

How Candy Canes are Made

The story behind those delicious red and white Christmas candies.

It's that time of year again. A chill has filled the air, bright lights are hanging on houses in the neighborhood, and children are enjoying the peppermint taste of the traditional candy canes.

Candy canes have been around for over 250 years. They originated in Germany and started out as entirely white peppermint sticks. Then they were turned into the Christmas candies we see today!



How They are Made

Candy canes are made using the following ingredients:

- Sugar
- Peppermint flavoring
- Corn syrup
- Water
- Food coloring
- Cream of tartar

Candy makers (*kuh n-fek-shuh-ner*) begin by combining sugar, water, tartar, and syrup together and stir them until the sugar has dissolved. The mixture is divided into two different parts and brought to a boil, without stirring. Peppermint flavoring is added to

each mixture and the red food coloring is added to the red one only. Then each mixture is placed onto a cold surface and flattened. Just like taffy, the mixtures can then be pulled and twisted and then wound around each other to create the red and white pattern we all know and love. Once sharpened, they are again laid down to cool completely.



The red and white stripes swirl around the candy cane

Candy Canes Today

Today, companies make candy canes in many different flavors other than just the traditional peppermint. Candy canes also come in many different sizes and even textures. Learn more at:

<http://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/how-its-made/videos/how-its-made-candy-canes/>

Text Feature Find

Use the color code below to identify the text features in the article.



TEXT



HEADING



MAP



CAP



BOLD



PHOTOGRAPH



ITALICS



QUOTE



HYPERLINK

What text features do you NOT see in the article?

Answer the following questions about the text features:

1. What was the purpose of the **text** in the article?

2. Based on the main idea of the **map** paragraph, what could be another possible heading? Explain.

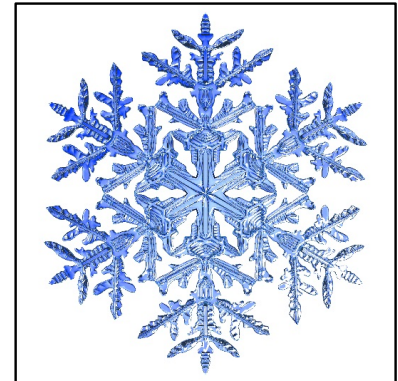
3. Explain why the author decided to make the word 'articulated' a bold word in the first paragraph.

4. What purpose does the hyperlink give to the reader?

The Science Behind Snowflakes

Are snowflakes truly one of a kind?

You walk outside into the cold & frigid air. Something wet hits your nose. You look up and see them, all of them, falling softly to the ground. It's snowing! Snow is a type of precipitation that falls from the clouds but only when the temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. When it snows, small particles called snow crystals, or snowflakes, are formed and fall to the ground to make the blanket of white we all see in the winter. But how are those snow crystals really formed?



This photo shows the beautiful detail of the snow crystals.

Check This Out!

- Snowflakes are sometimes called 'Diamond Dust Crystals'.
- Snowflakes can be as small as the diameter of a human hair!



How Snowflakes are Formed

Snowflakes are formed from water vapor that condenses directly into ice crystals in the clouds. They take shape as tiny vapor pieces from cloud droplets collide and freeze on the surface of a seed crystal, and patterns emerge as these crystals grow. The seed crystal itself forms on a tiny particle, like a speck of dust in the air, which serves as a base for ice growth.

Truly Unique

Even though all snowflakes have some sort of hexagonal shape, their features are all different. These differences are due to the variety of temperatures in which they are formed. Some snowflakes have longer arms than others. Some snowflakes have flatter arms. These variations are unlimited, which produce vastly unique snowflakes every time!



THIN PLATES
32° to 25°F

NEEDLES
25° to 21°F

HOLLOW COLUMNS
21° to 14°F

SECTOR PLATES
14° to 10°F

DENDRITES
10° to 3°F

Text Feature Find

Use the color code below to identify the text features in the article.



TEXT



HEADING



MAP



CAP



BOLD



PHOTOGRAPH



ITALICS



QUOTE



HYPERLINK

What text features do you NOT see in the article?

Answer the following questions about the text features:

1. What was the purpose of the **Text** Box in the article?

2. Why do you think the first paragraph does not have a heading? If you could give it one, what would it be?

3. What is one fact you learned from the table in the article?

4. If you could bold one more vocabulary term, what word would you pick and why?

The History of Gingerbread



"Run, run, as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" The gingerbread man is a beloved tale for many children around the world, but there is even a bigger story behind this little man that meets the eye!

The Origin of Gingerbread

Ginger was first cultivated in ancient China, where it was commonly used as a medicinal treatment. From there it spread to Europe via the Silk Road. During the Middle Ages, it was favored as a spice for its ability to disguise the taste of meat.

the first known recipe for gingerbread came from Greece in 2400 BC. Chinese recipes were developed during the 10th century and by the late Middle Ages, Europeans had their own version of gingerbread. The hard cookies, sometimes gilded with gold leaf and shaped like animals, kings and queens, were a staple at Medieval fairs in England, France, Holland and Germany.



The elaborate gingerbread house is decorated with icing and a variety of candy!

Ingredients	
Cream shortening & brown sugar, add egg	
Mix together dry ingredients	
Add to creamed mixture until well blended	
Roll out dough with well floured rolling pin & cut out	
Bake on ungreased cookie sheet	
Decorate with icing & gold leaf	

Gingerbread houses originated in Germany during the 16th century. The elaborate cookie-walled houses, decorated with foil in addition to gold leaf, became associated with Christmas tradition. Their popularity rose when the Brothers Grimm wrote the story of Hansel and Gretel, in which the main characters stumble upon a house made entirely of treats deep in the forest. It is unclear whether or not gingerbread houses were a result of the popular fairy tale, or vice versa.

Text Feature Find

Use the color code below to identify the text features in the article.



TEXT



HEADING



TABLE



CAPTION



BOLD



PHOTOGRAPH



ITALICS



QUOTE



HYPERLINK

What text features do you NOT see in the article?

Answer the following questions about the text features:

1. What was the purpose of the **TEXT** in the article?

2. The last paragraph in the article **did not** have a heading. What should the heading be and why?

3. Could the author insert the text feature of a **TABLE** into the article? Why or why not?

4. What is one fact you learned from reading the **CAPTION**?

The Symbols of the Season

Ways we recognize the Christmas season around us.

Let's play a game. I'll give you three words and you guess the holiday. Ready? Bells, angels, and a star. Did you guess Christmas? Then you're right! On their own, these symbols are usually normal everyday objects and people put them together and suddenly, we have a holiday! There are many symbols that people associate with the holiday of Christmas.

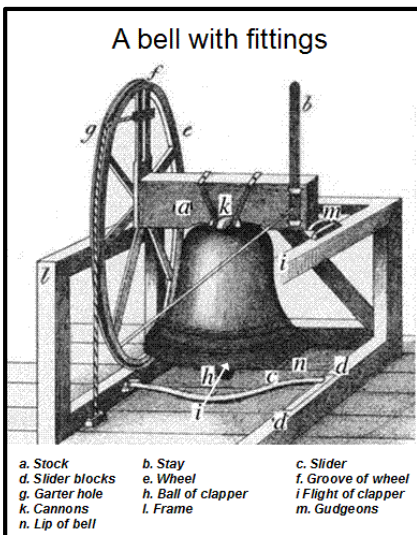
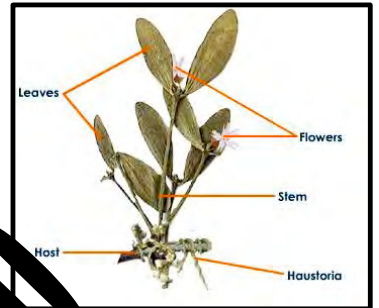


The Christmas Tree

The Christmas tree is probably the most recognizable symbol of Christmas. The history of the Christmas tree is unknown but there are many stories that are told about its origins. In the 15th century, some people used to decorate their Christmas trees with apples to represent the story of Adam and Eve.

Mistletoe

Mistletoe [*mis-uh l-toh*] is also a common symbol of Christmas. A legend says that when a couple is found underneath mistletoe that is hanging from the ceiling, the couple must share a kiss! This dates back to many years ago when the golden color from the mistletoe was thought to keep families and loved ones safe. It was hung on doorways as ways to protect from unwanted guests.



Bells

The bell is also a common symbol of Christmas that dates back to the times of St. Patrick. St. Patrick would walk and ring bells to help gather his followers. Now bells are used for many reasons in many different churches and religions and symbolize time, gatherings, and celebrations!

Overall, it's clear to see that Christmas has many recognizable symbols that help us celebrate this wonderful holiday. Seasons greetings!

Text Feature Find

Use the color code below to identify the text features in the article.



TITLE



HEADING



DIAGRAM

What other text features could be added?



CAPITAL LETTERS



BOLD



ILLUSTRATION



ITALICS



QUOTE



LABELS

Answer the following questions about the text features:

1. What was the purpose of the diagram in the article?

2. What are the labels in the bell profile drawing?

3. Why did the author choose the word 'recognised' instead of the bold words?

4. What could be the heading of the first paragraph? Explain why.

