

LIFE IS SWEET: THE STORY OF MILTON HERSHEY

Born in September 1857, in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, Milton Hershey began life thinking about candy. His first job was an apprenticeship to the local printer who shortly dismissed him. His mother suggested that candy was the trade for Milton, and sent him to learn about the confectionery business. Later, Milton moved to Philadelphia where he founded his first candy shop. Yet with all his hard work the business failed.

Milton moved to Denver. He found work with a candy manufacturer. He learned about fine-quality caramels made with fresh milk. Fresh milk, Milton learned, allowed the candies to stay sweet and fresh.

After borrowing money from his mother's family, Milton moved on to New York City to open a new candy shop. Again the business failed. This time his creditors also lost money. Milton vowed he would pay his remaining debt.

One more time Milton opened a confectionery business. This time he made fine caramels. By focusing on a specialty item, Milton's business quickly grew. He paid back his creditors, and later sold the business for one million dollars.

Milton Hershey still dreamed of making chocolate. In 1894, he started the Hershey Chocolate Company in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, as a subsidiary of the Lancaster Caramel Company. Later, he set up business in the small town later known as Hershey, Pennsylvania. He built a large factory and housing for his workers close to dairy farms. His greatest pride was Hershey Industrial School for orphan boys.

During the Great Depression he added buildings to his town at a time when money was scarce. No man went without wages.

When World War II erupted, Hershey developed a chocolate bar for soldiers to carry as emergency food. The U.S. government honored Hershey for his contribution.

Milton Hershey died in 1945 at the age of 88. The town of Hershey continues not only as a world-class manufacturing town, but also as a tourist attraction. The pride of Milton Hershey also lives on as the Milton Hershey School educates thousands of children.

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE IS SWEET: THE STORY OF MILTON HERSHEY

Literal Questions:

THE FACTS:

1. When and where was Milton Hershey born?

2. Who suggested that Hershey should enter the candy trade?

3. Where did Hershey set up his chocolate business?

4. What did Hershey develop during World War II?

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS:

5. List the following events of Hershey's life in chronological order: Hershey added buildings to his town during the Great Depression; Hershey moved to Denver and found work with a candy manufacturer; Hershey sold his confectionery business for one million dollars.

6. What did the U.S. government do after Hershey developed a chocolate bar for soldiers to carry as emergency food?

Name _____

Date _____



Interpretive Questions:

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS:

7. What one word best describes Milton Hershey?

MAKING INFERENCES:

8. How did Milton feel about his workers? What facts in the story support your answer?

MAKING PREDICTIONS:

9. Will Hershey's® chocolates continue to be a popular snack? Why do you feel this way?

IDENTIFICATION OF CAUSE:

10. Hershey dedicated himself to the repayment of his creditors after his New York candy shop failed. Why do you think he was so determined to pay back his debt?

IDENTIFICATION OF THE MAIN IDEA:

11. Write a title for the story. Use as few words as possible.

Name _____ Date _____

COMPARISON:

12. How was Hershey's fine caramel confectionery business like his chocolate business? How was it different?

SUMMARIZE:

13. In your own words, describe Hershey's struggle to create a successful candy business.

EFFECT:

14. What effect did Hershey's dedication to his workers have on his employees during the Great Depression?

FACT AND OPINION:

15. The story said, "His (Hershey's) greatest pride was Hershey Industrial School for orphan boys." Is this statement a fact or an opinion? Why do you feel this way?

ON YOUR OWN:

16. Write a question about the story for a teacher or another student to answer.

Name _____ Date _____