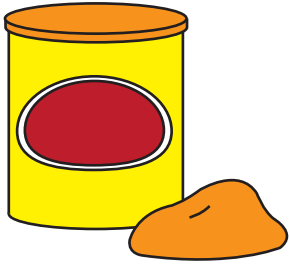


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Accidental Inventions

## Play-Doh

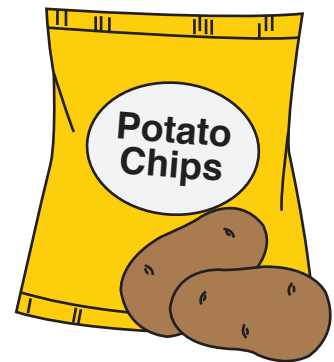


Before World War II, many people used coal to heat their homes. But they were left with soot and grime on their walls. Joseph McVicker and his uncle, Noah McVicker, started selling a doughy material that people could use to rub the soot from their walls. However, after the war, people stopped using coal and began heating their homes with natural gas. The McVickers worried they would lose their business. But they found out that teachers were using their cleaning product as modeling clay. They decided to start marketing their product to children. They added an artificial scent to the dough to hide the cleaning smell. Then, in 1956, they started selling it at a department store in Washington, D.C. It only came in one color—white—but kids loved it. The McVickers soon became millionaires!

## Potato Chips

In 1853, a customer at the Lake House restaurant in Saratoga Springs, New York, complained about the fried potatoes he had ordered. He said they were too thick and bland. The chef, George Crum, was insulted by the customer's complaint. So, he decided to play a trick on the diner. He sliced his next batch of potatoes paper thin and fried them until they were crunchy. Then he over-salted them, thinking that the customer would hate it.

But, his plan backfired and the picky guest loved them! They became known all over the region as "Saratoga Chips" and now they are one of the most popular snack foods around!



## Popsicles

Frank Epperson, an 11-year-old boy from San Francisco, accidentally invented the popsicle in 1905. Back then, kids often made their own fruity drinks by mixing flavored powder and water. But one afternoon, Frank forgot about the drink he had mixed up and he left it outside overnight. It was a cold night, and when he found his cup the next morning, the drink was frozen solid around the stick he had used to mix it. Being curious, he popped it out of the cup and licked it. At first, he didn't think it was a big deal. But 17 years later he made a batch and served them to friends. Everyone loved them! He decided to sell them at a local amusement park. When he discovered how popular they were, he applied for a patent and began making even more flavors. He called them "Eppsicles," a combination of his name and the word icicle, and he sold them for five cents each. Eventually he changed the name to popsicles and the name stuck!



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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Accidental Inventions

## Research It!

There have been many other accidental inventions throughout history! Here are a few:



- chocolate chip cookie
- the Slinky
- the microwave
- ice cream cones
- Post-it notes

Choose an accidental invention to research. Then, use this chart to record the information you find.

Invention:	
Who invented it?	
When was it invented?	
Where was it invented?	
What was the person trying to make?	
How did they discover its new use?	
Why was it so successful?	