

48 - Gummy Bears

Did you know the biggest Gummy Bear ever created weighed 5-pounds? But who invented Gummy Bears? What are they made out of and why were they shaped like bears?

Hans Riegel quit his job at the Kleutgen & Meier candy factory to pursue his dream of creating his own candies -- and in 1920 he started his own company... in his house! Armed with a bag of sugar, a copper kettle, a rolling pin, a stove & lots of determination, Hans Riegel was on the verge of inventing gummies!

After launching his company, the non-bear shaped gummy candies were doing OK — but not great. Hans knew he needed a gimmick to boost sales and motivate his employees. And by employees we mean his wife, Gertrude (his only employee at the time). In fact, she used to deliver candy by bicycle.

As was German tradition in the 1920s, Hans and Gertrude loved going to the town fairs, which always featured real, live, Dancing Bears as part of the entertainment. That's when the lightbulb went off in his head. Hans decided to make his gummies in the shape of those dancing bears! And the rest is history!

Activities

1. Did you know that gummy bears can grow? Check out how with [this](#) experiment.
2. Make your own gummy bears! Check out [this](#) delicious activity. You don't have to only make gummy bears! See what other fun shapes you can come up with. Be sure to let an adult help with the hot parts.
3. Incorporate graphing, patterns and counting into snack time! [This](#) activity will help your young scientists learn how to graph and follow patterns with a tempting treat. You could even buy organic or all fruit snacks for a healthier twist.

Additional Resources

Would you like to know more about the science behind gummies? You can learn the science ins and outs from a scientist who teaches a candy making class. Have you ever learned how to make candy in school? That would be the best day ever. Watch his video [here](#). What gummy shape would you make?

Kid News

Do you taste with your fingers? Probably not. But an octopus can! They can also feel and tell the difference between food and non-food with their tentacles. How would you like to be able to tell what broccoli tastes like before you even put it in your mouth? [Read](#) about how scientists are learning more and more about the ways in which Octopuses explore their world.¹

¹ This activity guide is for the Who Smarted? podcast www.WhoSmarted.com