

Nelson's Columbia Candy Kitchen

Columbia, California

(209) 532-7886

(There is a nominal fee, call for details and to schedule.)

Explore the history of candy With your taste buds!

Taste # 1 Candied Orange Peel

For thousands of year's humans have been enjoying sweets, early man enjoyed fresh honey from beehives. Sometimes combined with beeswax, honey was formed to make the earliest form of chewing gum. The Egyptians, Arabs and Chinese all prepared sweet confections with fruits, and nuts all candied with honey. In 1200 B.C. "Kandi" a sweet reed, flavored with honey and spices was a Persian delicacy. Perhaps our word "candy" came from this treat. When the Crusaders discovered "Sweet Salt" during their conquest in the Middle East. They brought sugar back to Europe upon their return in the 11th century. Costly sugar cane was only available to the very rich.

Taste # 2 Jordan Almond

In 13th century Venice, Italy sugar was the rage. Fancy sugar sculptures and candy art developed. Lavish table decorations for the finally course of dinner and spun sugars began a long tradition of giving sultry sweets at parties and weddings.

Taste # 3 Clove drop

The sweet taste and popularity of sugar was used widely in medicines. Apothecaries coated their bitter herbal remedies with sugar to mask the unpleasant tastes.

Taste # 4 Piece of Chocolate

The Spanish introduced coca to Europe in the 1400's. Central American Aztecs drank a thick, frothy cocoa drink spiced with vanilla and chili peppers. Their neighbors the Mayans, called cocoa "cacao, the food of the Gods". With the discoveries of cocoa and coffee the demand for sugar grew. By 1570 the Portuguese were growing sugar in Brazil on seventy-five plantations. In the 16th through 18th centuries the use of cane sugar spread around the globe. By 1657 an English chocolate house opened for business, serving cocoa hot with cinnamon.

Taste # 5 Piece of Taffy

In the 19th century the Industrial Revolution was bringing many new technologies. Hard candies such as peppermint and lemon drops became popular and widely available in America. By 1850 there were more than 380 American factories that made "Penny Candy". At this time common candies changed from just hard candies to fudges and chocolate-coated pieces. In 1868 the first heart shaped box was made by Richard Cadbury. Candy because of it regal and glorious background has always been a symbol of special occasion and holidays. Since 1928 The Columbia Candy Kitchen has been serving people our products made in the classic American style from recipes from yesteryear. We hope you enjoy your delicious tastes of the past.