

# Kids Korner



Old-Time Candy Kitchen exhibit at the Hershey Museum includes clear toy candy making at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays now through Dec. 19, and every day from Dec. 26-30. Here Nancy Fasolt watches a young visitor's delight. Need more information, call (717) 534-3439.

## Make Clear Toy Candy

Pennsylvania-German children would "set their plates" on Christmas Eve. Christmas morning they would find them filled with fruit, nuts and clear toys.

The primary Christmas gift-giver of the Pennsylvania Dutch was "Christ-Kindel," literally - the Christ Child. The children were taught that "Christ-Kindel" riding on a donkey, would leave gifts for them on Christmas. "Christ-Kindel" became a common Pennsylvania Dutch term for Christmas gift - a special gift of clear toy.

To receive these gifts, the children would "set their plates" on Christmas Eve. They would set their individual dinner plate at its place at the kitchen table. On Christmas morning they would arise and go to the table to receive their gifts of fruit, nuts, and clear toys.

This crystal clear candy in yellow, red, and green, with no flavorings added, is made simply of sugar, water and corn syrup.

It finds its origin in south eastern Pennsylvania in the mid-1800s.

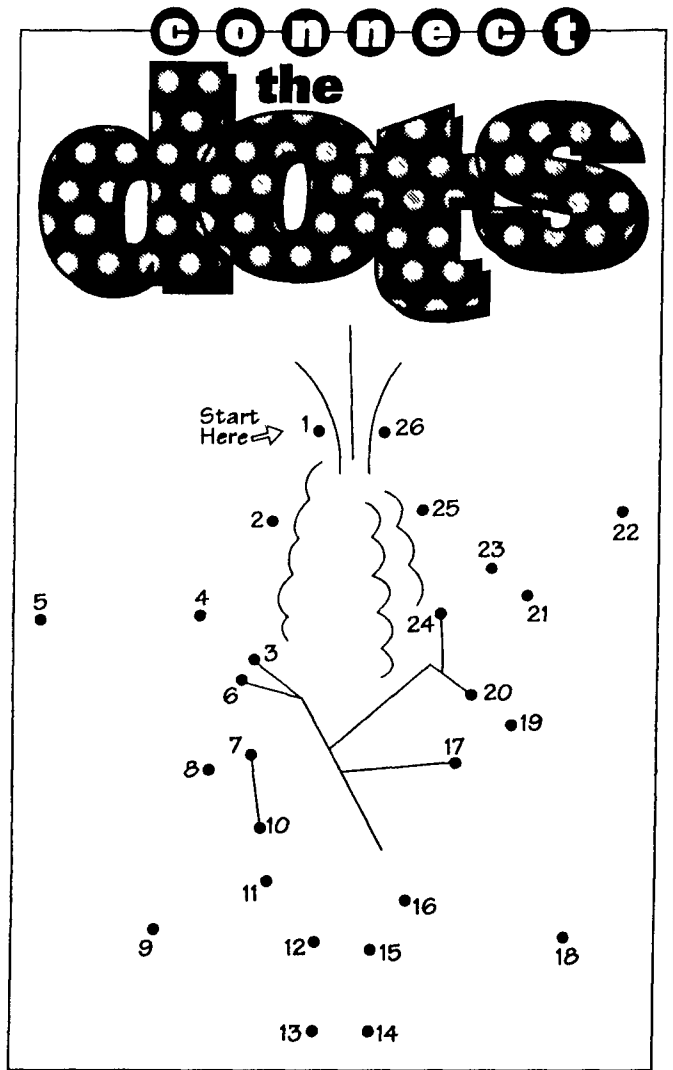
The first clear toy molds were produced by Mills Bros and V Clad Co., both of Philadelphia. The 420 original molds produced cover a wide variety of shapes and sizes from a small rat lollipop to an 8" ship and camel.

Children would actually play with the candy, hence the name toy. Clear toy plates, cups, saucers, pitchers and baskets graced many a 'tea party'.

Hung on the Christmas tree as ornaments, the clear toy preceded glass ornaments.

The search for original metal clear toy molds continues - most are found in antique shops or in private collections.

A clear-toy candy making demonstration will be held at Hershey Museum, Saturdays and Sundays, now through Dec. 19 and every day following Christmas from Dec. 26-31. For more information call (717) 534-3439.



Doug Roysdon and Sarah Capwell show off the expressive marionettes that are performing at Hershey Museum on Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m.

## Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

**Why are veins blue if my blood is red?**  
 Because blood is the No. 1 transportation system for the body. Blood carries nutrients from your stomach to cells all over your body. It also moves oxygen from your lungs to your cells, carries waste products from your kidneys, and moves hormones secreted in one part of your body to other parts.

All of this transportation takes place in either arteries or veins. Veins carry blood to the heart. It has less oxygen than the blood in the arteries. (The oxygen was delivered to your cells!) Because oxygen gives blood its bright red color, the oxygen-low blood in your veins has a deep red color with almost a bluish tint. Usually, nurses, doctors or lab technicians take blood samples from your vein. The next time you give blood, watch the syringe fill. The blood will look really dark. You can also look closely at the skin on your wrists. You might be able to see a few veins, especially if you have a light complexion.

Blood in the arteries goes out from the heart to the body. This blood - having just refueled - is loaded with oxygen and nutrients. Microscopic capillaries carry oxygenated blood all the way to the tissue in your skin. Scraped elbows or knees break open these tiny, tiny arteries - and red blood oozes out.

Scientifically yours,  
 Twig

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Have a question?  
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