



Unseen #8 – The Discovery of Popcorn

Popcorn is a snack that many people enjoy, but do you know how it came to be? The story of popcorn begins with the indigenous peoples of the Americas. They discovered that heating certain corn kernels caused them to pop open, creating a tasty treat.

Spanish explorers were the first Europeans to encounter popcorn. They brought it back to Europe, where it became a novelty. However, it wasn't until the 19th century that popcorn gained widespread popularity. Inventors created machines that could pop corn quickly and efficiently, making it a popular snack at fairs and theaters.

The invention of the microwave in the 20th century took popcorn to new heights. Now, people could easily make popcorn at home. Its low cost and ease of preparation made it a household staple.

Today, popcorn is enjoyed in many forms: sweet, salty, or even spicy. It's a go-to snack for movie nights, parties, and more. Its journey from ancient times to modern snack aisles is a fascinating tale of discovery and innovation.

Words Bank

Household staple - מצרך ביתי | Indigenous - ילידים | Kernels - גרעינים |

Encounter - נתקל/גילה



Questions

1. Who were the first people to discover popcorn?

2. How did popcorn reach Europe?

3. What made popcorn popular in the 19th century?

4. How did the invention of the microwave affect popcorn's popularity?



5. What are some ways people enjoy popcorn today?

6. What do you think makes popcorn a household staple?

7. How do you prefer your popcorn? Sweet, salty, or spicy?



#8 The Discovery of Popcorn - Answers

1. The indigenous peoples of the Americas were the first to discover popcorn.
2. Spanish explorers brought popcorn back to Europe.
3. Inventors created machines that made popping corn quick and efficient, making it popular at fairs and theaters.
4. The invention of the microwave made it easy for people to make popcorn at home.
5. Today, popcorn is enjoyed in many forms: sweet, salty, or even spicy.
6. Popcorn is a household staple due to its low cost and ease of preparation.
7. This question is open-ended and subjective.