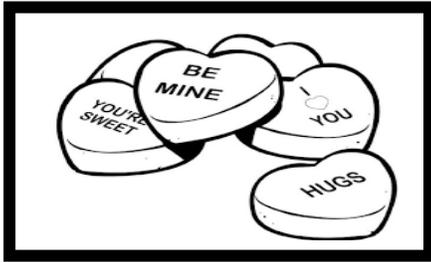


Name _____



Conversation Hearts

A part of Valentine's Day includes those chalky candy hearts with a variety of sayings. Read about the history of conversation hearts below and answer the questions that follow.

The story of conversation hearts begins in 1847, when a Boston pharmacist named Oliver Chase longed for a way to get in on the lozenge craze. Lozenges were quickly gaining popularity as a means of taking medicine. They were also used as remedies for sore throats and bad breath. They were very time-consuming to make and Oliver came up with a way to make them faster. He invented a machine that made lozenges instead of making them by hand. It was America's first candy-making machine. He abandoned the pharmacy business and started the New England Confectionery Company or NECCO. The candy discs would be known as NECCO wafers.

Not too many years later there became a growing market for Valentine's Day cards and Oliver's brother, Daniel Chase wondered if there was a way to put terms of endearment on the wafers. In 1866, he figured out a way to print words on the wafers with vegetable dye.

People loved the conversation candies with their witty messages. The candies were much bigger than they are today and were turned into heart shapes in 1902. Over the years the hearts got smaller, but gained many more phrases. NECCO estimates that it makes nearly 100,000 pounds of the hearts each day throughout the year in preparation for Valentine's Day! That's a lot of candy hearts!

Questions

1. Who first invented the wafers that eventually would turn into conversation hearts?

2. In what year did the wafers get words put on them? _____
3. In what year did they become heart-shaped? _____
4. What is the name of the company that makes conversation hearts? _____
5. How many pounds does the company make each day for Valentine's Day? _____