The unexpected creation of Play-Doh

Do you know what Play-Doh is? *(Yes, it's...)*

Vocabulary

1. accident 2. dough 3. coal 4. detergent 5. toxic 6. texture

True Story

Play-Doh, a type of soft _____ that kids love to play with, was actually made by _____. It was first made in the 1930s, not as a toy, but as a cleaner for wallpaper. But when homes started using less _____ and didn't need this cleaner, its makers had to think of something else.

Joe McVicker, who worked at the company that made this non-_____ cleaner, found out that his sister-in-law, a teacher, was using it in her preschool class. She thought it was better than clay because it was softer and safer. Joe liked this idea and changed the cleaner into a toy. He removed the _____, added colors and softened the _____. In 1956, they started selling it as "Play-Doh." It was a big hit with kids because it was fun and easy to use.

Quiz

1. What was Play-Doh originally made for?
2. Why did the makers of Play-Doh need to think of a new use for it?
3. Why did Joe McVicker's sister-in-law use it in her preschool class?
4. How did Joe make it more suitable for children?

True or False

1. Play-Doh was first made in a car accident in the 1930s. True | False
2. Joe McVicker's sister was a lawyer. True | False
3. Play-Doh was a success when it was first sold as a toy. True | False

Conversation

A: Hey Joe, I heard you've found a new use for our cleaner.
B: Yes, the children in Jenny's class use it to make things with.
A: Really? How does that work?
B: It's softer and safer than clay. The kids love it!
A: That sounds like a great idea for a toy!
B: Exactly what I was thinking!

Discussion

1. Have you ever used Play-Doh? What did you make with it?
2. Have you ever discovered a new use for an everyday object in your home? What was it?
3. What is the most important quality in a product: durability, usefulness, or cost? Why?
4. Do you know of any local inventions or innovations from your country or region?
5. If you could invent something to solve a problem in your community, what would it be?

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