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Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be

Charlotte Foltz Jones , John O'Brien

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Piggy banks, silly putty, potato chips and frisbees are all things that were invented by mistake."Jones gathers together in a splendid book that is as informative as it is entertaining. Jones has great fun with facts, dredging up plenty in a lively, anecdotal account that recollects the oddball origins of a variety of foods, clothing, toys, and devices....A gem of a book."-- "Booklist," starred review.

Includes a bibliography. An IRA-CBC Children's Choice.

Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be Details

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Author : Charlotte Foltz Jones , John O'Brien

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From Reader Review Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be for online ebook

Vicki says

This is a great little book for a kid interested in science or history. It's divided up really nicely, and has little vignettes about everything from penicillin to rolled trouser cuffs. A good one to keep in mind for the young factoid enthusiast. It'll make them stretch a little bit beyond in terms of reading, but will provide a lot of little tidbits to keep them interested.

Amanda Herman says

This book is a compilation of inventions and discoveries that took place by accident. Some examples include silly putty, popsicles, Coca-Cola, donut holes and cheese. There are also examples of places that were named mistakenly. It is also filled with fun facts, recipes, and anecdotes. This book is a great way to teach students that making mistakes can not only help you in the process of learning new things but also can lead to great contributions to society.

Emyrose8 says

Pictures, interesting facts, the story of how things were accidentally invented... what more could you want?

Susan says

A great book! I got this for my 5 year old daughter who would be very upset anytime she made a mistake or colored outside the lines. I read it to her and we talked about how even though people made a mistake, they discovered something new! Great book for kids!

PWRL says

E

G P Devine says

Fun, quick read with some interesting facts.

OpenBookSociety.com says

<http://openbooksociety.com/article/mi...>

Mistakes that Worked

By Charlotte Foltz Jones, Illustrator: John O'Brien

ISBN13: 9780399552021

Brought to you by OBS reviewer Kayt

Synopsis:

Do you know how many things in your daily life were invented by accident?

SANDWICHES came about when an English earl was too busy gambling to eat his meal and needed to keep one hand free. POTATO CHIPS were first cooked by a chef who was furious when a customer complained that his fried potatoes weren't thin enough. Coca-Cola, Silly Putty, and X rays have fascinating stories behind them too! Their unusual tales, and many more, along with hilarious cartoons and weird, amazing facts, make up this fun-filled book about everyday items that had surprisingly haphazard beginnings.

"A splendid book that is as informative as it is entertaining . . . a gem." —Booklist, Starred

Review:

Sandwiches, chocolate chip cookies, Frisbees, Silly Putty, the potato chip, how did they come to be? They were Mistakes that Worked: The World's Familiar Inventions and How They Came To Be. Delightful facts, entertaining cartoons and well delivered historical information contribute to make this book a fun read. Learn more about how some of the most populate day to day items went from mistakes to successes. I for one am sure glad they messed up and produced Coco Cola and chips, as well as chocolate chip cookies. I know I learned some very interesting things about items I use often if not every day. Things we take for granted like rubber and aspirin had to come from somewhere, be invented by someone. How funny to find out they came from mistakes.

Although this intriguing book is written towards a younger audience (middle grade level), I really enjoyed it. I think it is fascinating to learn where and how things I use and eat and drink came to be what they are. I am pretty sure readers of the intended readers will get a lot of it and have fun while learning. The writing is not dumbed down, yet is still very easy to understand and has the necessary warnings for those younger reads. The cartoons are cute and well done. I feel Mistakes that Worked is the perfect fun read for inquisitive readers of all ages.

OBS would like to thank the publisher for supplying a free copy of this title in exchange for an honest review

Kat says

A lot of the things that we use and take for granted today have crazy backstories that came from mistakes. Mistakes That Worked tells the history of different things we have today all because someone in history made a mistake and created something by accident. They describe everything from velcro to potato chips and have hilarious pictures to go along with it.

The best part of Mistakes That Worked are the illustrations. They are hilarious and help bring together the theme of the book, that sometimes great things come from silly situations. This book is entertaining and teaches that sometimes mistakes can be really great things.

Paired book: The Kid Who Invented The Popsicle

This book would provide a great lesson on the history of so many things we use today. An unknown and interesting history on an every day object can be very insightful to students. Mistakes are not the end of the world and as told in this book they can be the start of something great.

Manybooks says

Engagingly, enlighteningly but always also humorously and entertainingly recounted (and graced by John O'Brien's fun but really never too in-one's face and interfering accompanying panel like illustrations) with both basic and much supplemental informational details on each of the presented, on each of the featured inventions, Charlotte Foltz Jones' Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be shows a versatile, varied combination of forty common household objects, medicines and other innovations that emerged, that came into being either by mistake or by accident (and with the latter in mind, I personally would not be using the title Mistakes That Worked, as while many of the examined creations like fudge, scotch guard, post-it notes etc. were indeed due to actual manufacturing mishaps, many of the inventions definitely came into being more because of plain and simple serendipity and others, like the eponymous sandwich due to inventive imagination and human ingenuity, because the Earl of Sandwich wanted to be able to continue eating whilst still engaging in his penchant for gambling, or potato chips owing their emergence because of a chef getting annoyed at a patron constantly wanting thinner potato slices and actually creating the chips to deliberately annoy said patron, who though loved them and kept asking for more). Combined with that which is so important and essential to and for me with regard to a decent and useable non fiction tome for children (for older children above the age of eight or nine), namely a select but extensive bibliography as well as an appreciated index, Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came to Be is pretty well a near perfect combination of specific historic, scientific, cultural details and so-called fun and entertaining little factoids (never tedious, always engaging, and yes, most importantly, also presenting such important and essential nuggets of knowledge that for instance aspirin should not be taken by individuals younger than sixteen years of age due to its links to Reye's syndrome and that appreciatively, Charlotte Foltz Jones also points out essential health and safety measures for children using the kitchen, such as being careful and prudent with regard to utilising utensils, appliances and such, following recipes and yes, always having proper adult supervision when cooking).

Courtney Stevens says

So many things (food, medicine, clothing, city names, etc.) were invented on accident! Fun book, not the most exciting, but good to know that even when you mess up hardcore your mistake can have value and solve someone else's problem.

Angie says

This is a very good book to spark interest in younger elementary children. It is a good resource for elementary teachers or parents of elementary-age children.

Kris says

Fun! Children will enjoy this fact driven story about how everyday things were invented.

Lora says

I think I read a different version of this book. The picture here looks like an, um, picture book. The one I read was more a middle school book. Anyway, mildly interesting.

MaryNic says

Interesting facts.
Somethings you might not know.
(JUV non-fiction)

Gini says

Yes, this is a kids' read, but a fun one for an adult, too. This little book has all kinds of interesting information in it like who invented donuts, or how chocolate chip cookies came to be. Other items include how aspirin was discovered complete with the warnings for use in young children. And how about these? Scotchgard, post it notes, or how Cinderella ended up wearing glass slippers?

The articles are short, maybe a couple of hundred words max, with vocabulary probably appropriate for 10 year olds and up. Each chapter opens with a short line or two like this one from J.G. Holland. "Who never walks save where he sees Men's tracks, makes no discoveries."(56)

The major point is that a mistake which these invention stem from is the worst ever thing that could happen to you and may even open new totally unrelated ideas. That seems like good news to me, and I think a young

person might be encouraged as well.

Illustrations by John O'Brien are in color, whimsical, and even include a TSA agent at his post near a baggage scanner. Additionally, an index and selected bibliography finish this book nicely. Credit where it is due isn't a bad thing to learn early.

Pick up a few books like this from time to time to restore some of the magic that time seems to steal from us serious grownups. Maybe even learn something in the process.
