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!
at rfinkels@msn.com

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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Organizations

Props Usage Chronology:

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- World's Fairs & Expos
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 - 1893
- 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
- 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
- Pull Tabs - 1962 Stay on Tabs - 1974
- Root Beer, Hires - 1876 (first concocted 1869)
- Royal Crown Cola - 1934
- Schwepps - 1874
- 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)
- **Soda Pop Invention** - 1897 (1832 - era of popularity begins)
- **Sprite** - 1961

- **Tea** - [Nice Tea History Site](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
  - 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](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
- [Huge Food Product Timeline](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm) - If not on my list, it may be here.

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

- 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
  o Ribbon microphone era - 1923
  o 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 Discression 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:
  o 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
- Kodel Polyester Fabric - 1968
- Lycre® - 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 - Ebenezzer 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

http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm

17/12/2006
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

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
  o S&H - 1951 (Denver's King Soopers)
• Travelers Cheques - 1891
• Vending Machines:
  o 1880s - Intro in Britain
  o 1887 - Gum machines introduced in New York (Tuti-Fruti)
  o 1907 - gumballs
  o 1926 - Cigarettes
  o 1950 - milk
  o 1965 - Cans of soda pop
  o 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](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
  - [Timeline of Computer History](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)

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

- 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
- Metrication 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:

- 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](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
- Underoos - 1978
- Yves Saint Laurent - 1958

**Fast Food & Restaurants:** see also [Food](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)

- 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)
  - o 1869 - Company Founded (under a slightly different name)
  - o 1897 - Condensed Soup
- Canned Food 1813 (1825 is another date cited)
- Can Openers - 1858 (Ezra Warner) (see [Household Appliances] for the Electric versions)
  - o 1925 - "modern" hand operated opener
  - o 1935 - Vaughn Quick & Easy Opener (the kind of opener that punctures a spout for pouring)
  - o 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
  o 1848 - Spruce Gum sold
  o 1893 - Wrigley's Juicy Fruit and Spearmint gum
  o 1914 - Wrigley's Doublemint
  o 1928 - Bubble Gum, Pink (Fleer's Dubble Bubble)
  o 1954 - Bazooka Joe comic
  o 1899 - Dentyne
  o 1907 - Gumballs
  o 1949 - Bubble Gum Cigars
• **Gummi Bear** - 1922
• Hamburger
  o 1884 - Hamburg steak
  o 1902 - 1st recorded use of the word hamburger
  o 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
  o 1559 - Origin of Ice Cream
  o 1786 - 1st Commercial Ice Cream in the US (Mr. Hall)
  o 1874 - Ice Cream Soda (Robert Green)
  o 1896 - Ice Cream Cone - (also reported as 1904)
  o 1920s - Ice Cream in cups
  o 1920 - Ice Cream on a stick
  o 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™**  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
  - 1987 - Pop Secret
- 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**
    - 1889 - origin of the modern pizza
    - 1905 - first pizzaria 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

[http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
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
  o 1892 - Invented by Dewar of Dewar Flask fame
  o 1904 - Commercial introduction under the Thermos name
  o 1907 - Introduced in the US
  o 1911 - era of popularity comes with machine blown glass inserts
Tin Can
  o 1810 - British patent
  o 1825 - US Patent
Tomatoes Ruled Non-Poisonous - 1830
Toothpick -
  o 1872 - Patent for manufacture machinery by Silas Noble and J.P. Cooley
  o 1887 - First American Toothpick Factory, Charles Foster
  o 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
- 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:
  o Christmas Trees - 1848 (popularity begins in Britain)
  o Christmas Tree Lights - 1920s became popular
  o A Charlie Brown Christmas - 1965
  o Aluminum Christmas Tree - Introduced, Christmas 1959 (popularity 1960-65
  o American Made Glass Ornaments - 1871
  o Metal Tree Stand Patent - 1876
  o Flocked (with flour) tree fashion - 1883
  o Christmas Tree Ornaments, machine blown glass from Corning - 1939
  o Tinsel - 1870s (Invented in Germany, from real silver, c1610)
  o Artificial Trees - 1913 (Sears)

• Father's Day
  o 1910 - First proclaimed in Washington State
  o 1943 - Recorded in print
  o 1956 - Congressional Recognition

• Hallmark Cards - 1910

• Happy Birthday to You (song)
  o 1893 - music w/ song title "Good Morning to All"
  o 1924 - March 4, published with new lyric "Happy Birthday Dear ___"
  o 1933 - Common singing as "Happy Birthday to You"
  o 1934 - Sung in the Broadway show, As Thousands Cheer, kicking off copyright enforcement tradition.
  o 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
  o 1939 - pamphlet for Montgomery Wards
  o 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

Household Supplies & Appliances

• Can opener
  o Modern can opener - 1870
  o Added serrated rotation wheel - 1925
  o Electric - 1931
• Coat Hanger - 1903 (cardboard tube added in 1935)
• Coffee Pots & Coffee Makers:
  o Coffee Pot invented - 1803
  o Silex Pyrex ® drip coffee pot - 1915
• Cuisinart - 1973
• Dishwasher - 1886 (invention date) (1914 - Household version)
• Doorbell
  o Electric - 1870s ? (the electric bell itself was said to have been invented in 1831)
  o Clockwork Mechanical: 1888 - New Departure Bell Company
  o Victorian - Company sells reproductions. Web is illustrated
• Electric Air Conditioner -
  o 1902 Invention by Carrier
  o 1906 Patent
  o 1907 Coining of the word
  o 1911 (invention) also dated to 1902
  o 1914 Carrier, (also listed as 1902-6)
  o 1916 First Theatre to be air conditioned (in a modern way) was The Empire Theatre in Montgomery, AL
  o 1928 First office building to be air conditioned:
• Electric Carving Knife - 1939 (invention)
• Electric Fans;
  o First - 1882
  o Classic Table Version - 1908
• Electric Room Heater - 1892
• Electric Stoves, Ovens and Ranges:
  o 1630 - metal range fired by coal
  o 1802 - cast iron, even-heating range with flue
  o 1860s - Gas ranges are popular
  o 1890s - Electric stoves appear
  o 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
  o GE Electric Iron - 1904
  o Hotpoint Electric Iron - 1905 (actually had a "hot point")
  o Steam Iron - 1926
  o Collapsible Ironing Board - 1892
• Lawnmower
  o 1875 - first use of the word
  o 1919 - motorized by Edwin George
• Microwave Oven
  o 1946 patent)
  o 1947 Radarange (5' tall!)
  o 1955 Tappan home unit (huge and not popular)
  o 1967 Compact Home Radarange
• Microwave Oven sales exceed gas ranges - 1975
• Mr. Coffee - 1974
• Mixers/Blenders
  o Poplawski blender - 1922 (later Oster)
  o Model "K" KitchenAid - 1927 (design still around today)
- Waring Blender (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 Toastmaster - 1926
- **Tupperware** - 1945
- Water Softeners - 1924 (Culligan)
- Water Heater - 1889

**Judicial & Law Enforcement:**

- 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](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm) (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
  - Boomerrang 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 (Roebling begins manufacture of wire fabric)
- **Roebling Resource** and **Roebling Timeline**
  - First used in German Mines - 1834 to 1854
  - 1889 - James Stone patents 6 by 25 filler wire rope

**Medical/Dental**

  - 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**
- 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
- Electroencephalograph (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

**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
- Look - 1937
- Los Angeles Times - 1881
- Mad Magazine - 1952
- Manchester Guardian - 1821
- McGuffy 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)
  - 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
- Newprint - 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 Ladislas 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:**

- 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 Facor 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
  - Cartridge Razor - 1965
  - Disposable razor blade - 1895
  - Shaving Brush - 1750s
  - Shaver, Disposible (Bic) - 1975
  - Shaver, Electric - 1931 (first marketing in NY) 1937 - era of popularity clear
  - Shaver, Electric - first cordless, rechargeable - 1960 (Remmington)

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

Toothpaste tube origin - 1892

Vaseline Petroleum Jelly - 1860 (invention)

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

- 35mm Film Cassette - 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

- 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)
  o 1938 - Xerography invented (no one saw the use!)
  o 1944 - First demonstration of a copy machine
  o 1949 - Xerox Model A photocopier
  o 1959 - First plain paper copier (Xerox 914)
  o 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
  o 1906 - First advertised broadcast
  o 1920 - First Regular (KDKA, Pittsburgh) (licensed in 1919)
• Radios Using House Current - 1928
• Satellite radio - 2001
• Shortwave Radio Invention - 1919
• **Tape Recording Timeline**
  o Tape Recorder - 1934 (initial development by Begun)
  o Wire Recorder invented - 1898
  o Tape Recorder, higher quality - c. 1947
  o Tape Recorder, Cassette - first demo in 1964
  o 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**
  o RCA Set introduction for home use - 1939 (tube faced up, viewed with mirror)
  o Ultrasonic Remote Control - 1956
  o Set ownership passes 1,000,000 - 1949
  o Television History, the first 75 years - Astonishing! Extensive collection of materials from timelines to pictures of thousands of models of TV sets 🌟🌟🌟
  o Color Television, test patterns, etc. - Great site!
  o 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
  - 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
  - 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:
  - o Introduction - 1909?
  - o BIC - 1973
  - o 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
  - o Friction Match - 1826
  - o Safety Matches - 1855
  - o **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

**Sports Related**

- Astroturf - 1965
- Badminton - 1783
- Baseball Cap - 1876
- Baseball Catchers Mask Patent - 1878
- Basketball, Modern - 1891-2
- Bongo Board - 1952 (Stanley Washburn)
- Golf
  - o 1888 - St. Andrews Golf Club, Westchester NY
  - o 1898 - Golf Tee
  - o 1908 - Dimpled Golf ball
  - o 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**
  - o 1759 - Invention - Joseph Merlin (in line too!)
  - o 1819 - 1st inline skate patent
  - o 1840 - A beerhall in Germany boasts barmaids on roller skates
  - o 1857 - Roller rinks in Britain
  - o 1863 - first use in America, the "rocking skate" allowed for turns (4 wheels)
  - o 1884 - Ball bearing wheels introduced - mass production
  - o 1902 - Roller rink in Chicago
  - o 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:**

- 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**
  - o 1934 Lego name derived from the Danish words, "leg" and "godt" (play well.).
  - o 1949 Ole Kirk Christiansen invents the "Automatic Binding Brick" - They don't stick well
  - o 1958 The modern Lego "Stud and Tube System" bricks are first marketed
  - o 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 - 1970
- 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]
  - o 1930 - Invented by architect Alfred Mosher Butts (under different names)
  - o 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](#)

**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 Saftey 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](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm) - *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**: 

[http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm](http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm)
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
  o 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 Janiero
• 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

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**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

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

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

http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm
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 Tetrazzini - Named for opera singer, Luisa Tetrazzini
- 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 Virginia, 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

http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm
- 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 Fornay, 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 (Tsinkiang, Quanzhou), China
- Shrapnel - Invented by Henry Shrapnel
- Sideburns - Named for General Ambrose Everett Burnside (at first called burnsides)
- 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

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 (tradename 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)
- Klenex
- 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

http://www.artslynx.org/theatre/props2.htm
- Typewriter
- Windbreaker
- Yo-Yo
- Zipper - 1921 registered (the concept was invented much earlier) B.F. Goodrich

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.
Words & Product Names With Theatre Origins

- An Old Chestnut (i.e., a bad old joke) derives from a line in William Dillon's Play, *The Broken Sword*.
- Chicken Tetrazzini - Named for opera singer, Luisa Tetrazzini.
- 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.
Stooge - 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 - SSpecial + hAM
• Univac - UNIVersal + Automatic + Computer system
• Velcro - (Velour or Velvet + Crochet)
• WD-40 - (Water Displacement)
• ZIP code - (Zone Improvement Program)

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