

## History of the Candy Cane

It's hard to imagine a Christmas without the red and white hooked stick of candy we know as the candy cane, but how did they become a symbol of Christmas?

It is not known for certain who invented the candy cane; however, according to folklore, it was a German choirmaster in 1670. Plain white candy sticks were actually very common during this time. The distinctive hook shape was a result of the choirmaster's efforts to make them look like a shepherd's staff. He handed these 'hooked' candy sticks out to children who attended worship services and nativity plays at church. It is said they were to help the children sit still during long waits while also reminding them of the shepherds who visited baby Jesus. These candy 'canes' were very popular in Germany and the idea spread to other countries in Europe. Over time, the handing out of these treats became a Christmas tradition.

Main idea

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