless gum was often recommended by many healthcare practitioners as teeth cleaners or stress reducers. Now, people of all ages are chewing this gum.

Due to the improvement in the methods of manufacturing, packaging, and advertising, modern chewing gum or bubble gum which come in various flavours, shapes and colours has become a favourite all over the world.

## Food for Thought:

The journey towards invention requires one to always keep an open mind, to be constantly observant, to be imaginative as well as creative and to explore new innovative ideas.

