

Name: _____



Date: _____

The History of Oreos

Did you know that since their introduction in 1912, the Oreo cookie has become the best selling cookie in the U.S.?

Oreos Are Introduced

In 1898, several baking companies merged to form the National Biscuit Company (NaBisCo), the maker of Oreo cookies. By 1902, Nabisco created Barnum's Animal cookies and made them famous by selling them in a little box designed like a cage with a string attached (to hang on Christmas trees).

In 1912, Nabisco had a new idea for a cookie - two chocolate disks with a creme filling in between. The first Oreo cookie looked very similar to the Oreo cookie of today, with only a slight difference in the design on the chocolate disks.

The shape and design of the Oreo cookie didn't change much until Nabisco began selling various versions of the cookie. In 1975, Nabisco released their DOUBLE STUF Oreos. Nabisco continued to create variations:

1987 -- Fudge covered Oreos introduced

1991 -- Halloween Oreos introduced

1995 -- Christmas Oreos introduced

The Mysterious Name

So how did the Oreo get its name? The people at Nabisco aren't quite sure. Some believe that the cookie's name was taken from the French word for gold, "or" (the main color on early Oreo packages). Others claim the name stemmed from the shape of a hill-shaped test version; thus naming the cookie in Greek for mountain, "oreo." Still others believe the name is a combination of taking the "re" from "cream" and placing it between the two "o"s in "chocolate" - making "o-re-o." And still others believe that the cookie was named Oreo because it was short and easy to pronounce.

No matter how it got named, over 362 billion Oreo cookies have been sold since it was first introduced in 1912, making it the best selling cookie of the 20th century.

After reading about the fascinating History of Oreos, answer the following questions:

1. In what year was Barnum's Animal cookies created? _____ (underline in the text where you found your answer).
2. Put a plus sign "+" next to the facts that surprised you.
3. How long has Oreo cookies been around (show me your thinking with a number sentence)?

4. If you could have designed an Oreo cookie, how would you have created it? Would you change its shape? Its color?

5. No one is really sure about how Oreos got its name. How do YOU think the name was created? Do you think any of the stories above are true? If so, underline the one that you think is most believable. Explain why you believe the one you chose.

6. Do you think there was some other reason that it was named Oreo? Tell why or why not.
