

The interesting history of Bubble Wrap

Vocabulary

1. relieve 2. traditional 3. convince 4. adopt 5. sealing 6. insulation

True Story

Bubble Wrap is a famous packaging material with an interesting history. In 1957, two engineers, Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes, tried to make a new type of wallpaper by _____ two shower curtains together. This created bubbles of air between the curtains. The wallpaper idea did not work, and neither did their next idea to use it for greenhouse _____.

In 1960, they found that Bubble Wrap was great for packaging. IBM was one of the first major companies to _____ Bubble Wrap. They used it for protecting computers during shipping. It was much better than _____ packaging materials like newspaper and sawdust.

Fielding and Chavannes started a company called Sealed Air Corporation to sell Bubble Wrap. At first, it was hard to _____ businesses, but soon it became very popular. People even use Bubble Wrap to _____ stress by popping it.

Quiz

1. What did Alfred Fielding and Marc Chavannes try to make in 1957?
2. What was their second idea for Bubble Wrap?
3. What did IBM use Bubble Wrap for?
4. What do people use Bubble Wrap for besides packaging?

True or False

- | | | | |
|---|------|--|-------|
| 1. In 1957, two decorators tried to make a new type of wallpaper. | True | | False |
| 2. Using Bubble Wrap for greenhouse insulation didn't work. | True | | False |
| 3. People relieve stress by wrapping themselves in Bubble Wrap. | True | | False |

Conversation

- A: Alfred, our wallpaper idea didn't work.
B: I know, Marc. What should we try next?
A: How about using it for greenhouse insulation?
B: I tried. That didn't work either. We need a new plan.
A: Let's try using it for packaging.
B: Great idea! Let's see if IBM likes it.

Discussion

1. Do you like to pop Bubble Wrap? Why or why not?
2. What other uses can you think of for Bubble Wrap?
3. What do you have in the kitchen that could relieve stress?
4. If you were a genius engineer, what would you invent?