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# Introduction

Your student finishes the assignment early or needs a challenging enrichment activity while the other students finish their work. You don't want to introduce an entirely new topic and you don't have time to research a student project activity. What do you do?

You reach for the *High Interest Learning* series! *High Interest Learning* books are organised into topics that are of interest to young people. Each book contains reproducible, researched information pages that are fun to read and extension activities that will engage your students. Internet websites are included to expand your student's abilities to access the Information Super Highway.

*Note:* Because of the mutable nature of the Internet, websites do change. The sites listed in this resource were current at the time of publication.

The *High Interest Learning* series was created to foster learning and stimulate creativity in your students. It also saves you time by providing research enrichments for your students. They win and you win!



# Chewing Gum

## Something to Know

Native Americans in Central America chewed chicle, which is a gummy substance found in sapodilla trees. In 1869, the famous Mexican general, Santa Anna, was living in New York City. Santa Anna gave inventor Thomas Adams some chicle because he knew that Adams was experimenting with different substances. Adams wanted to find a rubber substitute to patch tyres for the new automobile industry. Adams tried to make the rubbery substance into tyre patches, but failed. However, Adams also noticed that Santa Anna liked to chew the chicle. Adams took a field trip to his local pharmacy and saw a waxy product for sale called 'White Mountain Gum'. He found out that children seemed to love to chew the waxy stuff.

Adams invented a machine to process chicle into little round pellets. The first chewing gum pellets were unflavoured. He packed 200 pellets per box and covered the boxes with tissue paper. The label on the tissue paper showed the City Hall of New York and was called 'Adams New York Chewing Gum – Snapping and Stretching'. Adams received a patent for his gum-making machine in 1871.

Sales for 'Adams New York Chewing Gum' went well, so Adams decided to create a new line of flavoured gum. He added licorice to the chicle formula and called the new line 'Blackjack Chewing Gum', which became the first flavoured gum in America. 'Black Jack' was made until 1970, when it was discontinued because it did not sell well anymore. It was brought back in 1986.

## Something to Do

- Visit Hubba Bubba bubble gum on the Internet! You can read a newsletter and play interactive games. The website is located at:  
<<http://www.bubblegum.com>>
- On a recipe card, write your own secret formula for the next popular chewing gum. Give your new gum a name.
- Create a new use for bubble gum. Prove that it works!

## Something to Think about

Think back to a time when something funny happened when you were chewing gum. Write about that event and illustrate the margins of your paper.



# Television

## Something to Know

Most children today could not imagine growing up without a television. It has become such a part of our lives that some people even plan their evenings by the programs that are on. But television is really quite a recent invention. Although it had its beginnings in the 1920s, it was not common in Australia until the 1960s, and it was not until the 1970s that many people owned a colour television.

John Logie Baird, a Scottish inventor and electrical engineer, was one of the most innovative and influential contributors to the development of television. Developing TV was a passion for him; after university he began working as a salesman, but gave up his job so he could focus on his research. Eventually, he had to survive by borrowing money from his friends; he made his prototypes with whatever materials he could obtain cheaply.

In 1924 he developed a device that worked by using reflected light, rather than trying to light images from behind, as had been done previously. He shone a light onto a mannequin, and put a spinning disc of cardboard with holes in it in front of the mannequin's face. The light was reflected from the mannequin, then came through the holes in the disc and was picked up by an electronic sensor. The sensor converted it into flashes of neon light, which became brighter or darker depending on the brightness of the light coming from the mannequin. The neon light was then placed behind another spinning cardboard disc with holes in it. When people looked through this disc, they saw the image of the mannequin's face reproduced by the neon light.

Baird's invention was first shown to the public in 1925 at Selfridges, a London department store, using one of their mannequins. Later the same year he improved his television so that it could be used to transmit the image of a human face. In 1926, he demonstrated his invention to the Royal Institution in London, and officially became the inventor of television. In 1936, the BBC began the world's first public television broadcasts, using John Logie Baird's television.

## Something to Do

- Write and perform a television show.
- Videotape your television show.
- Find information about John Logie Baird on the Internet. You can start with <http://www.zephyrus.co.uk/johnlogiebaird.html>.

## Something to Think about

How do you think John Logie Baird's wife felt when he gave up his job to work on his invention?