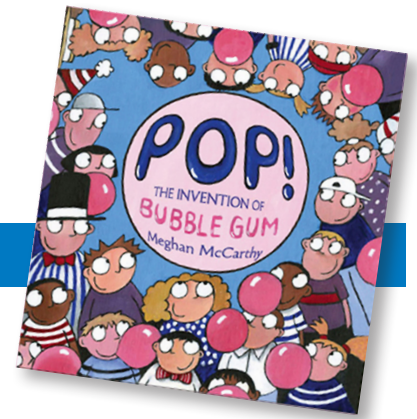


# Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum



## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Scientific Method, Trial and Error, Perseverance

**Grade Level:** K to 2nd grade

**Book Brief:** The Fler Corporation is trying to create a new kind of gum, but they

aren't having much luck. Can a man who knows nothing about gum save the day?

**Author and Illustrator:** Meghan McCarthy

## TIME TO READ!



**Before reading, build background:** Give your child a piece of gum. Encourage them to use their five senses to describe the gum before and after chewing.

**While reading, make connections:** This story is set in the 1920's. Use the pictures to find differences between that time period and today.

**After reading, ask questions:**

- ◆ Why does Walter care about making bubble gum?
- ◆ Why doesn't Walter just give up?

## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### BUBBLE ART

Materials: 1/2 cup liquid dish soap, 1 1/2 cups water, 2 tsp. sugar, 2 drops food coloring, plastic container, pipe cleaners, white paper

Make a different kind of bubble to blow by mixing the soap, water, sugar, and food coloring. Make bubble wands out of pipe cleaners, dip the wands into the mixture, and blow bubbles onto white paper. Observe the bubble marks. Did the shape of the wand change the bubble shape? Size?

### DON'T POP THAT BUBBLE!

Have a bubble blowing contest and see who can hold their bubble the longest without letting it pop. Count the number of seconds you last. Can you hold the next bubble even longer? Does the size of the bubble affect how long you can hold it?

### BUBBLE GUM GUESSES

Materials: 3 different types of gum

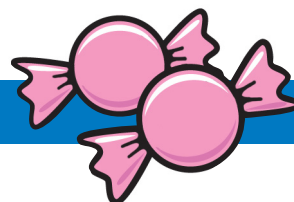
Explore the gum before you put it in your mouth. How is each piece different? The same? Which piece of gum do you think will blow the biggest bubble? Why? One piece at a time, chew the gum, blow a bubble, and have someone measure and record the size of the bubble. Was your prediction right?

### TECHNOLOGY LINKS

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=62HjZ1-LGDo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62HjZ1-LGDo) Check out this video of Susan Montgomery Williams, the Guinness World Record holder for bubble blowing.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB3st6SQnsk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WB3st6SQnsk) Take a peek at how bubble gum is made.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



### OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

*Astronaut Handbook* (2008),  
*Seabiscuit the Wonder Horse* (2008),  
*The Incredible Life of Balto* (2011).