

Popcorn Trivia

SCIENCE of POPCORN

What makes it pop?

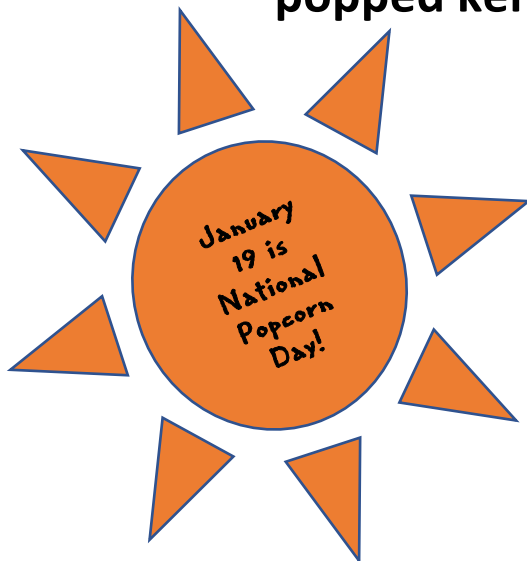
Every kernel of popcorn holds a tiny drop of water inside, surrounded by the hull, the hard shell on the outside of the kernel. When the kernel heats up, the water drop becomes steam. As the steam builds and expands, the pressure inside the kernel pushes outward and explodes into a fluffy white piece of popcorn.



Most U.S. popcorn is grown in the Midwest, primarily in **Indiana, Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky and Missouri.**



A popped kernel of corn is 40 to 50 times the size of the unpopped kernel.



Who invented Popcorn?

What seems to be the oldest example of popcorn was found in a deep New Mexican

cave. In 1948, two explorers (Herbert Dick and Earle Smith) made an interesting discovery the cave called the Bat Cave. They found small corn cobs and some individual popped kernels. Carbon dating revealed that the corn was approximately 5,600 years old. Some of the kernels were used in an experiment.



Early Popcorn wagon invented in 1885 by Charles Cretors.

They actually popped!

POPCORN TIMELINE



3,600 B.C.E. (approximately)	The carbon date of an ear of popcorn found in a New Mexican cave.
300 C.E. 	Origin date of ancient funeral urns found in Mexico by archeologists in the 20 th century. The urns were decorated with images of the Corn God wearing a headdress with popcorn decorations. Other discoveries in South and Central America show evidence that popping corn existed for centuries in Peru, Guatemala, and Mexico. The Aztecs ate popcorn, also decorated their ceremonial clothing with popcorn.
17 th Century	French explorers in North America discovered that the Iroquois made popcorn by heating sand in a clay vessel and adding the dried kernels. Early pilgrims made popcorn as a snack and a breakfast food. Like cereal, they added milk and sugar. Sometimes colonists popped corn with molasses to make it sweeter; similar to kettle corn.
1866	The first popcorn popper was invented in America by William Oberton. He filed a patent in 1866
1893	In 1893, a movable popcorn machine was one of the amazing sights at the Chicago World's Fair. A pony pulled the 400+ pound machine around the fair.
Early 1900s	In the early days of moving pictures, vendors set up popcorn wagons <u>outside</u> the theater doors and sold popcorn to movie-going customers. Eventually a theater owner had a super idea! Why not sell popcorn <u>inside</u> the theater! The rest is history.
1914	Jolly Time Pop Corn was the first retail brand of popcorn sold in grocery stores.
1960s	Jiffy Pop invented an easier way to make popcorn on the stove with kernels package in a disposable pan with a handle. Set on the heated stove, the foil cover expanded as the corn popped, and the human shook it. The project jingle said, "Jiffy Pop, Jiffy Pop, the magic treat, as much fun to make as it is to eat."
1971	Orville Redenbacher spent almost 40 years cultivating a kernel that was a better popper. It hit the grocery stores in 1971.
1983	Microwave popcorn was launched. Making popcorn in the microwave was soon the way most people made their popcorn. Now everyone in the office, school, dormitory, or neighborhood knows you are making popcorn.
2000	By the turn of the century, American consumed 17.3 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year. The average person eats 59 quarts a year.
2018	<i>POP!</i> by Tawnie Olson, is premiered by the E.C. Adams Middle School Band in Guilford, CT.