

## **Bubble Gum Basics – Version 3: Bubble Gum Facts**

**Write the information under the line (word for word (by hand, no typed versions accepted)) and turn in by the deadline! You have two days to complete this page or you will earn a lunch detention and you will have to write an additional gum page!**

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### **What materials are used to make gum?**

- Common ingredients in gum are: sugar, gum base, corn syrup, softeners (like vegetable oil), flavoring, and coloring.
- Gum base is mostly synthetic plastics and rubber, but it may also contain a natural product called latex.
- Natural latex is the sap from the trees of the rain forests.
- Some kinds of latex used in gum bases are: chicle from the sapodilla tree, jeultong and sorva from trees of the same names.

### **Fun Facts**

- The 1<sup>st</sup> patent for chewing gum was issued in 1869 to William Semple, a dentist from Mount Vernon, Ohio.
- In the early 1900s, William Wrigley Jr. was one of the first to promote the sale of branded goods through advertising. Wrigley's new spearmint gum quickly became a best seller.
- The first bubble gum cards were issued in the 1930s. The pictures ranged from war heroes to Wild West figures to professional athletes. The Topps Company became famous by offering baseball cards in packages of gum and sponsoring bubble gum blowing contests among ball players.
- Topps produced the largest piece of gum in 1974. It was the equivalent of 10,000 pieces of gum and was presented to baseball great Willie Mays.
- The largest bubble ever blown was 23 inches in diameter. The record was set July 19, 1994 by Susan Montgomery Williams of Fresno, CA.