

Bubble Gum Basics – Version 4: Random Gum Qs & As

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!

Why can I blow bubbles with bubble gum and not chewing gum? What is the difference?

Chewing gum is made from a "gum base" of tree resins (sap) that give it the "gummy" characteristic with which we are so familiar. In order to add the ability to blow bubbles, manufacturers add a strengthening agent to the gum base. Despite the gum base and synthetic additives, most of a piece of gum is sugar and corn syrup.

Who invented bubble gum?

Bubble gum was first produced in 1906 but it was not sold as a consumer product until 1928. The bubble gum base is firmer and more elastic than regular chewing gum.

What is chewing gum made of?

Up until WWII, chewing gum was made of a substance called chicle mixed with flavorings. After WWII, chemists learned how to make artificial gum bases to replace chicle. These gum bases are essentially synthetic rubbers that have the same temperature profile as chicle. Gum bases are mixed with sugar and other flavorings to make chewing gum. When you chew it, the rubber releases these flavorings into your mouth.

Why is bubble gum pink?

The color of the first successful bubble gum was pink because it was the only color the inventor had left. Today bubble gum is still predominantly pink.