

# The History of Props: A Timeline of Props and Product Usage

Assembled by [R. Finkelstein](#) for the serious Theatre/ Film / TV Designer/Art Director.  
Last page update was on: August 24, 2006. If you find this page of use I'd love to hear from you!  
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**Important research tip: Use your browser's "Find on Page" (under "edit") feature to look up specific products or years!**

[[ARTSLYNX INTERNATIONAL THEATRE RESOURCES](#)]

Note that many resources dealing with props research may be found elsewhere on Artslynx. For instance, picture collections (many digital) can be found on the [Artslynx Dramaturgy Pages](#).

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## Prop Usage Chronology

**Important Search HINT** ...Use your browser's *find on page* feature to quickly locate a specific entry on this page. Otherwise browse by category above and below

### Adhesives

- 1921 - School Paste, H.B. Fuller 369 School Paste
- 1930 - Richard Drew develops Scotch Tape
- 1939 - Epoxy (patent date) 1946 product on the market as an adhesive
- 1947 - Elmer's Glue-All (first marketed as Cascorez Glue) (Elmer was the "spouse" of Borden cow, Elsie!
- 1958 - Super Glue (development)

### Advertising Related

- [Beer Tray](#) - 1890s (great collection)
- Charlie the Tuna - 1961
- Clara Peller: "Where's the Beef" - 1/10/1984 (premiere of the campaign)
- GE Classic Logo - 1898
- Joe DiMaggio speaks for Mr. Coffee - 1974
- milk mustache advertising campaign - 1995
- Promotional Products Industry - 1881
- Promotional Art Calendar - 1888
- Tony the Tiger for Kellogg's - 1941
- Trademarks, First - 1870
- When you're out of Schlitz, you're out of beer - 1967

### Amusements, Amusement Parks, & Rides:

- Boardwalk, first US - 1870 (Atlantic City)
- [Coney Island](#) Boardwalk - 1923
- [Coney Island](#) - Luna Park - 1903
- [Coney Island](#) Steeplechase - 1897 (2nd park opens 1907)
- Disneyland - 1955

- Ferris Wheel - 1893 (June 21)
- [Las Vegas Timeline](#)
- Photobooth - 1946 (invention) 1958 (marketed)
- [Roller Coaster](#) - 1884

### **Agricultural:**

- Barbed Wire - 1867 (widespread use by 1890)

### **Architecture and Architectural Elements:**

- Concrete High rise - 1903 (first built)
- Revolving Door - 1888
- Skyscraper 1883 (Home Insurance Company of Chicago)

### **Art Supplies:** *see also* [[paper](#)] [[paint](#)] [[toys](#)] [[color](#)]

- Acrylic Paint - 1964
- Crayons, [Crayola](#)
  - 1903 - 8 colors with the origin of Crayola
  - 1949 - 48 colors
  - 1958 - 64 colors
  - 1962 - "flesh" renamed "Peach"
  - 1972 - 72 (with the addition of fluorescent colors)
  - 1990 - 80 colors
  - 1993 - 96 colors
  - 1998 - 120 colors
- Day-Glo® Colors - Invented in the 1930s but popularized in the 1960s
- Magic Marker - 1952 (the original ones were refillable!)
- [Oil Pastel](#) - 1925

### **Astronomy**

- 1781 - Uranus discovered by Sir William Herschel
- 1846 - Neptune
- 1930 - Pluto (named by an 11 year-old girl!)

### **Batteries**

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- Battery Invention Date - 1799
- Eveready AA Batteries - 1957
- D-Cell - 1898
- 9-volt - 1956
- Watch Battery - 1954 (Invention)

### **Beauty and Cosmetics:** *see also* [personal hygiene]

- Antiperspirants:
  - 1888 - Mum deodorant
  - 1902 - Everdry
  - 1908 - Hush
  - 1914 - Odo-Ro-No
  - 1952 - Roll-on deodorants

- 1965 - Aerosol deodorants
- Bobby Pin - 1916
- Chanel No. 5 - 1921
- Cotton Swabs - 1920s
- Electric Hair Dryer - 1890 (origin)
- [Electric Hair Dryer History Pages](#) - Extensive visual collection
- Jergens Lotion - 1880
- Lipstick - 1915 (US manufacture in tube)
- Mascara and Colored Powder (Helena Rubinstein) - 1917
- Max Factor Makeup - 1920s (era of starting popularity)
- Permanent Wave - 1927



### Beverage & Drinking Related History:

- 7UP - 1928
- Absinthe ~1790
- Aluminum Can - 1958-9
- Beer - [Beer Timetable](#)
  - 1553 - Beck's
  - 1786 - Molson
  - 1810 - Oktoberfest
  - 1847 - Labatt Beer
  - 1876 - Budweiser (later becomes the 1st national brand)
  - 1876 - Beer pasteurization
  - 1904 - Lone Star Beer
  - 1933 - beer prohibition ends (4/7)
  - 1935 - Beer Can (Kreugers)
  - 1935 - Cone Top Beer Cans - [Incredible Picture Archive](#)
  - 1935 - Vaughan Novelty Company introduces the still common one piece bottle opener/can top piercer combination
  - 1939 - First "No Deposit, No Return, Not To Be Refilled " bottle
  - 1962 - Iron City Beer uses the "Tab Top Opener" (called a "tear tab" - banned in mid 1970s)
  - 1963 - Beer Keg, stainless steel
  - 1963 - Pop-top cans (detachable)
  - 1963 - Soft Top Aluminum Cans
  - 1975 - Sta Tab, pop top cans marketed. The tab doesn't detach
  - 1984 - Twist-Off Cap introduced by Labatt
- [Beer Tray](#) - 1890s (great collection)
- Bottle Caps:
  - 1856 - Cork disk attached screw cap (another source cites 1889)
  - 1875 - Wire attached mechanical cap (used till about 1915)
  - 1892 - [Crown cork](#) invented by William Painter. Cork liners used until replaced by plastic in the mid 1960s
  - 1936 - ROPP Aluminum Cap (Roll-on Pilfer Proof)
  - c1966 - Twist-off Crown Cap
- Bottle Openers:
  - Wall Mount: 1925 ?
- Carbonated Water - 1767
- Canada Dry - 1907 (Invention of Ginger Ale - 1904)
- Champaign (Don Perignon) - 8/4/1693
- [Coca Cola History](#) - *Includes illustrations and slogans through history*
  - Coca Cola - 1886
  - Coca Cola, Classical Bottle - 1915 (patent date)

- Coca Cola Six Pack - 1923
- [Coca Cola in Cans](#) - 1960 (first regular production) and Coke Can History 1967, Coke cans go Aluminum
- Coffee - [Nice Timeline of coffee and coffee house history](#)
  - Coffee Creamer - 1952 (Pream)
  - Coffee Pot - 1803
  - Drip Coffee Maker Invention - 1908
  - Espresso - originated in 1822
  - Freeze-dried - developed in 1938
  - Instant coffee mass marketing - 1906
  - Percolator - Late 1865
  - Sanka - 1903
  - Silex Pyrex ® drip coffee pot - 1915
  - Mr. Coffee - 1972
  - first vacuum packed coffee - 1900 (Hills)
- Cognac - 1750
- Color Labels - 1934
- Coca Cola
  - Coke - First use as a brand name - 1941
  - Coke Can - 1960
  - [Coca Cola advertising in Brazil](#) - *lots of images*
- [Cork Screws](#):
  - 1882 Single lever classic design (patent)
  - 1888 Double Lever (British Patent)
  - 1900 Combo cork screw / bottle opener (patent)
  - 1930 Double Lever (US Patent)
- Crown Bottle Cork (Cap) - 1892
- Diet Drinks - 1952 First Diet Cola - 1959
- Dr. Pepper - 1885 (invention) 1888 (sale in bottles)
- Drink Mixers:
  - Hamilton Beech - 1911
- Drinking Fountain, sanitary - 1909
- Fanta - 1958
- Gin and Tonic - 1852
- Ginger Ale - 1861
- Glass Blowing Machine - 1899
- Ice Cubes
  - 1950 - Ice Cube Tray with Lever Ejector Mechanism (patent application date) Arthur J. Frei
- [Kool -Aid®](#) - 1927 (originally spelled Kool-Ade. Non concentrate called, Fruit Smack) [Kool -Aid®](#) Pitcher - 1954
- [Malted Milkshake](#) - 1922 (Walgreens - Ivar Coulson)
- Milk & Milk Bottles Bottles: 1880-1900
  - Ads on Milk Bottles - 1920s
  - Condensed milk patented - 1856 (Gail Borden)
  - Milk tank trucks - 1914
  - Milk vending machines - 1950
  - [Paper Milk Carton](#) - 1906-8 (introduction in San Francisco)
  - [Paper Milk Carton](#), Folded - 1915 (patent date) Marketed in the 1930s
  - [Paper Milk Carton with pour spout](#) - c. 1950
  - Plastic coated milk carton - 1953
  - Plastic containers - 1964
- Mixed Drinks
  - 1860 - Martini (first spelled: Martinez)
  - 1900s - Cocktail Shaker

- 1907 ? - Cocktail (Martini) glass
- 1930s - Bloody Mary
- 1948 - Margarita, named for Margarita Sames
- Moxie (soft drink) 1885
- Nehi - 1924
- Orange Crush - 1906
- [Pepsi Cola](#)
  - 1898 - Date of first sales
  - 1903 - Trademark Registered
  - 1934 - 12oz bottle
  - 1964 - Diet Pepsi
  - 1970 - Pepsi is first to introduce the 2-liter bottle
- Pilsner Glass - 1842
- Plastic Soft Drink Bottles - 1970 PET (current plastic) bottles - 1991
- Pull Tabs - 1962 Stay on Tabs - 1974
- Root Beer, Hires - 1876 (first concocted 1869)
- Royal Crown Cola - 1934
- Schwepps - 1794
- Soda Fountain - First Patents 1819, 1870 (Front Service Soda Fountain - 1903)
- [Soda Glasses](#) - Great collection of images
- [Soda pop in a can, first](#) - 1936 (see the picture with the link)
- Soda Water - 1807 (Townsend Speakman of Philadelphia)
- Soft Drink Invention - 1897 (1832 - era of popularity begins)
- Sprite - 1961
- Tea - [Nice Tea History Site](#)
  - [Afternoon Tea](#) - 1840s (Interesting history)
  - Iced Tea - 1904
  - Iced Tea, Instant - 1953
  - Tea Bag - 1908 (invention). Era of greatest popularity came after WWII around 1920
  - [Tea Dance](#) - 1819
  - Tea Kettle, whistling - 1921 (Joseph Block)
- [Vending Machines, Soda](#) - Massive collection of images
- Vending Machines for Cans - 1965
- Water, Bottled
  - 1820 - Saratoga Springs bottled water
- Water Fountains:
  - [Kohler Bubbler](#) - 1888 (invention)
  - Water Cooler - 1911 electric refrigerated version

See also:

- [History of Pop Timeline](#)
- [Huge Food Product Timeline](#) - If not on my list, it may be here.

**Broadcasting and Recording** see also [[phonographs/records](#)] [[Radio/TV](#)]

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- BBC - 1922
- Cable TV 1948 (developed)
- CBS - 1927
- Color TV, Regular broadcasts in the US - 1954
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting - 1967
- First TV Commercial - 1941 (Bulova Watch)
- FM, Regular Broadcasts begin - 1940
- CNN - 1980

- Infomercials - 1984
- Instant Replay - 12/4/1963 (Army-Navy Football Game)
- *Lone Ranger* Radio Show - 1930
- Microphones
  - Ribbon microphone era - 1923
  - [Historical Microphone Images](#) - Incredible collection! ★★
- MTV - 8/1/1981
- NBC - 1926
- PBS - 1969
- [Radio Advertising Timeline](#)
- Radio Broadcast, First Regular (KDKA, Pittsburgh) - 1920
- Radio Drama, First - 1922
- *Roots* - 1977
- TV Broadcasts, First Regular (from Schenectady) - 1928
- Viewer Discretion Warning, First - 9/13/1977 (*Soap*)
- Weather Channel - 1982

See Also:

- [Broadcast History Timeline](#) ★
- [Television History](#)

### Building & Construction Products:



see also [[Home Decoration](#)]

- Chain Link:
  - [Woven wire](#), a precursor developed in 1907 by Western Wire Products
- Concrete - [An External Timeline](#) and [another timeline](#)
- Concrete Block - 1900 starts to be common
- Geodesic Dome - 1954
- Glass Block - 1935 (Corning-Steuben block)
- Hardhat - 1919
- Oriented Strand Board - 1949 (invention) 1965 (patent) 1978 (use)
- Portland Cement Invention - 1824
- Reinforced Concrete - 1889 (first use in a bridge)
- [Scaffolding](#): also . . . [Great Scaffolding Reference](#)
  - Tubular Scaffolding proposed - 1896
  - Tubular Scaffolding systems standardized by around 1911
  - Tubular Scaffolding popular by 1920
  - Timber scaffolding popularity diminishes - 1927
- Sheet Rock (Gypsum Board) - 1901 (1st mill in the US)
- Styrofoam brand (DOW) - 1944

### Cleaning:

- Bon Ami - 1886
- Borax - discovered in California in 1856
- Brillo® Pads - 1913 (also listed as 1915)
- [Clorox](#) - 1914 (commercial) 1916-18 (household)
- Detergent - 1890s (as contrasted with "soap")
- Dial Soap - 1948 "Aren't You Glad You Used Dial" - 1953
- Dry Cleaning - 1849 (discovery)

- Ivory Soap - 1878-9
- Laundromat - 1934 (The Washeteria in Texas)
- Liquid Soap - 1865 (1st patent) 1980 - Modern liquid soap for hand washing
- Mop, classic industrial string variety - 1893 (Thomas Stewart)
- Purex bleach - 1922
- [S.O.S Pads](#) - 1917 (note no period at the end. read the story at the link)
- Swan Soap - 1940
- Tide - 1946
- Vacuum Cleaner - 1869 ([Electric Vacuum cleaner invented in 1907](#))

**Cloth & Sewing and Clothing Invention Related:** see also [Fashion] [Materials]

- Asbestos Fabric bans begin - 1972
- Buckram - 1860
- Calico - 1498 (first imported from Calicut, India)
- Dacron® - 1950 (introduced in 1955)
- Duffel - the fabric came originally from Duffel Belgium
- [Dye History Timeline](#)
- Electric Flat Iron - 1882 (Invention) 1912 is another date cited
- [Fashion Fad Chronology](#)
- Gauze - named for it's place of origin, in Gaza
- Gore-Tex Fabric - 1976 developed by W. L. Gore
- Jacquard Loom - 1801
- Kevlar® - 1965 (or 1971) First vests: 1975
- Kodol Polyester Fabric - 1968
- Lycra® - 1958 (AKA Spandex)
- Madras - Named for the city of the same name in India
- Nylon - 1930 (Invention) also dated to 1928 (the word was coined though in 1938)
- Nylon Stockings -
  - 1938-9 Invention
  - May 15, 1940 - First public sales
  - Did not become popular till after WWII)
- Oilcloth - Invented around 1627
- Organdy - 1835 (Named from Urgandi, Turkestan)
- Patent Leather - 1818
- Pinking shears - 1893 (patent date)
- Polyester (patent date) - 1942
- Rayon - (started its life as "artificial silk")
  - 1891-4 - Discovery
  - 1905 - Marketing
  - 1924 - Rayon was adopted as a new word on May 23rd by the National Retail Drygoods Association)
- Scotchgard™ - 1956
- [Safety Pin](#) - 1849 (patent date)
- Sewing Machines:
  - 1845 - Howe's version
  - 1851 - Singer's version
- Sewing Patterns
  - 1836 - [Ebenezer Butterick](#) of Massachusetts develops the graded (or multi-size) tissue-paper pattern.
- Tweed - Takes its name from the Tweed River in Southern Scotland
- Velcro - 1948 (invention) (perfected by 1956-7) Invented by Georges de Mestral
- [Vinyl coated waterproof fabrics](#) - 1931 (commercial introduction)
- Zipper - 1905



## Colors and Pigments [\[Reference Website\]](#) [\[Timeline of Color Systems\]](#)

- Cadmium Yellow - 1819
- Cadmium Red - 1909
- Cerulean Blue - 1870
- Cobalt Violet - 1860
- Emerald Green - 1788
- Magenta - 1859 (named for the Battle of Magenta)
- Mauve - 1856 (discovered by William Perkin)
- Phthalocyanine (Phthalo) Green - 1927
- Phthalocyanine Blue - 1928
- Prussian Blue - 1724
- Sepia - Latin for Cuttlefish, from whence the original dye derived
- Ultramarine Blue - 1824

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## Commerce, Money, and Sales:

- 1040 form - 1913
- American Express travelers checks - 1891
- ATM Machines - 1969 (first use) Started to become visible in the mid 1970s
- [Bar Codes](#) UPC
  - 1948 - Invention
  - Patent - October 7, 1952
  - 1974 - Initial usage on store products. (Marsh's supermarket, Troy, Ohio / Wrigley's Gum)
- Burglar Alarm - 1858 (first use)
- Cash Register - 1879-1884
- Coupons - 1895
- Credit Card - 1951 (Diners' Club) Magnetic stripe added in 1971 Smart Card 1974
- [Department Stores](#) (Wonderful Article)
  - 1838 - Bon Marche store opens in Paris
  - 1887 - America's first Department Store (NY's H.H. Heyn's Department Store)
  - 1902 - Macy's NY Store
- [Grange Movement](#) - 1868 (Patrons of Husbandry)
- [Grocery Bag, Flat bottom](#) - 1870
- [Grocery Bag, Plastic](#) - 1977 (1982 in its current form)
- Grocery Store
  - 1859 - A&P
  - 1916 - Self Service [Piggly Wiggly](#)®, Memphis, Tennessee
    - Check-out stands
    - individual pricing
    - refrigerated cases
    - uniforms
- Kmart - 1977 (was Kresge)
- S.S. Kresge - 1899
- [Mail Order Catalog](#) (Montgomery Ward) - 1872
- [Odd-Price Sale](#) (\$8.99 etc.) - 1875 *It's not why you think!*
- [Paper Money](#) (US) 1862
- J C Penney - 1902 (JC = James Cash)
- [Piggy Bank](#) - 1500s
- Sears, Roebuck and Co - 1893
- Shopping Cart - 1936 (invention) 1947-50 (nesting carts)
- [Shopping Bag](#) - 1912 (gained popularity quickly)
- Shopping Center - 1922

- Shopping Mall, Enclosed - 1956
- Stock Ticker - 1870
- Target - 1961
- Trademarks, First registered in the US - 1870
- Trading stamps - 1896
  - S&H - 1951 (Denver's King Soopers)
- [Travelers Cheques](#) - 1891
- Vending Machines:
  - 1880s - Intro in Britain
  - 1887 - Gum machines introduced in New York (Tuti-Fruti)
  - 1907 - gumballs
  - 1926 - Cigarettes
  - 1950 - milk
  - 1965 - Cans of soda pop
  - [Vending Machines, Soda](#) - Massive collection of images
- [Walgreen's first store](#) - 1901
- Wal-Mart - 1962
- [Wooden Money](#) / Wooden Nickel - 1931
- Woolworth Store, first - 1879 (Utica, NY)
- ZIP Codes - 1963 (Zip+4 - 1983)



### Computer & Technology Related: (See also Radio...)

- [Adding Machine Gallery](#)
- Altair 8800 - 1975
- Amazon.com® - 1995
- America Online - 1989 (1985 as Quantum Computer Services)
- Apple I - 1976
- Apple II - 1977
- Apple Newton MessagePad - 1994
- ARPANET - 1969
- Atari Video Computer System - 1977
- AutoCAD - 1982
- BASIC - 1964
- BBS Software - 1978
- BlackBerry 850 Wireless Handheld - 1998
- Business Mainframe: General Electric installs the first full-scale computer system for a business in 1954
- Calculator, Pocket - 1972 (not too common until about 1974-5)
- Camcorders - 1983
- CD-R - 1991
- Colossus, first programmable digital computer - 1943
- Commodore 64 Computer - 1982
- Compact Disks for music introduced - 1983
- Compact Disks for Music outsell vinyl - 1988
- Computer Graphics - the phrase is coined in 1960
- Computer, the word for the machine - 1944
- Ctrl+Alt+Del - 1980
- Digital Computer, first (Atanasoff and Berry) 1942
- Domain Names - 1984
- Dongle ~1980
- DVD - Digital Versatile Disc - 1997 (Release)
- E-Mail, first - 1971 (Ray Tomlinson also used the @ symbol first) (also 1969 Leonard Kleinrock)

- [Emoticon](#) :-) - 1982 (September 19, 1982 - Carnegie Mellon U)
- ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) - 1946
- Eudora - 1988
- Fiber Optics - 1970
- Floppy Disk Drive, 8" - 1967
- Floppy Disk Drive, 5.25" - 1976
- Floppy Disk Drive, 3.5" - 1980
- Fortran - 1954
- Fractal Graphics - 1975
- Geodesic Dome - 1954
- GIF file format - 1987
- Gopher - 1991
- Intel
  - 1972 - 8008 (date of marketing)
  - 1978 - 8086
  - 1979 - 8088 (Basis of initial IBM PCs)
  - 1985 - 386
- HTML - 1991
- IBM Personal Computer - 1981
- IBM Selectric Ball Typewriter - 1961 (1973 - self correcting)
- iMAC - 1998
- iPod (Apple) - 2001
- Inkjet Printer - 1976 (HP Thinkjet introduced in 1984)
- Integrated circuit - 1959
- Internet invention - 1973 (not "the web") . . . by Al Gore :)
- LAN - 1981
- Laser - 1960
- Laser printer - 1975
- Light Emitting Diode, LED - 1961-2 (invention)
- Light Pen - 1955
- LISTSERV - 1986
- Long distance phone calls - 1884
- Macintosh Computer - January 24, 1984 (introduced to the public at a shareholder's meeting)
- Mass Production of Computers begins - 1954 (IBM 650)
- Microprocessor - 1971
- Microsoft - 1975 (intel) 1969 (US Navy)
- Mini-Disc - 1992
- [Mouse](#) - 1968 (invention)
- MP3 Player - 1998
- MS-DOS - 1981
- Nintendo Game Boy - 1989
- Osborne Portable Computer - 1981
- [Palm Pilot](#) - 1994
- PalmPilot 1000 - 1996
- Personal Computer - 1976
- Photo CD, Kodak - 1990
- Playstation 2 - 2000
- Prodigy - 1988
- Punched Card, IBM 80 Column - 1928
- Speak & Spell (Texas Instruments) - 1978
- Super Computer 1976
- Surfing the Internet (as a phrase) - 1992
- Timex/Sinclair 1000 - 1982
- TiVo HDR110 - 1999
- Touch Screen - 1982

- Transistor - 1947-8
- *Tron* - 1980
- TRS 80 - 1979
- TRS-80 Model 100 - 1983
- Univac I - 1951
- UNIX - 1983
- VGA - 1987
- Virus, Computer - 1983 (Fred Cohen)
- VisiCalc - 1979
- Walkman TPS-L2 (Sony) - 1979
- Windows 1.0 - 1984-5 *said to be stable, and user friendly*
- Windows 2.0 - 1987 *said now to be REALLY stable, user friendly*
- Windows 3.0 - 1990 *said now to be REALLY TRULY stable, user friendly, and plug & Play*
- Windows 95 - 1996 *said now to be REALLY TRULY POSITIVELY stable, user friendly, and plug & Play*
- World-Wide-Web - 1989
  - Mosaic browser (first graphic browser for the public) 1993
- Z3 - first to be controlled by software - 1941
- Zip Drive, Iomega - 1994, 1995

*See also:*

- [Chronology of Computers](#)
- [Timeline of Computer History](#)

**Cooking Utensils:** see also [Appliances] [Food] [Beverages]

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- Pots and Pans
  - Aluminum Cookware manufacture process invented - 1886 (Wear-Ever)
  - Porcelain cookware - 1788
  - Saugus Cast Iron Pot - 1642

**Doors:**

- Automatic Sliding Door - 1960

**Fads & Trends:**

- Bauhaus: 1919-1933
- Flamingo lawn ornament - 1957
- Metrification in the US - 1973 (posting of metric distances on I71 in Ohio)
- [Panty Raids](#) - 1952
- [Streaking](#) - 1974
- Emil Coué: "Every day in every way I am getting better and better," Self-help fad - 1926
- Mah Jong - 1922-23 fad begins in the US
- Mendelssohn's Wedding March - 1858
- Streaking - 1973
- Woodstock - 1969

**Fashion:**

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- Attached Collar (Arrow Shirt and Van Heusen) 1921
- Baseball Cap - 1876
- [Bikini](#) - 1946

- [Blue Jeans](#) - 1873
  - Bloomers - Named for but not invented by Amelia Jenks Bloomer
  - Brassiere -
    - 1910 - first US Patent
    - 1913 - "invention" by Mary Phelps Jacob
    - 1923 - Maidenform Bra introduced by Ida Rosenthal
    - 1977 - Sports Bra - 1977
  - Derby - 1780
  - Fedora - 1882
  - Flip flops - 1940s
  - Nylon Stockings go on sale - May 15, 1940
  - Panama Hat - 1914
  - Pantyhose - 1959
  - Paper Dress - 1966
  - Shoes
    - 
    - Hush Puppies - 1958
    - U.S. Keds - 1916
    - Converse Basketball Shoes - 1916
    - Nike - 1972
    - Rubber Soles - 1892
    - Saddle Shoes first created - 1906
  - Stetson - 1860s
  - Stonewashed Jeans - 1984
  - T-shirt marketed by Hanes - 1930 (used earlier by the Navy)
  - Top Hat - January 15, 1797
  - Tuxedo - 1886 (named for Tuxedo Park, NY)
  - Twiggy - 1966
  - Umbrellas
    - Modern collapsible metal ribbed design - 1852
    - in Common use by women - by 1720
    - [Use by men](#) - 1750
- See also:
- [Illustrated Umbrella History Article](#)
- Underoos - 1978
  - Yves Saint Laurent - 1958

**Fast Food & Restaurants:** see also [\[Food\]](#)

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- 7-Eleven - 1964 (Long Island)
- Arbys - 1964 (Boardman, Ohio)
- [Automat](#), Horn & Hardart - 1902
- Burger Chef - 1954
- Burger King - 1954
- Chuckwagon invention - 1866
- Diners
  - [Lots of Exterior Photos from around the USA](#)
  - [American Diner Museum](#) - Includes a nice interior painting
- Drive-In, first - June 6, 1933, Camden, NJ
- Dunkin' Donuts - 1950
- KFC - 1939 (Franchises start around 1952)
- McDonalds - 1948 (sold Hotdogs) - Roy Crock joined in 1954 - Big Mack: 1968
  - Egg McMuffin (national distribution) 1975 (First introduced in 1973)

- [Menus](#) - ★★ 1st was in 1765, Boulanger's Restaurant, Paris
- Pizza Hut - 1958 founding in Wichita, Kansas
- Starbucks - 1971 (founding)
- White Castle - 1916

### Flags and Banners:

- [American Flag Timeline](#)

### Food and Cooking, and Eating: see also [[Fast Food](#)]



- 3 Musketeers Bar - 1932
- Animal Crackers - Barnum's Animals - 1902 (origination generically 1890s)
- [Army Food](#) - Extensive Article ★★★
- [Baby Formula](#) - 1867
- Baby Ruth candy bar - 1920
- Baggies - 1957
- Betty Crocker - 1921
- Bread, spliced - 1928 (bread slicing machine invented in 1927)
- Bubble Yum - 1975
- [Buffalo Wings](#) - 1964 (Anchor Bar, Buffalo, NY)
- [C-Rations, Military](#) - 1939 (K-Rations - 1942)
- Cafeteria - 1849 (an outgrowth of the California gold rush)
- [Campbell's Soup](#) (this website lists the introductory dates of specific soups)
  - 1869 - Company Founded (under a slightly different name)
  - 1897 - Condensed Soup
- Canned Food 1813 (1825 is another date cited)
- Can Openers - 1858 (Ezra Warner) (see [[Household Appliances](#)] for the Electric versions)
  - 1925 - "modern" hand operated opener
  - 1935 - Vaughn Quick & Easy Opener (the kind of opener that punctures a spout for pouring)
  - 1942 - [P-38 Can Opener](#) for C-Rations - 1942
- [Candy Canes](#) - Although developed much earlier, automated manufacture and proper packing came in the 1950s
- [Candy Corn](#) - 1880s
- [Candy Hearts](#) - 1900
- Canola Oil - Marketed first in 1974 under a different name but even then, Caola is a variety of Rapeseed whose use goes back thousands of years.
- Cheerios - 1941 (first called Cheerioats)
- Cheese, Kraft patent on Processed Cheese - 1916
- Cheeseburger - Registered as a trade name in Denver in 1935
- Cheetos - 1987
- Chewing Gum - 1845
- Chili Powder - 1802
- Chocolate Bar - 1847 (Britain)
- Chocolate Chip Cookies - 1924 (also listed as 1930)
- Chop Suey - 1888 (first use in print)
- Chuckles - 1921
- Cookbook, 1st American - 1796
- Cook-In Bags - 1983
- Corelle LivingWare - 1970
- Corn Flake - Kellogg Company Founding - 1906 (Invention: 1894)
- [Cotton Candy](#) - 1899 & 1900 (machine patent date)

- Cracker Jack - 1893 (1908 *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*)
- Cupcake - 1828
- [Dixie Cups](#) - 1900 (or 1906)
- Donut - 1847
- Drinking Straw - 1888 (patent issued)
- Drive-In Restaurant (first) - 1936
- Dry Ice - 1925
- [Eskimo Pie](#) - 1920 (marketed as *I-Scream Bars*)
- Fanny Farmer® Candy Shop - 1919
- Fanny Farmer's Boston Cooking School Cook Book - 1896 (Cooking as a science as well as an art)
- Fannie May® Candy Shop - 1920 (Chicago)
- Fig Newtons - 1892
- Fish Sticks - 1952
- Fork - 1608-11 (introduction in England)
- Fortune Cookie - 1918 (David Jung)
- Frankfurter - 1484
- French Fry - Introduced to the US in the time of Jefferson (not the phrase though which is likely from the 1920s)
- french-fried potatoes - 1894 (phrase origin)
- Frozen Food - 1923 (Clarence Birdseye)
- Frozen Peas Marketed - 1952
- Gatorade - 1965-7
- [Girl Scout Cookies](#) - 1917
- [Good & Plenty](#) - 1893 "the oldest branded candy in the United States."
- Graham Cracker - 1829 (Sylvester Graham)
- [Gum](#), Chewing
  - 1848 - Spruce Gum sold
  - 1893 - Wrigley's Juicy Fruit and Spearmint gum
  - 1914 - Wrigley's Doublemint
  - 1928 - Bubble Gum, Pink (Fleer's Dubble Bubble)
  - 1954 - Bazooka Joe comic
  - 1899 - Dentyne
  - 1907 - Gumballs
  - 1949 - Bubble Gum Cigars
- [Gummi Bear](#) - 1922
- Hamburger
  - 1884 - Hamburg steak
  - 1902 - 1st recorded use of the word hamburger
  - 1930s - Double Hamburger (Big Boy)
- Hamburger,
- Heinz Company - 1869
- Hershey's Chocolate Bar - 1894, 1900
- Hershey's Kisses - 1906
- Hotdog on a Bun - 1904 ?
- Hot Dog, the phrase - 1906 (Tad Dorgan)
- Ice Cream Products
  - 1559 - Origin of Ice Cream
  - 1786 - 1st Commercial Ice Cream in the US (Mr. Hall)
  - 1874 - Ice Cream Soda (Robert Green)
  - 1896 - Ice Cream Cone - (also reported as 1904)
  - 1920s - Ice Cream in cups
  - 1920 - Ice Cream on a stick
  - 1920 - Eskimo Pie
- [Jell-O](#) - 1897 (Gelatin deserts made their debut in 1845)

- Jiffy Pop - 1959
- K-Rations - 1942 (named for Ancel Keys)
- Ketchup (Heinz brand) - 1876 (Catsup - China 1690)
- [Krispy Kreme](#) - 1937
- Life Cereal - 1961
- [Life Savers](#) - 1912
- [Lollypop machine](#) - 1908
- [Kit Kat Wafer Bar](#) - 1931
- Lolli Pop Machine - 1916
- Lunch Boxes, Pails, etc:
  - 1930s - 1st use
  - 1935 - 1st licensed character theme
  - 1959 - Vinyl, first use
- Lunch Cart, First - 1872
- M & Ms - 1941
- [Macadamia Nuts](#) <sup>TM</sup> 1956 - First commercial crop raised in Hawaii
- Mashed Potatoes, Instant - 1962
- Mason Jar (John Landis Mason) - 1858
- [Meals Ready to Eat](#) - MRE - 1980 (first regular use by the armed services)
- Melba Toast - 1892
- Microwave Popcorn
  - Pop Secret - 1987
- Milk Bottle introduced by The Echo Farms Dairy Co. of New York - 1879
- Milk Carton Invention - 1932 & 1954 (wax coated) & 1958 (polyethylene coated)
- Milk Duds - 1926
- MoonPie® - 1917
- [Mr. Goodbar](#) - 1925
- Nathan's Franks - 1913
- NECCO wafers - 1901 ( New England Confectionery Company)
- Nondairy Creamer - 1961
- Oreo Cookie - 1912 (March 6)
- Orville Redenbacher's Gourmet Popping Corn - 1970
- Pablum - 1930
- Paper Cup - 1908
- Paper Napkins - 1930s
- [Paper Towel](#) developed by Kimberly-Clark- 1907 Popularity by 1931
- Parafin - 1859
- [Pay Day Candy Bar](#) - 1932
- Peanut Bar - 1905 (Squirrel Brand)
- Peanut butter - 1890-1
- [Peter Paul Candy](#)
  - 1919 - Company founding with "Konabar"
  - 1920 - Mounds Candy Bar
  - 1946 - Almond Joy
- [Pez](#) - 1927 - but the dispenser was introduced in 1948
- Pineapple discovered by Columbus - 1493 (*although it was the people of the West Indies who actually discovered Christopher Columbus on their island!*)
- Pizza [Pizza Packaging History](#)
  - 1889 - origin of the modern pizza
  - 1905 - first pizzeria in the US though the word is not used in the US until 1943
  - 1935 - first recorded use of the word in the US
  - 1950s - era of popularity in the US
- [Planters Peanuts](#) - 1906 Mr. Peanut - 1916
- [Plastic Bag Chronology](#)
- Bead molded polystyrene cups - 1960s



- Popcorn, Jolly Time - 1925 (popcorn sales boosted during wartime)
- Popcorn Machine Invention - 1885
- [Popsicle](#) - 1905 (first called "Epsicle". Renamed in 1923)
- Potato Chip - 1853 (popular in the 1920s)
- Potato Chip Bag - 1926 (wax paper ironed shut!)
- [Ranch Dressing](#) - 1950s
- [Ration Book, WW II](#) - Images
- Reeses Peanut Butter Cups - 1928
- [Restaurant, 1st name brand](#) - 1765 Boulanger in France
- Rice Krispies - 1929
- Rica-A-Rony - 1958
- Root Beer - 1876 (mass production)
- Saccharin - 1879
- [Salt Water Taffy](#) - 1883 (greatest popularity came in the 1920s)
- Saran Wrap - 1953 (invented in 1933)
- Sliced Bread - 1928
- Snickers Bar - 1930
- Soy Milk - 1987
- Spam - 1936
- Spork (fork/spoon) - 1970 (patent issuance)
- Stainless Steel Dinnerware - 1921
- Stovetop Stuffing - 1972
- [Sugar Cube](#) invention - 1841
- Sugar Pops - 1951
- [Table Manners, History of](#)
- Tater Tots - 1958
- Thermos
  - 1892 - Invented by Dewar of Dewar Flask fame
  - 1904 - Commercial introduction under the Thermos name
  - 1907 - Introduced in the US
  - 1911 - era of popularity comes with machine blown glass inserts
- Tin Can
  - 1810 - British patent
  - 1825 - US Patent
- Tomatoes Ruled Non-Poisonous - 1830
- Toothpick -
  - 1872 - Patent for manufacture machinery by Silas Noble and J.P. Cooley
  - 1887 - First American Toothpick Factory, Charles Foster
  - 2003 - April 29, 2003: Date the last toothpick is produced at Charles Foster's Maine plant
- [Tootsie Rolls](#) - 1896 - Named from inventor Leo Herschfield's daughter Clara whose nickname was Tootsie
- Tootsie Roll Pops - 1931
- [Turkeys exported to Europe](#) - 1523
- [TV Dinner](#) - 1953-4 developed by Swanson. First was turkey
- Weight Watchers founded as an organization - 1961
- [Wheaties](#) - 1921
- Whitman's Box of Chocolate - 1854 (Sampler box - 1912)
- [Twinkies](#) - 1933

Need more info? Check out [The Food Timeline](#)  VERY extensive

**Furniture**

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- Beds
  - Inner spring mattresses and box springs - 1940s on (era of popularity)
  - Murphy Bed - 1900
- Bentwood Origins - 1876
- Chairs:
  - Beanbag - 1968
  - Cantilever chair - 1929
  - Inflatable - 1967
  - [La-Z-Boy](#) - 1927 (founding) 1929 (first upholstered recliner)
  - Plastic, First design to be introduced - 1951
  - [Rocking Chair History and Image Collection](#) - Wonderful ★★
  - Vienna Bentwood Café chair No. 14 - 1859
  - Wire Mesh Shell Seat - 1952
- Sofas, Settles, and the like:
  - Gustav Stickley Design - 1909 (Arts and Craft Mission Style Classic)
- Styles:
  - Modern Living Style by Russell Wright - 1935
- Tables:
  - Coffee Table - 1920s
  - Formica top - 1939 (first use) (see Formica under materials too)
    - Skylark or Boomerang motif 1954 Raymond Loewy from a 1950 design by Brooks Stevens



**Home Decoration:** see also [Furniture] [Paint] [Materials]

- Asphalt Tile - 1920s (most popular floor tile in the 1950s)
- Con-Tact paper introduced - 1953
- Cork Floor - 1904 first use
  - Cork Floors - 1920s Era of greatest popularity (1930s in homes)
- Glass Mirror - c1300 (earlier ones were polished metal)
- Linoleum Floors
  - Linoleum Invented in England in 1860 (first British plant, 1863) (First US plant: 1872)
  - Inlaid Linoleum - 1882-92 (latter date is when the process is automated)
  - Armstrong Linoleum floors - 1908
- Pressed Metal Ceilings - 1880s (1890-1930 greatest popularity)
- Rubber Flooring - 1894
- Venetian Blinds - 1841 patent (modern mechanism) First US blinds: 1761 1930s is era of popularity with 2" slats
- Plastic Flowers - 1955
- Vinyl Flooring - Late 1940s

See also this graphical timeline of [Furniture History Periods](#)

## Hardware

- Phillips Head Screw - 1930s
- Robertson Screw - 1908

## Holiday and Social Stuff

- April Fool's Day - 1564, France
- [Candy Canes](#) - 1670

- Christmas as a business holiday - 1850s
- Christmas Cards - 1842 (first commercial publication)
- [Christmas Cards](#) - c. 1918 (start of popularity)
- Christmas Tree Related:
  - [Christmas Trees](#) - 1848 (popularity begins in Britain)
  - [Christmas Tree Lights](#) - 1920s became popular
  - *A Charlie Brown Christmas* - 1965
  - Aluminum Christmas Tree - Introduced, Christmas 1959 (popularity 1960-65)
  - American Made Glass Ornaments - 1871
  - [Metal Tree Stand Patent](#) - 1876
  - [Flocked \(with flour\) tree fashion](#) - 1883
  - [Christmas Tree Ornaments, machine blown glass from Corning](#) - 1939
  - Tinsel - 1870s (Invented in Germany, from real silver, c1610)
  - [Artificial Trees](#) - 1913 (Sears)
- Father's Day
  - 1910 - First proclaimed in Washington State
  - 1943 - Recorded in print
  - 1956 - Congressional Recognition
- Hallmark Cards - 1910
- Happy Birthday to You (song)
  - 1893 - music w/ song title "Good Morning to All"
  - 1924 - March 4, published with new lyric "Happy Birthday Dear \_\_\_\_"
  - 1933 - Common singing as "Happy Birthday to You"
  - 1934 - Sung in the Broadway show, *As Thousands Cheer*, kicking off copyright enforcement tradition.
  - 2010 - Supposedly the song finally falls into public domain at some point in this year!
- Jingle Bells - 1857
- Kwanzaa - 1966
- [Macy's Holiday Windows](#) - 1870s
- Miss America - 1920
- Mother's Day - 1908 (1914 congressional recognition made it a national holiday)
- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
  - 1939 - pamphlet for Montgomery Wards
  - 1949 - Gene Autry recording
- Santa Claus
  - Thomas Nast Depiction - 1863 on
  - [Coca Cola - Haddon Sundblom depiction](#) - 1931
  - [Department Store Santas](#) - 1840s origin

See also:

[An American Christmas, Decade by Decade](#) ★★ ★ GREAT site, explains in detail dressing of Christmas trees era by era!

- Times Square New Years Ball, First drop of - 1/1/1908

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## Household Supplies & Appliances

- Can opener
  - [Modern can opener](#) - 1870
  - Added serrated rotation wheel - 1925
  - Electric - 1931
- Coat Hanger - 1903 (cardboard tube added in 1935)

- Coffee Pots & Coffee Makers:
  - Coffee Pot invented - 1803
  - Silex Pyrex ® drip coffee pot - 1915
- Cuisinart - 1973
- [Dishwasher](#) - 1886 (invention date) (1914 - Household version)
- Doorbell
  - Electric - 1870s ? (the electric bell itself was said to have been invented in 1831)
  - Clockwork Mechanical: 1888 - New Departure Bell Company
  - [Victorian](#) - Company sells reproductions. Web is illustrated
- [Electric Air Conditioner](#) -
  - 1902 Invention by Carrier
  - 1906 Patent
  - 1907 Coining of the word
  - 1911 (invention) also dated to 1902
  - 1914 Carrier, (also listed as 1902-6)
  - 1916 First Theatre to be air conditioned (in a modern way) was The Empire Theatre in Montgomery, AL
  - 1928 First office building to be air conditioned:
- Electric Carving Knife - 1939 (invention)
- Electric Fans:
  - First - 1882
  - Classic Table Version - 1908
- Electric Room Heater - 1892
- Electric Stoves, Ovens and Ranges:
  - 1630 - metal range fired by coal
  - 1802 - cast iron, even-heating range with flue
  - 1860s - Gas ranges are popular
  - 1890s - Electric stoves appear
  - 1968 - the "counter that cooks"
- Electric Toaster - 1918 (Invention) 1919 (pop-up toaster)
- Electric Washing Machine - 1907 (Invention)
- [Fly Swatter](#) - 1905
- Fuller Brush - 1906
- Garbage Disposall - 1935 (General Electric)
- Gas Stove - 1825
- Iron
  - GE Electric Iron - 1904
  - Hotpoint Electric Iron - 1905 (actually had a "hot point")
  - Steam Iron - 1926
  - Collapsible Ironing Board - 1892
- Lawnmower
  - 1875 - first use of the word
  - 1919 - motorized by Edwin George
- Microwave Oven
  - 1946 patent)
  - 1947 Radarange (5' tall!)
  - 1955 Tappan home unit (huge and not popular)
  - 1967 Compact Home Radarange
- Microwave Oven sales exceed gas ranges - 1975
- Mr. Coffee - 1974
- Mixers/Blenders
  - Poplawski blender - 1922 (later Oster)
  - Model "K" KitchenAid - 1927 (design still around today)

- Waring Blendor (sic.) - 1936 (marketed in 1937)
- [Plastic Bag Chronology](#)
- Plastic Grocery Bags - 1977
- Plastic Buckets - 1967 (lids 1971-2)
- Refrigerator
  - 1803 - Ice Box Invented in Maryland by Thomas Moore who named his ice box "refrigerator"
  - 1916 - First electric refrigerator
  - 1918 - Kelvinator -(or 1914)
  - 1921 - Frigidaire
  - 1927 - Monitor Refrigerator - (compressor on top)
  - 1929 - First with no visible legs
  - 1939 - Dual temp. (Refrig/freezer combo)
- [Smoke Alarm](#) - 1969
- Toaster
  - First GE Model Electric - 1907 (exposed heating elements)
  - First Pop-Up Toaster, The [Toastermaster](#) - 1926
- [Tupperware](#) - 1945
- Water Softeners - 1924 (Culligan)
- Water Heater - 1889

## Judicial & Law Enforcement:

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- drawing & quartering - 1814 (abolishment in Britain)
- Electric Chair - 1889
- [Gas Chamber for execution after trial](#) - Feb 8, 1924 (San Quentin's was 1938)
- Getaway Car in Robbery - 1901 (first)
- [Handcuff, modern](#) - 1914 (Peerless®)
- [Gillotine](#) - 1792
- Lie Detector - 1921 (invention) 1924 (use) (earlier blood-pressure only version came in 1915 from William Moulton Marston, the creator of *Wonder Woman*)
- Police Car - 1922
- [Police Package](#) (car built specifically for police use) - 1950
- Police Car Lights
  - 1979 - single revolving beacon replaced

## Lighting: (more to come soon)

- Argand Burner Patent - 1784
- Candles:
  - 1834 - Machine candle making
- Christmas Lights
  - [First strings of tree lights marketed to the public](#) - 1903
- Electric
  - 1846 - Paris Opera uses arc light effects
  - 1859 - 1st home to be lit with electric incandescent lighting (LONG before Edison's supposed "invention")
  - 1879 - Edison's spectacular demonstrations
  - 1881 - Savoy Theatre lit by Electricity (not likely the first!)
- [Flashlight History](#) and an [amazing account of the first Eveready light!](#)
  - 1897 - First marketed flashlight (by Richard Finkelstein's research)
  - AAA Cell Mini Maglight - 1987
  - First Eveready Rechargeable flashlight - 1967
- Gaslight

- 1806 - Early Theatre Use (not necessarily on stage)
- 1810 - First US Patent
- 1820s - Era of popularity in theatres
- 1848 - White House lit with gas
- Gooseneck Lamp - 1928
- Limelight
  - 1856 - Possible 1st use in theatre (first demo was in 1825)
- Oil Lighting
  - 1854 - Patent of Kerosene
  - 1858 - 1st US Kerosene burner patent
- Theatre (see also listings above)
  - Gel - 1877 Brigham Sheet Gelatin Co. is founded
  - 1883 - First stage production photo
  - 1908 - Light Bridge unveiled by Maude Adams for Broadway use
  - 1911 - Klieglight (as a lighting unit)

#### Locks and Security:

- cylinder pin-tumbler lock, developed by Linus Yale 1861-65
- Yale Combination lock - c. 1862

#### Luggage, Cases, Trunks, etc.



- Brief Cases
  - 1965 - Samsonite's sleek Royal Traveller Attaché Case

#### Mail Service

- [Postal Service, US](#)
  - 1825 - Dead letter office
  - 1841 - C.O.D. (not a USPS service)
  - 1847 - Postage stamps
  - 1852 - Stamped envelopes
  - 1855 - Registered Mail
  - 1858 - Street letter boxes - Albert Potts
  - 1860 - Pony Express (or 1858)
  - 1870 - Postcards in Britain (see also 1898)
  - 1873 - Penny postal card
  - 1891 - [Modern street mailbox](#) (as we know it today) Philip B. Downing
  - 1898 - Private postcards authorized (US) (see also 1870)
  - 1902 - Rural free delivery, permanent
  - 1910 - 1st metered letter (December 10)
  - 1913 - Parcel post
  - 1913 - Collect-on-delivery
  - 1915 - Classic rural mailbox, tunnel shaped, hinged lid, red flag (Roy J. Joroleman)
  - 1918 - Airmail (begins first in England in 1911)
  - 1920 - Metered postage
  - 1920 - Transcontinental Air Mail Service
  - 1929 - Larger version of the 1915 Joroleman box approved.
  - 1942 - [V-mail](#) (lots of photos in the link)
  - 1943 - Postal zoning system in 124 major post offices
  - 1963 - ZIP Codes adopted (Invented by Robert A. Moon in 1944)
  - 1964 - Self-service post offices
  - 1974 - FedEx

- 1977 - USPS Express Mail, permanent
- 1983 - ZIP + 4
- Postcards - 1873 (Springfield Mass., Morgan Envelope Factory)

### Materials:

- Aluminum - 1812, discovered by Sir Humphrey Davy
- Asbestos bans begin - 1972
- [Plastics timeline and history](#) - *lots here*
- Plastics invented - 1862
- [Plastic Bag Chronology](#)
- Bakelite - 1907-1909 (invention)
- [Cellophane](#) - 1908 invention, 1919 marketing, 1927 Waterproof
- Celluloid™ - 1866
- Cellulose acetate - 1927
- Synthetic diamond - 1955
- Formica™
  - Company founding, 1913 (produces mostly industrial products)
  - Laminate manufacture - 1914
  - Popularity begins 1930s-40s
  - First table top - 1939
  - Popularity in homes - 1950s
  - Boomerang Pattern - 1950
  - VirrVarr pattern (like a jungle of random straight lines) - 1958
- Glass:
  - Fiberglass - 1938 Owens-Corning Fiberglas® Corporation (Pink Panther mascot - 1980)
  - [Fiberglass](#), Molded with polyester resin - 1953
  - Glassworks, first in the US - 1775, Glassboro, NJ
  - Pyrex ® - 1915 (introduction)
  - [Safety Glass](#) - 1903
  - Wire Glass - 1892 (patent)
- Masonite & Hardboard - 1924-5
- melamine - 1938
- Mylar® - 1952 (date of development by DuPont)
- Neoprene - First marketed in 1931
- Oil Well - 1859
- Plastics, First automatic injection molding machine - 1936 (non-automatic, 1921)
- Plexiglass - 1936 (introduction in the US as a sheet)
- Polycarbonates - 1959
- Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) (used in soft drink bottles) Developed in 1941 - Used in containers in the 1970s
- Polypropylene - 1957
- Polyethylene - 1935 (date of first production in Britain) also 1942
- Polystyrene Usage - 1937
- Polystyrene, Expanded (styrene foam) - 1950
- Polyurethane Foam, Flexible - 1950
- Polyurethane Foam, Rigid - 1960s
- Rubber, Vulcanized - 1833
- Steel
  - Cold Rolled - 1859 (patent)
  - Stainless Steel - June 4, 1912 - Date of discovery
  - Stainless Steel Dinnerware - 1921
- Teflon - 1945 (based on discoveries of 1938) (Patent filed, 1939)
- Tyvek® - 1966 (date of marketing)
- [Vinyl](#) - 1926 (discovery date) (use most popular after WW II)

- WD-40 - 1953 (invention) 1958 (sales to consumers)
- Window Screen
  - 1757 - Around this time, wire fabric is developed for the paper making industry.
  - 1870s (Roebing begins manufacture of wire fabric)
- [Roebing Resource](#) and [Roebing Timeline](#)
  - First used in German Mines - 1834 to 1854
  - 1889 - James Stone patents 6 by 25 filler wire rope

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## Medical/Dental

- AIDS - 1981 (Named in 1982) (HIV discovered in 1983)
  - [Timeline](#)
  - [Timeline](#)
- Alka-Seltzer - 1931
- Anesthesia - 1841-5 (ether's first use)
- [Aspirin](#)
  - 1899 - Powder
  - 1915 - Asperin Tablets
- [Band-Aid](#) - 1921 (tradename came in 1924) [TIMELINE](#)
- Birth control pills invented - 1952 (FDA Marketing approval: 5/11/1960) (The phrase "birth control": 1914)
- CAT Scan - 1975
- Complex (psychological) - 1906
- Condom, rubber - 1870s
- Cryosurgery - 1960
- Defibrillator - 1932
- Dental Chair
  - 1790 - 1st dental chair
  - 1840 - 1st professional model (patented 1848)
  - 1958 - Reclining dental chair
- Dental Drill, Electric - 1875 (invention)
- Dental Floss (modern) - 1815 (Levi Spear Parmly)
- DNA - 1953
- Electroencephelograph (EEG) - 1929
- Ex-Lax - 1905 (first called Bo-Bo)
- Eyeglasses
  - 1291 - date of first use in Pisa
  - 1451 - use of concave lenses
  - 1727 - Modern frames
  - 1775 - Invention of the Bifocal by Ben Franklin
  - 1820s - Bifocals commonly used
  - 1827 - Correction for Astigmatism now possible
  - 1877 - contact lenses (covered the whole eyeball....ouch!)
  - 1948 - Plastic contact lens
- Facelift - 1901 (first)
- Heart, Artificial - 1982
- Heart Transplant - 1967
- Heimlich Maneuver - 1970
- Heroin - ~1897
- LSD - 1943
- Novocaine - 1905
- Pacemaker - 1958 (internal)
- Polio Vaccine - 1954 Given in schools for the first time (invented in 1952)
- [Prosthetics History](#) - *extensive article*




- Prozac - 1988
- Rorschach Test (Ink Blot) - 1921
- Sex Change, First - 1950
- Smith Brothers Cough Drops - 1866 (Trademark date with their faces. one of the first "brand names" in the US)
- Soft contact lenses - 1965
- Stethoscope - 1819
- Stockholm Syndrome - 1973
- Stream of Consciousness - 1890, William James
- Suntan Lotion - 1940s
- Thorazine - 1954
- [Toothbrush History](#)
- Valium - 1963
- Viagra - 1998
- Vick's VapoRub - 1905
- Vitamins - 1912 discovery by Casimir Funk
- X-ray photography - 1896

### Misc:

- Aerosol insect sprays - 1941 (first sales)
- Atomic Bomb test - July 16, 1945
- Braille Alphabet - 1834
- Centigrade - 1741 (Anders Celsius) Fahrenheit (1753)
- [Cheerleading History](#)
  - 1898 - Debut as a team activity
  - 1956 - Paper Pom Pom Invented
  - c1965 - Vinyl Pom Pom
- Diorama - 1822
- Fingerprinting - 1885
- Foot sizer - 1929
- Foucault Pendulum - 1856
- Kitty Litter - 1947
- Panorama - 1793
- Rolling carry-on bag - 1989
- PhD - 1861 first award in America (Yale)
- [Slogan Button](#) - 1896
- [Smiley Face](#) - 1964 (became popular in 1971)
- Skywriting - 1921
- Street Mailboxes - 1858
- Swiss Army Knife - 1886
- Voting machines (lever type) first used in the US - 1892

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### Movie / Film Related:

- 16mm Film Stock Manufactured by Kodak - 1926
- 3-D Movies - 1952
- [Animation Timeline](#)
- [Animation Chronology](#) -  *Extensive*
- Drive-In - 1933 (June 6) Peak year is 1958
- *Photoplay* - 1912 (First movie fan magazine)
- In-Flight Movie first shown - 7/19/1961
- IMAX -
  - Prototype displayed as part of Expo '67 in Montreal

- 1970 - current format used in Expo 1970
- Lumiere Bros. Film, First - 1891
- Kodak Brownie 8mm Movie Camera - 1951 (1952 - projector) (1955 - 3-lens turret model)
- NC-17 - 1990
- Nickelodeon Movie Theaters - 1905
- PG rating - 1970
- PG-13 - 1984
- Safety Film - 1948
- Peep Show - 1891
- Steadicam - 1976
- Super 8 Film produced for home movies - 1965 (1973 - sound stripe added)
- Technicolor -
  - 1917 - Invention
  - 1922 - The first full length " Technicolor" film is released: *Toll of the Sea*
  - 1935 - First IMPROVED Technicolor Film, *Becky Sharp*
- [THX Sound](#) - 1983
- X-rated film - 1951 (at least in advertising)

### Musical Instruments:

- [Car Horn Organ](#) - 1983
- Guitar, Electric - 1948 (invention)
- [Piano History](#)
- Player Piano - 1863 (invention) also dated to 1897 and 1876!
- Metronome - 1812
- Sleigh Bells (the round jingle bell kind) - early 1800s
- Steel Drum - 1938 (rough date)

### Newspapers, Magazines, Publishing, and Publication:



- Currier & Ives prints - 1857
- First Daily Newspaper in England - 1816
- *Christian Science Monitor* - 1908
- Comic Books - 1933
- *Cosmopolitan* - 1886
- "Dear Abby" - 1956
- *Ebony* - 1945
- *Encyclopaedia Britannica* - 1771
- *Esquire* - 1933
- First Illustrated magazine published in the US - 1842
- *The Gentleman's Magazine* - 1731 (Britain) (first publication to be called a magazine)
- *Godey's Lady's Book* - 1830
- *Good Housekeeping Magazine* - 1885
- Gutenberg Press - 1450
- *Harper's Weekly* - 1857-1912 ?
- *House Beautiful* - 1896
- *Illustrated Daily News*, New York - 1873
- *Illustrated London News* - 1842 ?
- *Ladies' Home Journal* - 1883
- *Ladies' Magazine* - 1828 (*1st magazine for women*)
- *Life* - 1936
- *London Times* - 1788 (as *The London Times*)
- *Look* - 1937
- *Los Angeles Times* - 1881

- *Mad Magazine* - 1952
- *Manchester Guardian* - 1821
- *McGuffey Readers* begin publication - 1836
- *Mickey Mouse Comic Strip* - 1930
- *Ms. magazine* - 1972
- *National Geographic* - 1888
- *National Review* - 1955
- Newspaper ads, Full-Page - 1878
- *New York Herald* - 1835
- *New York Times* - 1851
- *Newsweek* - 1933
- Paper Book Jackets - 1832
- *Peanuts* - 1950
- *Pennsylvania Evening Post* - 1793 (First US Daily Paper)
- *People* - 1973
- Photos published in newspapers using halftone - 1880
- Photostat - 1911
- *Photoplay* - 1912 (First movie fan magazine)
- *Playboy* - 1953
- Popeye's 1st appearance in a comic strip - 1929
- Press on lettering - 1961
- *Reader's Digest* - 1922
- *Rolling Stone* - 1967
- Rotogravure printing in magazines - 1910
- *Scientific American* - 1845
- *Sports Illustrated* - 1954
- *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* - 1878
- *San Francisco Examiner* - 1887
- *Saturday Evening Post*: 1821-1969
- *Superman Comic* - 1939
- Teletype Machine - 1928
- *Time* - 1923
- *TV Guide* - 1953
- *Vogue* - 1892
- [Washington Post](#) - 1877
- Xerox photocopiers -
  - 1938 Invented by Chester Carlson
  - 1950 (the process was invented years earlier)
  - 1959 Xerox 914 introduced

**Paint Products:** See also: [[Art Supplies](#)]



- Acrylic Paint - 1953 (marketed for artists around 1963)
- Aerosol can (spray can) and valve patented by Erik Rotheim - 1927
- Day-Glo® Colors - Invented in the 1930s but popularized in the 1960s
- Paint Roller - 1940
- Ready Mixed Paints - 1867
- Spray Gun - 1907 (*Note most other webs are 100 years off on this!*)
- Spray Paint - 1949

### **Paper, Packaging, & Tape Related Products**

- Acco Fastener - 1912
- Aluminum Foil

- Commercial Aluminum Foil marketed - 1910, 1929 (conflicting dates)
- Reynold's Aluminum Foil - 1947
- Bags
  - First Production - 1844 (hand-made)
  - Machine Produced Bags - 1852
  - Printed Bags - 1905
  - [Grocery Bag, Flat bottom](#) - 1870
  - [Grocery Bag, Plastic](#) - 1977 (1982 in its current form)
  - [Shopping Bag](#) - 1912 (gained popularity quickly)
- Blotting Paper - 1856
- [Bubble Wrap](#) - 1960 (Invented by Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes as AirCap® cellular cushioning.
- [Carbon Paper](#) - *developed around 1803 (to help the blind write!) became used only after the typewriter around 1882*
- Carbonless Paper first goes on sale - March 26, 1954
- Cardboard - 1600s (China)
- Cardboard Box
  - 1817 (first production in Britain)
  - 1879 (Modern cardboard box, die cut and scored, folds flat)
- [Cellophane Tape](#) - 1930
- Coated Papers introduced - 1852
- Corrugated cardboard, Double faced - 1874 (patent)
- Corrugated cardboard, Single faced - 1871 (patent)
- [Corrugated Cardboard Box](#) - 1890
- Drinking Straw - 1888 (patent issued)
- [Duct Tape](#) - 1942
- [Envelopes, Commercial ones in Britain](#) - c. 1820, common by 1849
- [Envelope, Window](#) - 1902 patent date
- [Filing Cabinet, Vertical](#) - 1898
- [Gift Wrapping](#) - c. 1918
- Gummed Paper (Edison patent!) - 1879
- Heat-shrink film - 1958 (development) (1964 used in packaging)
- Kleenex - 1920 (in pop-up box)
- Kraft Paper Pulp - 1883 (Germany) 1909 (USA)
- Liquid Paper Invented - 1956 (first called Mistake-Out)
- [Masking Tape](#) - 1925
- Metal Containers (other than beverage cans, listed elsewhere)
  - 1764 - Snuff sold in tins
  - 1830s - Cookies and matches sold in tins
  - 1866 - first printed metal containers
- Multiple Part Business Forms first used - 1882
- Napkins - 1930s
- [Newsprint](#) - 1838
- soft unbleached American [newsprint paper](#) - 1879
- Paper Clip - 1899 (prior to this, papers were fastened by a hole and ribbon)
- Paper Cup - 1908 (International Paper)
- Paper Dress - 1966
- Paper from Pulp - c. 1851
- Paper Towel - 1931 (first introduced to schools in 1907)
- Pendaflex® becomes the first hanging file system to be marketed - 1939
- Pens with pocket clips - 1905
- Post-it Notes - 1974 (date also listed as 1980)
- Pulp, First sulfite pulp is produced in the United States - 1883, 1910
- Pushpin - 1900 (invention date. Marketing started in 1903)
- Ring Binder (Loose Leaf) - 1904

- Rolodex, invented by Arnold Neustadter) - 1950 (also listed in sources as 1958)
- Rubber Band - 1845 (date of first patent)
- Scotch Tape - 1930
- Shrink Wrap - 1964
- Spiral Binding - 1924
- Stamped envelopes - 1852
  - 1909 - The word stapler is coined
  - 1914 - In use in offices
  - 1930s - classic Swingline top loading staplers
  - 1950s - electric staplers
- Toilet Paper - [Toilet Paper on a Roll](#) - *This website offers a longer history going back to ancient times* [Another Great Toilet Paper History Site](#)
  - 1857 - supposed invention date (George C. Gayetty)
  - 1877 Perforated rolls are produced at 318 Broadway St. in Albany, NY by Wheeler's Rolled Wrapping Paper Company.
  - 1880 - Individual sheets introduced in Britain
  - 1890 - Rolls start to be more common
  - 1928 - Introduction in Europe
  - 1932 - 4-pack
  - 1942 2-ply
  - 1956 - Pastel Colors
- V-mail - 1942



### Patriotic Symbols and Monuments:

- Airforce One Designation - 1954
- Boy Scouts of America - 1910
- Cub Scouts - 1930
- Democrat Donkey - January 15, 1870 ([Thomas Nast](#))
- Girl Scouts of America - 1912 (founded as the Girl Guides. Name changes in 1913)
- Golden Gate Bridge - 1937
- Mount Rushmore - 1923-41
- Pledge of Allegiance - 1892
  - 1923 changed "my flag" to "The flag of the United States of America"
  - 1954 "under God" added to the Pledge of Allegiance
- Republican Elephant - November 7, 1874 ([Thomas Nast](#))
- Star Spangled Banner
  - 1814 - written as a poem
  - 1931 - Adopted as the official national anthem (March 31)
- Uncle Sam - 1813 (proposed as an official symbol)

### Pens & Pencils, Writing Materials, & Related Stuff:

- [Ballpoint Pen](#) - 1945 1st US sale, 1938 invention by Laszlo Biro
- [Bic Pen](#) - Dec 1950 (or 1953) (Invented by Ladislav Biro, later sold to Baron Marcel Bich (first called the Bic Cristal)
- Crayola Crayons - 1903
- [Fibre Tip Pen](#) - 1962
- [Fountain Pen](#) - 1884
- [Gel Pens](#) - 1984
- Magic Marker - 1952 (the original ones were refillable!)

- [Oil Pastel](#) - 1925
- [Pencil](#) -
  - 1564 - possible development date
  - 1565 - A pencil is illustrated in a Swiss encyclopedia
  - 1686 - Graphite between strips of wood
  - 1795 - Modern pencil with graphite powder with a clay binder which can result in different hardness ratings
  - 1861 - 1st US pencil factory
- [Pencils with erasers](#) - 1858
- [Pencil Sharpener](#) (mechanical) 1880s
- Pencil Sharpener, Chicago -
- [Pocket Protector](#) - 1947
- Typewriter:
  - 1845 - Typewriter ribbon (I'd love to know what it was used for!)
  - 1868 - first patent for a typewriter
  - 1878's intro of The Remington No2 (with upper & lower case)
  - 1961 - IBM Selectric Ball Typewriter
  - 1973 - self correcting Selectric

See Also - [Early Office Museum](#) -  *Astonishing collection of Images*

### Personal Hygiene, Products, & Toiletry Related:



see also [[beauty & cosmetics](#)]

- Avon - 1896
- Baby Powder - 1890 (Johnson & Johnson)
- Bathroom scale
  - 1933 - Low profile flat scales
  - 1952 - modern design, Model 1500 Flight
- Brylcreem - 1929
- Chapstick® - 1880s (initial invention. Popularity took a while to build)
- Cologne - 1709
- Dental Floss - 1815
- Diapers
  - 1949 - Leakproof diaper cover
  - 1959 - Disposable diaper
- Electric Vibrator - advertised in the 1918 Sears catalog
- Hair Dye, Commercial - 1909
- Huggies diapers - 1978
- [Ivory Soap](#) - 1879
- Jacuzzi - 1968
- [Kleenex](#) Tissue - 1924 (marketed first as Celluwipes)
- Listerine - 1880
- Noxzema - 1899
- Old Spice - 1938
- Pancake Makeup - 1935 (Max Factor Sr. and Jr.)
- [Paper Towel](#) - 1907
- Q-Tips® - 1923 (First called "Baby Gays". The name used today comes from 1926)
- Safety Razor - 1901 (popular by 1904)
- Sanitary Napkin Related:
  - [Belts](#) - 1890s
  - [Dispensers](#) - 1920s
  - [Kotex](#) - 1920
- Shampoo
  - Breck Shampoo popularized - 1936

- Shaving
  - [Bic Shaver Chronology](#)
  - [Shaving Chronology](#) - ★ *Extensive Resource*
  - Cartridge Razor - 1965
  - Disposable razor blade - 1895
  - Shaving Brush - 1750s
  - Shaver, Disposable (Bic) - 1975
  - Shaver, Electric - 1931 (first marketing in NY) 1937 - era of popularity clear
  - Shaver, Electric - first cordless, rechargeable - 1960 (Remington)
- [Showers](#) - 1880s-90s Era of first popularity
- [Tampon](#), Modern (with applicator) - 1936 (developed in Denver) (another date cited is 1929)
- [Toilets of the World](#) - *Lots of illustrations from odd places and times*
- Toilet Paper (see under "paper" above)
- Toilet Histories
  - [Mens/Womens as separate](#) - 1739
  - [Toilet as we currently know it](#) - 1778 (development)
  - Women's Urinals - 1950-1973 ([American Standard's "Sanistand"](#))
- [Toothbrush History](#)
- Toothbrush, Electric - 1960
- Toothpaste tube origin - 1892
- Vaseline Petroleum Jelly - 1860 (invention)

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## Phonograph and Records:

- Edison Invention - 1877-1878
- [Wax Cylinder](#) - 1890s
- Audio Cassette Tape - 1963
- Disk Phonographs - Around 1912 (invention is in 1887) (standard size is 10") made from Shellac (with additives) until the 1930s
- Double sided disks - 1904
- Gramophone - 1888 (plays 7" disks)
- LP - Long playing vinyl disk - first release in 1948 (12" diameter)
- 45rpm record - 1949 (7" diameter) More popular by 1951
- Victrola - 1901 (no more horn)! (refined in 1907)
- Record Album - 1909 (with the publication of *The Nutcracker Suite* 4-record set)
- Electrical Amplification developed - 1925
- Jukebox:
  - First use - 1889 (not in current form) (play wax cylinders and listening through a tube)
  - Jukebox - 1927 (multiple selections) (1st all electric)
  - 1934 - First Wurlitzer model (discontinued in the US in 1974) (1934 marks the start of mass production)
  - 1939 - Word "Jukebox" came into acceptance
  - 1946 - Jukebox mass production
  - 1948 - Wall-o-matic remote selector (in restaurant booths)
  - 1951 - Jukebox for playing 45rpm records

See also: [Great Jukebox Image Collection](#)

- Magnetic Tape Recorder - 1934 (invention)
- Phonograph Labels - 1900
- RCA Victor brand - 1928 Multi-selection jukebox - 1934
- Stereo - 1931 (development date)
- Stereo Introduction by RCA - 1958 (Stereo LP sales begin)
- Top 40 - 1949

- Vinyl disk manufacture starts - 1940

See also

- [BBC History of Recording](#) - great resource

## Photography

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- 35mm Film Casette> - 1934
- [620 film](#) - 1932
- Camera - first to be marketed, Giroux Daguerreotype - 1839
- Camera History Websites:
  - [Camera History Site](#) - In German and English. Loads of Photos ★★
  - [Historic Camera](#) - Lots of photos
  - [Burke and James Press Camera Site](#) - lots of photos
  - [Graflex Press Camera History](#)
  - [Kodak](#) - Nice list, no photos
  - [Nikon](#) - Includes photos
  - [Olympus](#) - Includes photos
- Daguerreotype - 1837 (invention)
- Flashcube - 1965
- Flash, Built-in - 1951
- Flash Powder marketed - 1884
- Holography - 1962
- Instant Photography - 1947
- Kodak Brownie Camera - 1900
- Kodak Carousel Projector (Model 800) - 1964, designed by David E. Hansen (first carousel is introduced in 1961). Manufacturing of this general type of projector stops in 2004
- Kodak Disk Camera - 1982
- Kodak Ektachrome Slide Film - 1959
- Kodak Instamatic Camera (model 100) - 1963
- Kodachrome Slide Film - 1935
- Kodacolor Negative Film for prints - 1942
- Kodak Box Camera - 1888
- Non-reflective coating patented by Katherine J. Blodgett - 1938
- Photobooth - 1946 (invention) 1958 (marketed)
- Photo CD, Kodak - 1990
- [Polaroid Photography](#) - 1948 (SX-70 introduced in 1972)
- Roll Film - 1884
- Single Lens Reflex Roll-Film Camera - 1935
- Single use disposable cameras - 1986
- Stage production photo, First - 1883
- View Master - 1938

see also this excellent [Photography Timeline](#)

## Printing and Duplication

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- 4-color rotary press - 1892
- [Advertising Age Timeline](#) - Includes lots of newspaper publishing info
- Mimeograph - 1875 (development by Edison) 1890 - A.B. Dick markets the machine)



- Paperback books - 1938-9
- Copiers (Xerox)
  - 1938 - Xerography invented (no one saw the use!)
  - 1944 - First demonstration of a copy machine
  - 1949 - Xerox Model A photocopier
  - 1959 - First plain paper copier (Xerox 914)
  - 1963 - First plain paper desktop Xerox

### Radios, Television, and Recording, and Audio:

- Betamax (Sony) - 1975
- Car Radio (Paul Galvin) - 1929
- DAT Recorders - 1987
- Dolby Sound - 1976
- iPod (Apple) - 2001
- LCD Video projector for the home market. Introduced by Sharp in 1989
- Projection TV demonstrated in theatrical use, 1941
- Projection TV, 3 tube system by Advent - 1972
- MP3 Player - 1998
- Muzak - 1925
- Pocket (transistor) Radio - 1959 (Sony introduces one in 1952)
- Radio Broadcast
  - 1906 - First advertised broadcast
  - 1920 - First Regular (KDKA, Pittsburgh) (licensed in 1919)
- Radios Using House Current - 1928
- Satellite radio - 2001
- Shortwave Radio Invention - 1919
- [Tape Recording Timeline](#)
  - Tape Recorder - 1934 (initial development by Begun)
  - Wire Recorder invented - 1898
  - [Tape Recorder, higher quality](#) - c. 1947
  - [Tape Recorder, Cassette](#) - first demo in 1964
  - Tape Player, 8-Track - introduced in 1965
- TelePrompTer - 1951
- Television, First use of the word - 1900 !
- [Television, Color](#) - First coast to coast color broadcast - January 1, 1954
- TV Sets
  - RCA Set introduction for home use - 1939 (tube faced up, viewed with mirror)
  - [Ultrasonic Remote Control](#) - 1956
  - [Set ownership](#) passes 1,000,000 - 1949
  - [Television History, the first 75 years](#) - *Astonishing! Extensive collection of materials from timelines to pictures of thousands of models of TV sets. ★★★★★*
  - [Color Television, test patterns, etc.](#) - *Great site!*
  - [Remote Control](#)
    - 1950 - Zenith's introduction of "Lazy Bones" (wire connected)
    - 1955 - Zenith's Flashmatic version introduced (first wireless, but made for problematic operation)
    - 1956 - Zenith's "Space Command" remote with the tuned aluminum rods
    - early 1980s - Infra Red Remotes
- TiVo HDR110 - 1999
- UHF-first licensed in the US - 1953
- Video Tape - 1/2" Open Reel - 1967
- Video Tape - 3/4" U-Matic, videotape cassette
- Video Tape - Sony Betamax recorder - 1975

- Video Tape - VHS Format - 1977 (introduction)
- Video Laser Disk - 1978 (introduction)
- Walkman TPS-L2 (Sony) - 1979

See Also:

- [Audio Timeline](#) - *Extensive* ★
- [Broadcast History Timeline](#) ★

## Rope and String type products

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- [Baling Twine](#) - 1886
- [polypropylene twine](#) - 1960s

## Safety Related

- Band-Aid - 1921
- Chicago Fire - 1871
- Fire Safety
  - 1853 - 1st practical fire engine in the US (horse drawn)
  - 1860 - Fire escapes required in NY City
  - 1863 - Fire Extinguisher (glass grenade variety)
  - 1920s - [Copper/Brass, Soda-Acid Fire Extinguishers](#)
  - 1960 - Battery operated home smoke detector
- Fire Pole - 1878
- Fire Sprinkler Head - 1874 (patent date)
- Gas Mask - 1912 (or 1914)
- Geiger Counter - 1913
- Hard hat - 1919
- Parachute - 1785
- Smoke Detector - 1967
- Underwriters Laboratory, UL - 1894
- Tylenol Tragedy - 1982 - changed the history of packaging

## Science Related [[see also Medical](#)]

- Microscope - Single Lens - Early 1600s

## Slogans

- Have it Your Way, Burger King - 1976

## Smoking and Tobacco Products

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[Tobacco Timeline](#) - ★★ *Extensive external reference*

- BIC Lighter - 1973
- [Chronology of Tobacco in the Civilized World](#)
- [Cigar Store Indian History](#)
- Duke Cigarette Monopoly - by the 1900s (later broken up to form many current US brands)

- Cigarette Ads Banner on TV - 1971
- First Report Warning the Gov of Smoking Dangers: 1/11/1964
- Cigarette, First Factories: - Britain, 1850 - US ,1864
- [Cigarette Ads from the 1950s](#)
- Cigarette Pack health warnings - 1971
- crush proof flip-top box (Marlboro) - 1954 ?
- Camel Cigarettes - 1913
- Filtered Cigarettes - 1930s (Viceroy w/ a cellulose filter - 1936)
- Joe Camel - 1987
- Lighters:
  - Introduction - 1909 ?
  - BIC - 1973
  - Zippo - 1932
- Lucky Strike - 1916
- [Lucky Strike "Goes to War", Changes logo from green to red](#) - 1942
- Marlboro - 1924
- Marlboro Man - 1955 (exclusive symbol by 1963)
- Matches
  - Friction Match - 1826
  - Safety Matches - 1855
  - [Matches, Book](#) - 1889 (advertised the Mendelssohn Opera Company) not really visible until 1897 (Diamond Matchbooks - 1895)
- Smoking acceptance for Women - c. 1945
- Tobacco plant first brought to Britain - 1558
- Vending Machines for Cigarettes - 1926
- Virginia Slims - 1968

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## Sports Related

- Astroturf - 1965
- Badminton - 1783
- Baseball Cap - 1876
- Baseball Catchers Mask Patent - 1878
- Basketball, Modern - 1891-2
- Bongo Board - 1952 (Stanley Washburn)
- Golf
  - 1888 - St. Andrews Golf Club, Westchester NY
  - 1898 - Golf Tee
  - 1908 - Dimpled Golf ball
  - 1920s - Modern wooden golf Tee invented by NJ dentist, William Lowell
- Hacky Sack® - 1972
- Judo - ~1882
- Kentucky Derby - 1875
- [Miniature Golf](#) - 1927
- [Playgrounds](#) - 1907 (start of movement)
- [Roller Skates](#)
  - 1759 - Invention - Joseph Merlin (in line too!)
  - 1819 - 1st inline skate patent
  - 1840 - A beerhall in Germany boasts barmaids on roller skates
  - 1857 - Roller rinks in Britain
  - 1863 - first use in America, the "rocking skate" allowed for turns (4 wheels)
  - 1884 - Ball bearing wheels introduced - mass production
  - 1902 - Roller rink in Chicago
  - 1980 - [Rollerblades](#)

- Scuba, Aqua Lung - 1943
- Skateboard - 1965 (era of first popularity)
  - 1950s - Impromptu skateboards created by kids from roller skate parts
  - 1959 - Commercial skateboards introduced to stores
  - 1962 - First competition and skateboard shop
  - 1964-65 - First period of popularity
  - 1970 - first use of modern urethane wheels (by Frank Nasworthy)
- Swimming Pool, Indoor - 1742, London
- [Table Tennis](#) - 1881
- [Tee Ball](#)
- Tour de France - 1903
- Volleyball - 1895 William Morgan
- Water Skiing - 1922
- [Wiffle®Ball](#) - 1954 (first marketed) 1959 (first yellow plastic bats)
- Zamboni® - 1949

### Telephone Related Stuff:

- [#500 Desk Set](#) - 1949 (dial version of set still common today)
- Answering machine invention - 1950
  - Voice Mail - 1980 date of the term's coining by Gordon Matthews
- Area Codes - 1952
- Bell Patent - 1876
- Caller ID - 1982
- Cellphones
  - Invention - 1973
  - Mass Production 1985
  - Digital - 1995
- Coin Phone - 1889 (introduction)
  
- Dial telephones - 1895 (early introduction)
- Direct Dial, Coast to Coast Introduced - 1951
- [Princess Phone](#) - 1959 (designed by Henry Dreyfuss)
- Push Button Telephone Invented - 1941
- Telegraphs -
  - 1792 a mechanical telegraph was developed
  - 1837 Electromagnetic Telegraph patent date
  - 1838 Morse Code
  - 1844 Morse' famous telegram sent between Baltimore and Washington on May 24
- Telephone Book - 1878 (1 page "book" in New Haven)
- Touch-tone phone - 1964
- Yellow Pages -
  - 1886 (commercial listings)
  - 1906 First actual yellow pages published in Detroit

See also:

- [Telephone History Article](#) - VERY extensive, some illustrations



### Time Pieces

- c725 - First Mechanical Clock
- 1383 - First Gong Clock - (Cathedral of Notre Dame, Dijon)
- 1504 - Portable timepiece, first

- 1510 - Pocket watch
- 1657 - Pendulum Clock
- 1790s - Wristwatch, first
- 1855 - Stopwatch
- 1856 - Electric clock
- 1914 - First Watch with an alarm
- 1927 - Quartz Clock invented
- 1947-8 - [Ball Clock, George Nelson](#)
- 1949 - Atomic Clock
- 1954 - Watch Battery - (Invention)
- 1957 - Battery Watch first introduced
- 1961 - Movado Museum Watch
- 1970 - LED Watch introduced (the Pulsar)
- 1972 - LCD starts to become popular
- 1977 - LED displays lose favor to LCD
- 1983 - Swatch watches
- 1984 - Fossil Watch

See also:

**Tools:** see also [[building supplies](#)]

- Band Saw - 1808 (invention)
- Circular Saw - 1780 (first circular saw blade to be used in a saw mill, 1813 Tabitha Babbitt)
- Electric Motor - 1834 (invention)
- Electro Pounce - 1961
- Electric Power Tools - 1837 (invention)
- Monkey Wrench - 1858 (invented by Charles Moncky!)
- Pipe wrench - 1870 (patent date)
- Radial Arm Saw - Patent granted in 1925 to De Walt
- Tape Measure - 1868 (patent date) (retractable version)
- Vise Stands for plumbers - 1927

**Toys, Amusements, and Games:**

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### [National Toy Hall of Fame](#)

- Alphabet Blocks - 1879 (though they are indicated by 1693 in literary references)
- Anagrams - 1850
- Ant Farm - 1956
- Atari Video Computer System - 1977
- BB gun - 1886
- Barbie Doll introduction 1959
- Baseball Cards - 1951 Tops Baseball Cards Marketed (others came before)
- Beanie Babies -1993
- [Bingo](#) - c. 1930 (from very early Lotto roots)
- Cabbage Patch Kids - 1982-3
- Candy Land - 1949
- [Care Bears](#) - 1983
- Checkered Game of Life - 1860s (Milton Bradley)
- [Comic Books](#) - *The Yellow Kid* - 1896
- Craps - 1813 introduction to the US
- [Crossword Puzzle](#) - 1913 (first published book of Crossword puzzles: 1924)
- Donkey Kong - 1981

- [Drive-In Movies](#) - 1933
- Dungeons & Dragons - 1973
- Easy-Bake Oven - 1963
- [Etch-A-Sketch](#) - 1960 (invented in 1959)
- Flexible Flyer sled - 1889
- Frisbee - 1950 (as Flyin' Saucer) Named Frisbee in 1957
- Game Boy (Nintendo) - 1989
- GI Joe - 1963
- [Give a Show Projector](#) - 1959
- [Hula Hoop](#) - 1957-8 [See also](#)
- [Jig Saw Puzzle](#) - 1767 (A big fad in the 1930s)
- Koosh Ball - 1987
- [Lego](#) -
  - 1934 Lego name derived from the Danish words, "leg" and "godt" (play well).
  - 1949 Ole Kirk Christiansen invents the "Automatic Binding Brick" - They don't stick well
  - 1958 The modern Lego "Stud and Tube System" bricks are first marketed
  - 1961 Lego production begins in the US
- Life - 1960
- Lincoln Logs - Invented by son of Frank Lloyd Wright in 1916, popular in 1953
- [Lionel Trains](#) - 1901
- Mansion of Happiness, The - 1843 (1st US board game)
- Marbles - 1884 (first ones were made of clay)
- Matchbox Cars - 1954
- [Mister Potato Head](#) - 1952
- Monopoly - 1933, 34, or 1936) (1904 invented as "The Landlord Game")
- Nerf Ball - 1970
- Nintendo Games - 1985
- Operation - 1965
- [Ouiji Board](#) (new design) - 1955 ([Patented in 1892](#))
- Pac-Man - 1982
- [Pachinko](#) - 1953
- Paint Ball - 1981
- Paint By Numbers - 1949 (invention) 1952 begins era of popularity
- [Paper Dolls](#) - 1810 ([Little Fanny](#))
- [Parcheesi](#) - c. 1938 (copyright of the familiar board) (ancient origins)
- [Pet Rock](#) - 1975
- Play-Doh - 1956
- Playground - 1859 (in Britain. Swings & Horizontal bars)
- Playstation, Sony - 1995
- Pogo Stick - 1919 (patent) - 1920s (became popular)
- [Pong](#) (invention) - 1971
- [Ouija Board](#) - 1853
- [Ragedy Ann](#) - 1915 (Commercially produced in 1918)
- Risk - 1959
- Rubik's Cube - 1974
- Skateboard - 1958
- [Scrabble](#) - [[see also](#)]
  - 1930 - Invented by architect Alfred Mosher Butts (under different names)
  - 1949 - First marketing
- [Silly Putty](#) - 1950 (date of introduction) (invented in 1949)
- Sliding Block Puzzle - Invented by Serhiy Grabarchuk
- Slinky - 1945
- Space Invaders Video Arcade Game - 1978
- Speak & Spell (Texas Instruments) - 1978

- Spirograph - 1965
- [Strawberry Shortcake](#) - 1980
- Super Mario Brothers - 1985
- Teletubbies - 1997
- Tickle Me Elmo - 1996
- Tiddlywinks - 1888 (Patent date in Britain)
- [Tinkertoy](#) - 1913
- [Tonka Trucks](#) - 1946-7
- Trivial Pursuit - 1983
- Trolls - 1959
- Twister - 1966 [[see also](#)]
- Uncle Wiggily - 1916
- Uno - 1972
- View-Master - 1938-9 (date of invention)
- Video Game system introduced by Magnivox - 1971
- Wagon, Little Red - Radio Flier Brand - 1917
- Yo-Yo (Duncan) - 1929


See also:

- [Video Game History](#)

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## Transportation and Navigation Related and Moving Devices

- Automobile:
  - 1892 - First gas powered car in the US
  - 1896 - First recorded auto accident, May 30, NY City
  - 1899 - First auto accident resulting in death, Sept. 13
  - 1908 - Model T - 1908-1927
  - 1911 - Self Starter
  - 1915 - Windshield Wipers (popular use starts) (invented for streetcars in 1903)
  - 1936 - Volkswagen Beetle
  - 1939 - Air Conditioning
  - 1940 - Jeep
  - 1951 - Power Steering
  - 1973 - Air bags introduced
  - 1953 - Fiberglass body
  - 1983 - Minivans and cupholders
- [Aviation Timeline](#)
- Airplane, Wright Brothers first flight - 1903
- Airplane, Jet service begins - 1958
- [Bicycle](#) (link is to an extensive external timeline)
  - 1790 - Invention date
  - 1817 - Draisine Swift-walker (bicycle becomes steerable)
  - 1858-68 - Velocipede
  - 1861 - Pedals on the front wheel
  - 1869 - first use of the word bicycle
  - 1870-6 - First High Wheel
  - 1884 - Starley Safety bicycle (looks like the modern bike)
  - 1889 - Pneumatic rubber tires
  - 1896 - Coaster Brakes
  - 1973 - Mountain Bike (mass produced in 1981)
- Blimp, Goodyear - 1925
- Boat, [Fiber Glass](#) - 1955

- [British Road Sign History](#) - Great site 
- Bus timetables - 1905
- Cable Cars in San Francisco - 1872
- Car Radio - 1929
- Channel tunnel - 1994
- Concrete highway - 1891 (first in US)
- Elevator, Otis - 1852 (1857 first commercial elevator)
- Elevator, Self service - 1950 (1st installation)
- Freeway, 1st in US (LA to Pasadena) 1940
- [Escalator](#) - 1891 (named Escalator in 1900 on its first use, a tradename from Otis)
- [Gas Pump](#)
  - 1888 - Bowser pump
  - 1891 - Wayne Pump
  - 1918 - Glass Globe type (Tokheim Company)
  - 1933 - [Wayne Computing Pump](#) - *The phrase "Fill 'er up" was created to advertise this pump.*
- [Gas stations](#) (link includes photos)
  - 1907 - First Gas Station (Standard Oil)
  - 1913 - First drive-in service station (Gulf)
  - 1930s - Some Self Service Stations exist
- Global positioning system - 1989
- Helicopter - 1939 (1st flight in the US) 1936, demo model in Germany
- Hindenburg - 1936 - May 6, 1937
- Hot Air Balloon - 1783
- In-Flight Movie first shown - 7/19/1961
- License Plates (most links here are illustrated)
  - [Colorado](#) - Nice text listing of history timetable
  - [Idaho](#) - 1914
  - [Massachusetts](#) - 1903 (one of the earliest states) Site is illustrated
  - [Prince Edward Island License Plate History](#) - *Many illustrations!*
  - Texas - 1907
  - [Washington State](#) - 1905 (timeline only)
  - [Yukon](#) - 1914 - great illustrations
- Lighthouse with Revolving Beacon - 1783
- Maps, Road
  - 1890s - [Road Maps](#) started - No route numbers, few names!
  - 1920s - Paved Roads and Route numbers begin in earnest making the real road map possible.
- Moving Sidewalk, 2-way - 1958 (first)
- Parking Meter - 1935
- Police Car - 1922
- [Railroad Timeline](#)
- Railroad Station - 1830 (B&O Station in Baltimore)
- Reflective sheeting signs - 1939 (3M Scotchlite) *before this signs sometimes incorporated reflectors in punched holes.*
- School Bus History
  - 1910 - 30 states have school transport programs
  - 1927 - First Blue-Bird Yellow School Bus
  - 1939 - school bus standards adopted
- Semaphore systems developed - c. 1800
- Snowmobile - 1920
- Space Shuttle - 1981
- Sputnik - 1957
- [Stop Sign History](#):



- 1915 - 1st recorded stop sign
- 1922-24 - Octagon shape black lettering on yellow
- 1935 - Red or black on yellow 24"x24" octagon
- 1939 - 3M Scotchlite® introduced
- 1948 - Reflectorization required
- 1954 - Current color standardized, white on red
- Subway Related
  - 2003 - NY Subway tokens discontinued on April 13th
- [Traffic Signals & Lights](#) - (stop lights)
  - 1868 - 1st traffic signal (outside of Parliament in London)
  - 1914 - Red Green Signal installed in Cleveland
  - 1920 - Traffic Light
- [Traffic Signs of the World](#) - *Amazing site!* ★★
- Trip-Tik, AAA - 1911 (origin) 1930-37 (standardization)
- [US Highway Shield Signs](#) - 1925
- Vespa Motor Scooter - 1946
- [Yellow Cab](#)
  - 1907 - Founding by John Hertz of Chicago (who went on to found the rental company as well)
  - 1915 - First specifically designed by the company (Model J)
- [Wheelchair](#), (Modern design) - 1933

### Weapons Related

- Bazooka - 1942
- Dynamite - 1866
- Revolver (Colt) - 1835
- Rifles
  - 1863 - Repeating
- Silencer - 1909
- Sonar - 1917
- Tank - 1914
- Thompson submachine gun - 1916

### World's Fairs and Expositions, A Timeline: [[reference website](#)]

- 1851 - [1st World's Fair - London, opens May 1](#) (Crystal Palace)
- 1853 - New York
- 1855 - Paris
- 1862 - London
- 1867 - [Paris Exposition Universelle de 1867](#)
- 1873 - [Vienna](#) - Weltausstellung 1873 Wien
- 1874 - Dublin
- 1876 - Philadelphia [Centennial Exhibition](#)
- 1878 - [Paris Exposition Universelle de 1878](#)
- 1883 - [Chicago, The Columbian Exposition](#)
- 1884 - New Orleans
- 1885 - Antwerp, Belgium
- 1886 - London
- 1888 - Melbourne, Australia & Glasgow, Scotland
- 1889 - [Exposition Universelle de Paris](#)
  - Eiffel Tower
- [1893](#) - Chicago, [The World's Columbian Exposition](#)
- 1894 -

- 1895 - Atlanta
- 1897 - Brussels
- 1900 - [Paris Exposition Universelle de 1900](#)
  - Escalator
- 1901 - Buffalo, Pan-American Exposition
- 1904 - [St. Louis, The Louisiana Purchase Exposition](#)
- 1905 - Liège, Belgium
- 1906 - Milan
- 1907 - Dublin & Hampton Roads, USA
- 1909 - Seattle
- 1910 - Brussels
- 1911 - Turin
- 1913 - Ghent, Belgium
- 1915 - San Francisco - Panama Pacific International Exposition
- 1922 - Rio de Janeiro
- 1924 - Wembley, England
- 1925 - [Paris Exposition Des Arts Décoratifs](#)
- 1926 - Philadelphia
- 1929 - Spain
- 1930 - Seville & Belgium
- 1931 - [Paris Exposition Coloniale Internationale](#)
- 1933 - Chicago
- 1935 - Brussels
- 1937 - Paris Exposition
- 1939 - New York World's Fair
- 1939 - San Francisco Golden Gate Exposition
- 1958 - Brussels
- 1962 - Seattle World's Fair
- 1964 - New York World's Fair
- 1967 - Expo '67, Montreal
- 1968 - San Antonio - Hemisfair '68
- 1970 - Osaka, Japan - Expo '70
- 1974 - Spokane - Expo '74
- 1975 - Okinawa, Japan - Expo '75
- 1982 - [Knoxville World's Fair](#)
- 1984 - New Orleans - Louisiana World Exposition
- 1985 - Tsukuba, Japan - Expo '85
- 1986 - [Vancouver - Expo '86](#)
- 1988 - Brisbane, Australia
- 1992 - [Seville, Spain](#) & Genoa, Italy
- 1993 - [Taejon/Daejon, South Korea](#)
- 1998 - [Lisbon](#)
- 2000 - [Hanover, Germany](#)

## Visual & Props Research Collections

- [Advertising period illustrations - fully itemized!](#) ★★★★★
- [Carpet History Timeline](#)
- [Early Office Museum](#) - ★★★★★ *Astonishing collection of Images*

- [Flags of America](#)
- [Google Image Database](#) ★★
- [Playing Cards](#)
- Signs: [American Sign Museum](#) - a number of images here
- [Tool Chests](#)
- [Traffic Signs of the World](#) - *Amazing site!* ★★
- Yesterland



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## Properties Sources

### PROP SOURCES INDICES:

- [PropPeople Website](#) ★★ *Includes a searchable database*

### Retro Props, General

- [Retro Collection](#)

### Amusement Devices, Jukeboxes, Slot Machines, etc.

- [Eagle Distributing](#)

### Telephones:

- [Eagle Distributing](#)
- [Payphone Outlet](#)

### Typewriters

- [The Typewriter Page](#)
- [Massive Link Library on Typewriters](#)
- [Vintage Sales](#) - Great Illustrations, even of ads and manuals



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## Fun List of Things, States, etc. Named after People and Places

- Amish (the religious group) - Named after Jakob Amman
- Baby Ruth candy bar - Named for President Grover Cleveland's daughter, NOT Babe Ruth!
- Barbie Dolls - Named after Barbara Handler, daughter of Mattel Toys founder, Ruth Handler (Denver, CO) Ken is Barbara's brother.
- Batty, as in being driven batty - Named after Fitzherbert Batty, named after a lawyer from

- Jamaica who was declared insane
- Bayonet - Named from Bayonne, France
- BIC Pens (Marcel BICH)
- Bloomers - Named for but not invented by Amelia Jenks Bloomer (the real inventor was Elizabeth Miller Smith)
- Bobby (British Policeman) - Named for the founder of the London Police Dept, Sir. Robert Peel
- Bowdlerize - Named for Shakespeare Editor, Dr. Thomas Bowdler
- Boycott - Captain Charles Cunningham Boycott (1880)
- Brownie Camera (Kodak), named for Kodak's designer, Frank Brownell
- Bugs Bunny - *Before he had a name he was simply Bugs' bunny in reference to one of the early animators!*
- Calico - named for Calicut, India
- Camel Hair Brush
- Cardigan Sweaters - named for James Thomas Brudenell, the 7th Earl of Cardigan
- Chauvinism - Nicholas Chauvin
- Chicken à la King - Edward VII of England
- Chicken Tetrzzini - Named for opera singer, Luisa Tetrzzini
- Condom, Dr - of the French court. If this wasn't a "family" website, I'd tell you what he invented <G>
- Derrick - Named for executioner, Godfrey Derrick (17th c)
- Duffel bag - the fabric came originally from Duffel Belgium
- Dunce - Named from John Duns Scotus, a scholar of the 13th Century
- Dungarees - Named for the Dungaree suburb of Bombay, India
- Eudora (the E-Mail program) - Named for Eudora Welty
- Fanny Farmer® - Fannie Merrit Farmer (of Boston)
- [Frisbee](#) (William Russel Frisbee)
- Gadget - 1886 named for a partner in the French contracting firm, Gadget, Gauhier, & Cie who built the Statue of Liberty
- Gauze - named for it's place of origin, in Gaza
- Gimlet - the drink is named for Sir T. O. Gimlette
- Graham Cracker - 1829 (Sylvester Graham)
- Guillotin - Named for Doctor Joseph Ignace Guillotin (who was anti-capital-punishment! and did not even invent the device)
- Guppy - Named after R. J. Lechmere Guppy
- Guy - Guy Fawkes and his Gunpowder Plot of 11/5/1605
- Hobson's Choice - Tobias Hobson
- Hoodlum - Coined from the San Francisco Gang leader named Muldoon. The letters were reversed and then the typesetter made a mistake with the first letter.
- Hooker - General Joseph Hooker
- Jacuzzi - 1968 (Roy Jacuzzi)
- Jodhpurs - named for Jodhpur in NW India
- K-Rations - 1942 (named for Ancel Keys)
- Kermit - (file transfer program) named for the frog
- "Kilroy was here" - James J. Kilroy (died in 1962)
- Lionel Trains - Named from Joshya Lionel Cowen
- Lynch - Named from Virginian, Charles Lynch
- Margarita (Drink), named for Margarita Sames
- Maverick - Samuel Augustus Maverick
- Mason Jar named for John Landis Mason
- Masonite - William H Mason (a former associate of Edison)
- Maverick - named for Samuel Maverick who didn't brand his cattle.
- Melba Toast - Named for Helen Porter Mitchell, an opera singer with the stage name Nellie Melba
- Monkey Wrench - invented by Charles Moncky

- Murphy Bed - 1900 company founded by William L. Murphy
- Nicotine - Jacques Nicot (16th C. French Ambassador to Portugal)
- Oscar (the Academy Award statue) Name comes from Oscar Pierce of Texas (who looked like the statue)
- Phillips Head Screws - Henry Phillips
- Phoney - Comes from Forney, an American maker of cheap jewelry
- Poinsettia - Named for Joel Roberts Poinsett
- [Ponzi Scheme](#) - Named for Charles Ponzi
- Quonset Hut - named from its place of origin, Quonset Point, Rhode Island
- Salisbury Steak - Named for 19th century British Dr. J. H. Salisbury
- Satin - From the town of Zaitun (Tsinking, Quanzhou), China
- Shrapnel - Invented by Henry Shrapnel
- Sideburns - Named for General Ambrose Everett Burnside (at first called burnside)
- Silhouette - Named after Étienne de Silhouette (Controller General of France, 1759)
- Snickers Bar - Named after a horse owned by the Mars family
- Spa - Named for the town of Spa in Belgium
- Taco Bell - Named after founder, Glen Bell
- Tawdry - Comes from Saint Audry
- Tonka Trucks - takes their name from Lake Minnetonka in Minnesota.
- Tootsie Roll - Named from inventor Leo Herschfield's daughter Clara whose nickname was Tootsie
- Tony Awards - named for actress Antoinette Perry
- Tootsie Roll - Named for Clara Hirshfeld, 5-year old daughter of the inventor, Leo
- Troy Weight - named for Troyes, France
- Tuxedo - 1886 (named for Tuxedo Park, NY)
- Tweed - A river on the border between England and Scotland
- Twerp - Perhaps named from Thomas W. Earp (1892-1958)
- Uncle Sam - Named for Sam Wilson a Troy NY meat packer c. 1912
- Uzi - Named for its inventor, Uziel Gal
- Valance - Name may come from the French town of Valance

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## Characters in fiction or the arts named after people

- Bond, James - Named after a bird watcher from Philadelphia!
- Bulwinkle the Moose - Named after Clarence Bulwinkle, a car dealer
- Kermit the Frog - [supposedly] named for Kermit Cohen at WBAL TV Baltimore
- Mary who had a lamb was really Mary Sawyer at the Redstone Hill School in Boston
- Peter Pan - Named from Peter Davies
- The Simpsons [cartoon] family names were drawn from the names of Matt Groening's own family!

## Words that Came from Trade and Brand Names

### Some you know....but others....

- Asbestos
- Asperin
- [Band-Aid](#) - 1920 (tradenname came in 1924)
- Cellophane - 1908
- Cheeseburger (registered by the Humpty Dumpty Drive-In in Denver, 1935)
- Corn Flakes
- Cube Steak
- Dry Ice
- Escalator
- Heroin
- Kerosene
- Ketchup (Heinz 1876)
- Kleenex
- Lanolin
- Malted Milk
- Moxie - *Word comes from the 1885 Soft Drink!*
- Nylon
- Pablum
- Photostat
- Ping Pong
- Razor
- Spoof - As a word started as the name of a game invented by Arthur Roberts
- Tabasco
- Thermos
- Trampoline

- Typewriter
- Windbreaker
- Yo-Yo
- Zipper - 1921 registered (the concept was invented much earlier) B.F. Goodrich

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## Names/Words that Aren't What they Seem *and* Names that Came by Accident

- Betty Crocker - Entirely a made-up name
- [Bingo](#) - Came from an excited winner's mispronunciation of *Beano*
- Donkey Kong - The idea was to call this King Kong but there was a little trade name problem so the Japanese developer went for Monkey Kong but the Japanese can't spell in English very well so the rest is history
- Duct Tape - Actually started as DUCK tape (not the other way around) !
- Flea Market - a shortening from Manhattan's "Vallie Market" (Vlie Market)
- Grandfather Clock - came from the song, "My Grandfather's Clock" and not the other way around.
- Hobby Horse - came before the word Hobby!
- Love (in tennis) is from the French l'oeuf, or egg, the figurative zero shape.
- Nerd - A word invented in 1950 by Dr. Seuss (*If I Ran the Zoo*)
- [Piggy Bank](#) - actually from pygg (a cheap clay)
- Stepin Fetchit - Actor, Lincoln Theodore Monroe Andrew Perry took his stage name from the name of a racehorse who had earlier brought him luck.
- Syllabus - started as a printer's error in the 15th century (it was supposed to be sittubas, Greek for index)
- SOS, the distress call - actually does NOT come from "Save our Ship (or souls)" it was simply a great combo of dots and dashes.

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# Words & Product Names With Theatre Origins

- An Old Chestnut (ie a bad old joke) derives from a line in William Dillon's Play, *The Broken Sword*
- Chicken Tetrizzini - Named for opera singer, Luisa Tetrizzini
- Claptrap - What a claque does to entice an audience into otherwise meaningless applause
- Fedora Hat - 1882 (Named from the play Fedora by Victorien Sardou)
- Gopher - In the sense of "go for"
- Grinch - Not from theatre exactly but indeed the word comes from the Dr. Seuss Story, as does the word "nerd" !
- Jumbo - From P.T. Barnum's elephant.
- Melba Toast - Named after an opera singer
- Modern Living Style furniture by Russell Wright - 1935 Russell Wright was a stage designer who studied under Norman Bel Geddes!
- Obscene (from the Latin ob scaena, meaning against (off the) stage.
- Pants - from the Comedia character Pantaloni
- Person - Comes literally from the Greek-based theatre term, Persona
- Poo-bah - From Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Mikado*
- Quiz - a made up word originally from Irish theatre manager, James Daly (two of my etymological dictionaries list this as the word's origin, while two others give a less exotic explanation)
- Robotics and Robots - The word comes from the play R.U.R !
- Seven Year Itch - From George Axelrod's play of 1955
- Spam - The name was invented by actor, Kenneth Diagneau who won \$100 in a contest to name the product



- Stoooge - an audience plant.
- Superman - 1903 from the Shaw play, *Man and Superman* (*Nietzsche* in 1883-91 developed Übermensch or "overman")
- Weird (as an adjective) - Most folks do not realize this but when Shakespeare wrote of the Weird Sisters in *Macbeth*, the word was a noun and not an adjective, for the Weird Sisters were a reference to the Three Fates. But with the popularity of the play, folks began to take the word as an adjective.
- White Slavery - as a term this comes from Barley Campbell's 1882 play, *The White Slave*
- Witticism - This word comes from the 1677 John Dryden play, *The State of Innocence and Fall of Man*
- Zani - from the servants in *Comedia*

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## Names from Acronyms (& Abbreviations)

- B.V.D.s - Bradley, Voorhies, and Day
- DVD - Digital Versatile Disc
- G.I. - Government Issue
- Gobo - (short for "go between")
- Jeep - (Originally GP for "general Purpose")
- Leko - (named for Levy and Kook)
- NECCO - ( New England Confectionery Company)
- Noxzema - (No Eczema)
- Nylon - (New York / London)
- O.K. - Taken from the Upstete NY town of Old Kinderhook, home of President Martin Van Buren, "The Wizard of Kinderhook"
- Ouija Board - Oui (French for yes) + ja (German for yes)
- PT Boat - (Patrol Torpedo)

- RADAR - (Radio Detection And Ranging)
- Rayon - RAY + cottON
- Sanca - SAns + CAffeine
- SCUBA - (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Aparatus)
- S.O.S [pads] - (Save our Saucepans) (SOS as a Morse code signal means nothing! The signal became official in 1908)
- Spam - SPecial + hAM
- Univac - UNIVersal + Automatic + Computer system
- Velcro - (Velour *or Velvet* + Crochet)
- WD-40 - (Water Displacement)
- ZIP code - (Zone Improvement Program)

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## Organizations, Unions, Etc

- AA - Alcoholics Anonymous 1935
- AEA - 1913 (March 26)
- AFM, NY Local 802 - 1921
- ASCAP - 1914
- MCA (Music Corp. of America) 1924
- Red Cross - May 21, 1881
- YMCA - 1844 (founding in Britain)

Still to Classify:

- Junior High School - 1909
- Book of the Month Club - 1926

- Pitman Shorthand - 1837
- Dick and Jane Readers - 1930 (retired in 1965) [[read more](#)]
- Steadi Cam - first used on *Rocky*, 1976
- Thesaurus - 1852
- MPAA Film Ratings - 1968