

Name _____ Date _____

Jelly Beans: A Sweet Treat

Answer the following questions:

1. When did jellybeans become popular in the United States?
2. What is the first reference to jellybeans in history?
3. How many jellybeans do Americans eat each Easter?
4. What is a possible reason that jellybeans became associated with Easter?
5. Which president loved jellybeans? Tell 2 things he did that support this idea.
6. In the 5th paragraph, what does the word "consumed" mean?
 a. sold b. thrown away, wasted
 c. eaten, used up d. made, created
7. What is the author's purpose for writing this article? Give at least 2 details from the text to support your answer.

informational text

"Jellybeans: A Sweet Treat"
 This passage is perfect for close-reads, ELA centers, independent work, or whole class instruction.

bookmarks

Print either single-sided or double-sided, then laminate, if desired.

Punch a hole at the top and add a colorful ribbon to make the bookmarks extra fun!

Jellybean Reading

A Sweet Freebie

"Jellybeans: A Sweet Treat"
 An Informational Text Passage
 Worksheet and Answer Key

Jellybean Bookmarks
 Perfect for Student Gifts



Grades 3-6
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Jellybeans: A Sweet Treat

Who doesn't enjoy delicious jellybeans? These sweet, little candies have been around for quite a long time, but how they began is not really known.

The earliest reference to these little candies is from the time of the Civil War. Boston candy maker William Schrafft asked the citizens to show their support to the Union soldiers by sending jellybeans to them in the mail. He was sure the colorful candy would lift their spirits during their time of hardship.

Later during the early 1900s, jellybeans became quite popular in the United States, and it was common to see a large glass jar of the colorful, little beans sitting upon the counter of stores across the country.

It wasn't until the 1930s that jellybeans became associated with the Easter holiday. Nobody quite knows why, but it could be because of their egg-like shape. Today, Americans eat about 16 billion jellybeans every Easter. If you lined them all up, they would circle the globe almost three times!

Easter is not the only time that jellybeans are *consumed*. Many famous people have named them as their favorite treat. Most well-known was President Ronald Reagan. He started eating jellybeans when he gave up smoking his pipe. President Reagan often began official meetings by passing around a large jar of jellybeans! During his presidency, jellybeans traveled aboard the Shuttle Orbiter Challenger in 1983.

April 22nd has been proclaimed as National Jellybean Day. What better way is there to celebrate the fun candy than to participate in this national event? So, get your favorite flavors ready, make some jellybean gift bags for your friends, and start celebrating!

