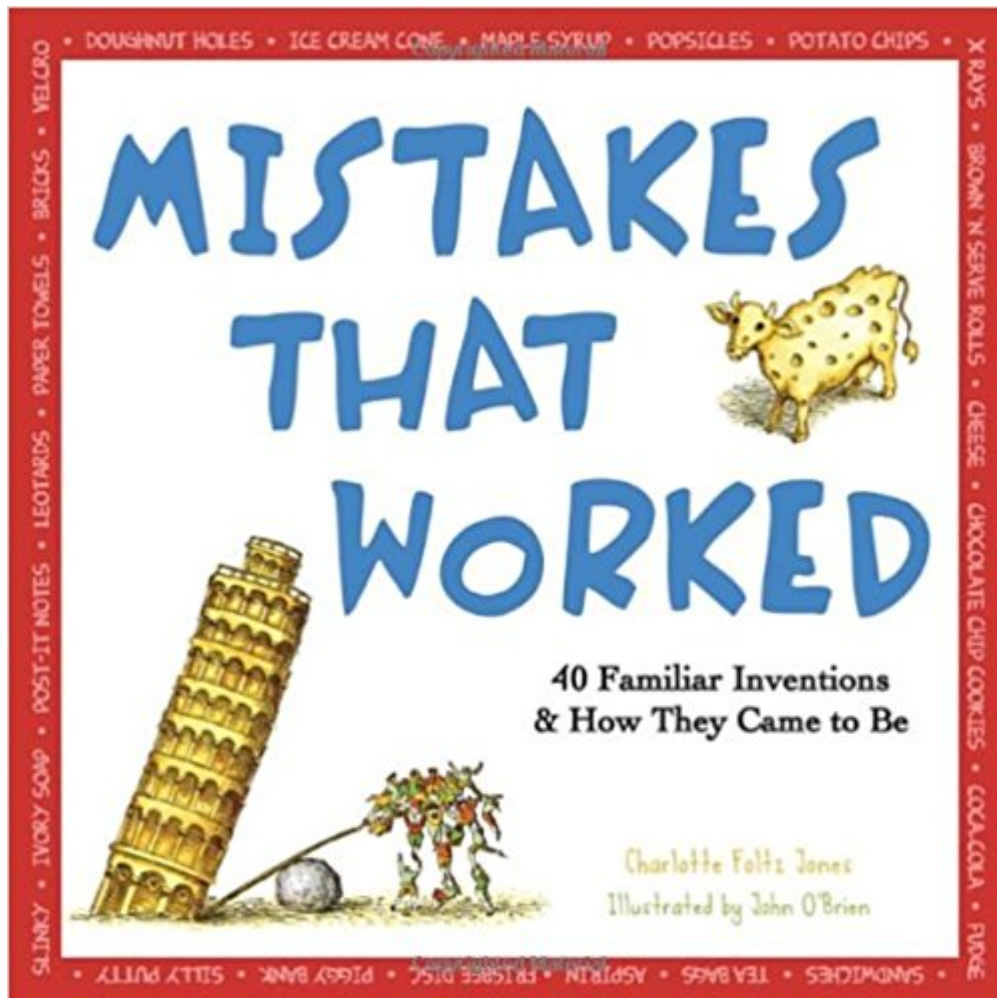




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# Mistakes That Worked: 40 Familiar Inventions & How They Came To Be



## Synopsis

Popsicles, potato chips, Silly Putty, Velcro, and many other familiar things have fascinating stories behind them. In fact, dozens of products and everyday items had surprisingly haphazard beginnings. *Mistakes That Worked* offers forty of these unusual tales, along with hilarious cartoons and weird and amazing facts. Readers will be surprised and inspired!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040L (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 151 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,051 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work](#) #2 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > Experiments & Projects](#) #3 in [Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Children's](#)

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Droll cartoons illustrate the stories behind the invention of such everyday items as Silly Putty, trouser cuffs, popsicles and penicillin. Ages 8-up. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Grade 4-6-- For those readers who feel as though they've yet to accomplish anything in life, these discoveries will come as a great relief. None of the inventions described in these pages were planned; in fact, some of the inventors had no idea they'd stumbled on something useful until years later, when their works became popular. Jones covers both patented inventions (Silly Putty, Popsicles, Coca Cola) and generic ones (bricks, donut holes, cheese). She also throws in some place names whose monikers were coined accidentally. The loony watercolor sketches and all the extras here--fun facts, recipes, and anecdotes--are perfect for browsing. This book covers material

similar to that in Wulffson's *The Invention of Ordinary Things* (Lothrop, 1981) and Steven Caney's *Invention Book* (Workman, 1985), but both are without the specific slant of "mistaken discovery." The only detriment to this otherwise versatile book is the cartoon stereotypes of the Eskimo, Native American, and Chinese man. --Cathryn A. Camper, Minneapolis Public Library Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

I have this book in my office at school. I think it's a great way to show kids that mistakes are a wonderful learning opportunity and sometimes lead to unexpected success. Great for teaching or incorporation growth mindset.

Fascinating book with lots of fun facts, but published 25 years ago, so some math needs to be involved to actually know how long ago something was invented! My 11-yr-old nephew will love it.

ironically i accidentally bought this book. Went to look at the details and hit the buy now button, even though i have 1-click turned off it still purchased it Happy accident though because my son who is super picky loved it!

Just received this book and looked through it. It looks like so much fun.

I got this for my 11 year old daughter on her birthday. She liked it so much that I bought it a 2nd time for her best friend's birthday.

Timeless book and very inspirational!! I have even bought it as gifts for my colleagues!

I have two grandsons who are not very interested in reading, especially fiction, so I try to encourage them to read with interesting non-fiction books. I think this will be a hit. The articles are not too long or difficult to read, and the illustrations are very good, too. I just wish I had had time to read it myself before I gave it to them.

Great!!!!

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