

Name: _____



A POP!-ULAR INVENTION

by Kelly Hashway

Did you know that the invention of chewing gum was an accident? People have been chewing gum-like substances since the early times. Some were made from thickened resin, a substance that comes from plants. Others were made from grains and waxes. But chewing gum, as we know it today, was invented by mistake in 1870 when

One day, while he was contemplating his failures, he remembered that people in Mexico chewed chicle. Curious, he popped a piece of the chicle into his mouth and began to chew on it. Adams added licorice flavor to the chicle and opened the world's first chewing gum factory.

Thomas Adams
friends with a
Lopez de San
After Santa A



~ **PREVIEW** ~
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many in

Alamo, he was exiled from Mexico. Santa Anna stayed with Thomas Adams in New York and introduced him to a gummy substance people in Mexico liked to chew called chicle. Chicle was the milky sap from sapodilla trees that grew in the tropical rain forests in Central America.

Philadelphia, stumbled upon the invention while experimenting with new recipes for chewing gum. Diemer created a gum that was less sticky and more stretchy than regular chewing gum. Diemer learned he could blow bubbles with this new gum.

Adams wanted to use the chicle to invent a cheaper substitute for rubber. He tried to make all sorts of items out of chicle, including toys and rubber boots, but each of his experiments failed.

Accidents or not, chewing gum and bubble gum are two inventions that people across the globe pop over!



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1. What is chicle made from?

- a. rubber
- b. licorice
- c. tree sap
- d. tropical fruits



2. When Santa Anna defeated the Texans, he was exiled from Mexico. What does the word exiled mean?

- a. hidden from
- b. forced to leave
- c. called a hero
- d. retired

3. Put th
Write



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, so he

_____ Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna comes to New York and stays with Thomas Adams.

_____ Adams tries to make toys and boots out of chicle.

_____ Santa Anna introduces Thomas Adams to chicle.

_____ Adams opened the first chewing gum factory in the world.

_____ Walter Diemer invents bubble gum.

4. Explain why the invention of chewing gum is considered an accident.

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A POP!-ULAR INVENTION

Vocabulary Activity

Part 1: Reread "A Pop!-ular Invention" by Kelly Hashway. As you read highlight the following vocabulary words in the story.

resin	exiled	tropical	contemplate
licorice	accountant	defeated	

Part 2: Match each vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right.

_____ 1. resin

a. to concentrate or engage in deep thought

_____ 2. exile

b. flavor from a plant used in food



_____ 6. accountant

f. someone whose job it is to keep track of money for a business

_____ 7. defeat

g. clear, yellowish, or brownish substance that oozes from certain trees; sap

Part 3: Use a vocabulary word from the list to complete each sentence.

8. Henry didn't like shoveling snow, so he moved to a place with a _____ climate.

9. If you would like a job as an _____, you should have excellent math skills.

10. The Buffalo Sabres hockey team will _____ the Boston Bruins.

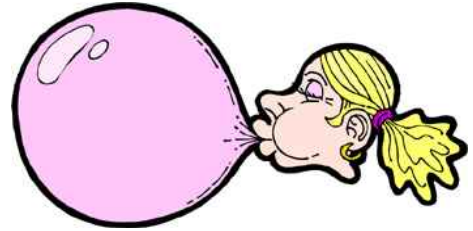
11. The chess player sits quietly and tries to _____ his next move.

12. Black, _____-flavored gumdrops are my favorite.

ANSWER KEY

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1. What is chicle made from? **c**
- a. rubber
 - b. licorice
 - c. **tree sap**
 - d. tropical fruits

2. When Santa Anna defeated the Texans, he was exiled from Mexico. What does the word exiled mean? **b**
- a. hidden from
 - b. **forced to leave**
 - c. called a hero
 - d. retired

3. Put the events in order.
Write



4th

1st

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna comes to New York and stays with Thomas Adams.

3rd

Adams tries to make toys and boots out of chicle.

2nd

Santa Anna introduces Thomas Adams to chicle.

5th

Adams opened the first chewing gum factory in the world.

6th

Walter Diemer invents bubble gum.

4. Explain why the invention of chewing gum is considered an accident.

Adams was trying to invent an artificial rubber substance when he tried chicle and realized it would make great gum.

