A Sticky Business

Did you know that the chewing gum industry is more than just a sticky business it also earns millions of dollars. The United States produces about 24,000,000 miles of chewing gum each year gum is available in different varieties flavors and shapes but did you ever wonder wear gum comes from Did you ever wonder how its made and where and when the first people began to chew it. People have been chewing gum it turns out for a very long time

More than a thousand years ago the Mayans and other peoples of Central America chewed chicle. Chicle is the hardened sap of the sapodilla tree ancient Greeks we're chewing gum made from the sap of the mastic tree. The native Americans of North America were chewing gum made from spruce sap. By the early 1800s the first store to make and sell spruce gum had opened in North America. In the 1860s, the use of chicle as a chewing gum was developed and gums popularity began to raise

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Chicle-based gum was first manufactured as a result of a failed experiment Antonio López de Santa Anna the Mexican general whose army defeated the Texans at the Alamo in 1836. Brought chicle to New York in 1860. He hoped to sell it as a type of rubber. A man named Thomas Adams tried to make this "rubber" harden but he failed. Discovering instead that the rubber could be chewed Adams adds flavorings he began to made gum with a chicle base.

**WEDNESDAY**

The main ingredient of chewing gum was chicle until the mid-1900s. Today, gum bases are made from melted rubber waxes or plastics. After the gum base has been cleaned softeners sweeteners and flavorings is added. Chewing gum continues to sell and some surveys report that the average American chews 200 sticks of gum a year. Some people chew gum for the taste but others chew it to help him stay alert or to help them relax.

**THURSDAY**