

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chew on These Bubble Gum Facts!

By Lydia Lukidis

Here is a riddle for you. What tastes good, is fun to chew, but can't be swallowed? You guessed it, bubble gum! People love to chew gum. In fact, people around the world have been chewing gum for thousands of years. But have you ever wondered how gum is made?



You may not believe this, but gum comes from trees. Ancient Greeks chewed



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many people. The good thing about chicle was that it did not melt when you chewed it. Instead, it got softer the more it was chewed.

Chicle was used to make gum for many years. Then in 1928, Walter Diemer invented modern bubble gum. The first bubble gum was pink. Diemer called it "Dubble Bubble." Today, pink is still the most popular color for bubble gum. But chicle is no longer needed to make gum. Chemists figured out ways to create artificial gum. Everything could be made in a lab. Chemists discovered other things too. For example, they figured out how to make the gum's taste last longer. That made people happy!

But people who chew gum need to remember something. Gum is not meant to be

swallowed. When we eat food, it is digested in our bodies. That keeps us healthy. However, our bodies cannot digest gum. Some people believe the gum sticks together in our stomach and blocks everything. Others even believe that gum stays there for seven years. This is not true. If you swallow gum, it will just come out when you go to the bathroom.

There are many ingredients in today's bubble gum. There is sugar, corn syrup, softeners, flavoring, and latex. The latex makes the gum stretch. That way, you can blow



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## About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater, and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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1. According to the information you read in the article, which statement is true about bubble gum?
  - a. Gum was first invented by Thomas Adams in 1871.
  - b. Walter Diemer called his modern day bubble gum, "Hubba Bubba."
  - c. People in ancient times, such as the Greeks and the Mayans, chewed different types of tree sap as a form of gum.
  - d. Modern day bubble gum only has one or two ingredients in it.



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3. Based on the information in the article, what did Chad Fell do?
  - a. He made bubble gum out of resin.
  - b. He manufactured chewing gum made out of chicle.
  - c. He invented modern bubble gum in a lab.
  - d. He blew a 20 inch bubble in 2004.
4. A myth is a popular belief that isn't true. What are two myths about bubble gum that some people believe?
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What ingredient in modern day bubble gum makes it stretch? \_\_\_\_\_

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Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.



\_\_\_\_\_ 1. impressive

a. a copy or replica of something that occurs naturally

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. resin

b. food items that you combine to make a specific dish

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. indigenous

c. awesome; worthy of admiration



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\_\_\_\_\_ 7. ingredients

g. the body's way of breaking down food so it can be used to supply nutrients and energy

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. riddle

h. a sticky substance that comes from trees and plants

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. digest

i. chemical researcher; expert in chemistry

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. swallow

j. make a large quantity of something using machinery

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In the article, "Chew on These Bubble Gum Facts!" you learned that people have been chewing gum for thousands of years. However, it wasn't until 1928 that modern bubble gum was invented by Walter Diemer.



On the lines below, describe how you would change modern day bubble gum to make it even better. Would you blow bubbles that make you turn invisible? Would your bubble gum change shape when you blow bubbles? Describe your perfect bubble gum in detail on the lines below.

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## ANSWER KEY

### **Chew on These Bubble Gum Facts!**

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1. According to the information you read in the article, which statement is true about bubble gum? **c**

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5. What ingredient in modern day bubble gum makes it stretch? **latex**

## ANSWER KEY

### **Chew on These Bubble Gum Facts!**

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Match each vocabulary word from the reading passage with the correct definition.



- c** 1. impressive
- a.** a copy or replica of something that occurs naturally

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- e** 10. swallow
- j.** make a large quantity of something using machinery