



GREAT INVENTIONS

THE PACIFIER



Waaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!Waaaaaaaaaaaaa!!! Is this baby ever going to stop crying? Where did I put the pacifier? What will I do if I can't find it?

After listening to my mother looking desperately for my brother Diego's pacifier, several questions popped into my head. Who invented it? When? Why? I turned on my computer and started searching the internet for answers. Keep reading to see what I was able to find.



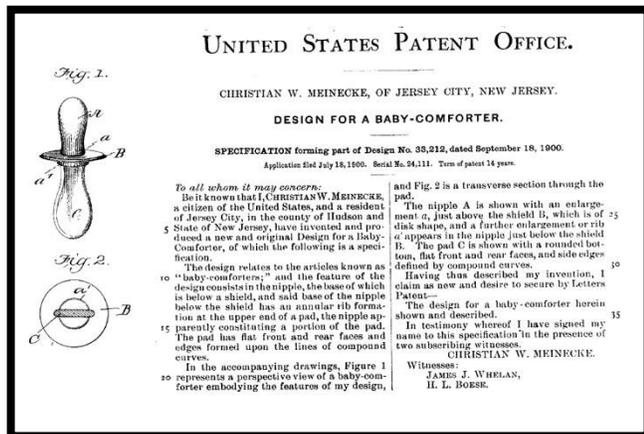
The pacifier is commonly used in early childhood stages. It is the inseparable companion of most very young children across the world. It is used to soothe and calm a baby when it feels nervous, uncomfortable, or is hurting. Also, when it is afraid of something or someone.



Babies have a biological and instinctive need to suck, to be able to get milk from the breast. If they don't have their mother's breast, they will suck their fingers, toes, or anything close they can put in their mouth. Because of this instinct, scientists and inventors of the time saw the need to create something babies could use comfortably, safely, and was affordable.

Pacifiers have not always been like we know them today. It might surprise you to know that in the past, pacifiers were not made of plastic, but cloth. They were filled with sugar, water, and other substances like honey so that the baby would calm down quickly when it started sucking.

Other types of pacifiers in antiquity were made of coral, bones, and even stones or wood, depending on the country and the time. Unfortunately, there are few vestiges of them except those found in some works of art.



In 1900, a new type of pacifier was developed that was not made with any of the materials mentioned above. It wasn't until the early twentieth century that the pacifier became like the ones we have today. Christian W. Meinecke, an American pharmacist, used rubber as a fundamental material to create his pacifier prototype. Although much simpler than pacifiers of today, it consisted of a rubber nipple, an earring around it, and a side handle so the baby could grab it.

Many families were delighted with this new invention, but it didn't take long for others to disagree with using a pacifier. It was believed to deform the mouth and teeth of young children. Despite the criticisms, pacifiers gained more followers who felt the pacifier was a necessity for their young children.

Rubber was discontinued, and latex, silicone, and even plastic were used. These materials were lighter, lasted longer, and were easy to clean. They could get them in assorted colors and even some that glow in the dark.



The pacifier goes by different names in other languages, but they all mean about the same thing, the object that makes peace. It is an appropriate name since it is used to help the baby get peaceful, stop crying, or calm down.

Now we know that virtually every baby in the world uses them. Have you ever wondered if they are beneficial or harmful to little children?

Several theories show the positive effects a pacifier has for a baby. For example, it has a calming effect, an analgesic effect, and it reinforces the immune system.

On the other hand, theories are showing the harmful effects a pacifier for young children. The use of a pacifier after 24 months can cause the child's teeth to become deformed and can delay the correct pronunciation of some sounds.

It is recommended to stop using a pacifier when the baby turns one or two. It is also recommended to get rid of worn or deformed pacifiers. Approved pacifiers comply with safety regulations and eliminate accidents.

What about you? Did you use a pacifier when you were little? How did your parents get you to stop using it?



Name _____

Date _____



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Answer the questions.

1. What does the word vestiges mean in the text?
 - a. traces of something from the past that no longer exists
 - b. something green and old.
 - c. something new that does not exist.
 - d. something bright and pretty.

2. What is the antonym of harmful?
 - a. beneficial
 - b. good
 - c. positive
 - d. All the answers are correct.

3. Why did people stop using stuffed cloth soothers?
 - a. They were very expensive to manufacture.
 - b. They were too soft and salty.
 - c. They wanted to use pacifiers with better materials.
 - d. The children had allergies.

4. Why do you think there are no pacifiers left from antiquity?
 - a. With the passage of time, they disappeared.
 - b. The materials they were made of were very resistant.
 - c. They burned and destroyed them.
 - d. They didn't like them being made of wood or coral.

5. What part of the text explains the advantages and disadvantages of using a crib?
 - a. the beginning
 - b. the middle
 - c. the end
 - d. nowhere in the text

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Answer the questions.

6. What is the main idea of the text?

- a. opinions for or against the use of the pacifier
- b. pacifiers use throughout history
- c. pacifiers are English
- d. pacifiers and the need of babies to suck

7. After reading the story, it can be deduced that _____.

- a. pacifiers are very bad for the teeth of a child of twelve months
- b. life is much easier for parents if they give a pacifier to their baby
- c. pacifiers were formerly useless
- d. pacifiers are assorted colors because they are latex

8. Who invented the pacifier most like the one we have today and when did he develop it?

- a. Christian W. Neimecke in 1900.
- b. Christian W. Meinecke in 1600.
- c. Christian W. Neimenke in 1900.
- d. Christian W. Meinecke in 1900.

9. At what age is it helpful to use the pacifier?

- a. when you are a baby
- b. between the first year and the second or third.
- c. when the baby can't sleep.
- d. Babies should not use a pacifier because it is harmful to their teeth.

10. Babies have a psychological and instinctive need to suck.

- a. True
- b. False