

The Invention of Gummy Bears

Name _____

Hans Riegel had an idea. Tired of his life as a candy seller, he decided to start his own candy-making company. He named it Haribo, which took the first two letters of the big words in the phrase “Hans Riegel of Bonn”.

At first Haribo was a two-person company made up of Hans and his wife. His wife was a bicyclist who could deliver Hans’s candy throughout Bonn. One of their first products was called “dancing bears.” Hans enjoyed watching the actual “dancing” bears in German circuses and made hard candies shaped in their honor. The candies sold fairly well, but not as well as Hans hoped. Hans soon got the idea to use gelatin to make his dancing bears soft and chewy instead of hard. He also thought to make them in different colors so that children would like them.

Hans was right! The new recipe resulted in gummy bears becoming very popular. Within a few years, the Haribo company had over 400 workers who produced thousands of pounds of candy every day.

1. Why did Hans decide to start his own company?

- A. He was tired of working at Haribo
- B. He was tired of being a candy seller
- C. He wanted to make gummy bears
- D. He wanted to watch the bears at circuses.

2. At first...

- A. nobody wanted to buy dancing bears.
- B. some people wanted to buy dancing bears.
- C. everyone wanted to buy dancing bears.
- D. dancing bears sold poorly.

3. The first sentence in the last paragraph reads, “Hans was right!”

What was Hans right about?

- A. People should go to circuses
- B. He should hire more workers
- C. Dancing bears should be chewy and colorful
- D. Dancing bears were best as hard candies

4. What did “gelatin” have to do with the success of Haribo?

In 1937, Amelia decided to fly around the world. It was a very risky flight that had never been completed by a female pilot.

- A. It allowed Haribo to start making gummy bears
- B. It was the ingredient that made gummy bears very popular
- C. It was the ingredient that made gummy bears very colorful
- D. It gave Hans Riegel an idea