

The Sweet Truth

When we think about the Hershey Company, we usually think about chocolate. But Milton S. Hershey and his Hershey Company got their start in the candy world by making caramels. But it didn't take Hershey long to get into the chocolate business. Milton Hershey spotted a chocolate-making machine at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. He soon had one of his own and started producing chocolate bars and the sinfully sweet dollops of chocolate that came to be known as Hershey's Kisses®.

During World War I, American candy manufacturers increased the production of candy bars. These were sent overseas to boost soldiers' morale and to give them quick energy. In the Second World War, American GIs used candy bars to spread goodwill. Sometimes, candy bars were exchanged for information the American military needed.

M&Ms® were first invented in 1942. When the candy first came out, the pieces were larger than today's M&Ms. There was only one color, brown. Eventually, M&Ms came in a variety of colors, including sky blue. They didn't have Ms on them until the 1950s. "M&Ms melt in your mouth and not in your hand" because air is injected into the chocolate to give it room to expand when it melts. In addition, the candy coating is produced to be expandable so it does not crack as the chocolate underneath expands.

The Baby Ruth® candy bar is another well-known chocolate candy. It is a misconception that it was named for George "Babe" Ruth, the baseball player. Actually, the candy was named for President Grover Cleveland's infant daughter, Ruth.

Chocolate is not the only legendary candy. Life Savers® is another. Candy maker Clarence Crane decided to produce a line of hard mint candies to supplement his chocolate products. Crane didn't have room on his assembly line to make mints so he found a pill manufacturer to produce the mints for him. The pill manufacturer's production equipment was faulty and kept stamping a hole in each mint. When Crane

