

Can you imagine a world without cool, creamy ice-cream cones? An ice-cream vendor named Charles Menches was doing such booming business that he ran out of bowls to put the ice cream in. The vendor next to Menches was a young Syrian immigrant named Ernest Hamwi. But, if crunchy, salty treats like potato chips are your preference, then you owe a debt of gratitude to a cranky chef and a picky diner who lived over 150 years ago. Hamwi was selling a Syrian treat called zalabia, a crisp, wafer-like pastry. Hamwi rolled some of his warm pastry into a cone so that Menches could put ice cream inside. Yet all these treats are fairly recent inventions that may never have come into existence if it weren't for lucky accidents. Crum sliced the potatoes as thinly as possible and fried them in grease. Isn't it depressing to imagine life without chewy, delicious, chocolate chip cookies? And who could get by without salty, addictive, crispy potato chips? Some prefer the indulgence of delicious freshly baked goods, like chocolate chip cookies. However, after taking the cookies out of the oven, Wakefield discovered that the chocolate hadn't melted. Hamwi came up with a solution to Menches' quandary. One winter day in 1905, young Epperson was making soda pop by mixing powdered soda and water. Epperson's children referred to this treat made by their pop as a popsicle. On August 24, 1853, George Crum was working as a chef in a restaurant when he became frustrated with a customer. To Crum's astonishment, the customer thought the chips were delectable. Some have made our lives richer, sweeter, and tastier! These people should be grateful for an accidental discovery made by an American housewife in 1930. One day Ruth Wakefield was making chocolate cookies when she realized that she had run out of baker's chocolate. Wakefield decided to substitute broken-up pieces of a chocolate bar she had on hand. She assumed that the small pieces of chocolate would melt and mix into the batter. Much to Wakefield's delight, the chocolate chip cookie proved to be a great success with her family and guests. Wakefield sold the recipe to the chocolate company Nestle(R) in exchange for a lifetime supply of chocolate chips. Have you ever enjoyed the cool refreshment of a popsicle on a hot summer day? In the morning, Epperson discovered that the fruit-flavored liquid had frozen to the stick. The customer had repeatedly sent back his French fries, complaining that they were too thick and soggy. They became a regular item on the restaurant's menu and, in time, became a staple of the global fast food industry. Of course, not everyone is a fan of frozen treats. Instead, there were little chips of chocolate throughout the cookie. It wasn't long before the chocolate chip cookie became a world-famous treat. But, perhaps your dessert of choice on a hot day is an ice-cream cone. If so, you have an 11-year-old boy named Frank Epperson to thank. He accidentally left the mixing bucket outside with the mixing stick in it overnight. Although he tried and liked his invention, it wasn't until eighteen years later that it occurred to him to turn his invention into a business. Today, popsicles are enjoyed by millions of people around the world. Fed up, Crum decided to teach him a lesson. Clearly not all accidents are bad. If so, you should be glad for the unexpected event that brought two men together at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. In that instant, a favorite international hot weather treat was born. That night, the temperature reached freezing. That name stuck and eventually became the official name.