

The History of the Chocolate Chip Cookie



Margin Notes

Imagine coming home from a long day at school. You walk through the door and smell something sweet coming from the kitchen. You rush in, turn on the light in the oven, and what do you see? A dozen or so chocolate chip cookies, almost ready for eating!

Believe it or not, for a long time in Earth's history, chocolate chip cookies didn't even exist. It wasn't until very recently, around 1938, that chocolate chip cookies were first invented. Unlike a lot of other things, the chocolate chip cookie was not invented by accident. During the 1930s, a chef named Ruth Graves Wakefield decided to give something different to her customers. At the time, she owned a restaurant called *The Toll House Inn*. The Inn was located in Whitman, Massachusetts. Many people visited this restaurant because they loved its home-cooked meals. Ruth created a new cookie called the Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookie to serve to her customers.

For a while, the cookies were a local treat. Then, their popularity began to spread around the world during World War II. During the war, soldiers from Massachusetts would share the cookies they got from home with other soldiers. These other soldiers loved them so much, they would write home to ask for their own shipment of Toll House Chocolate Crunch Cookies. Ruth Wakefield started receiving letters from all over the world asking for her Toll House cookies. Today, chocolate chip cookies, as they're now known, are some of the favorite cookies eaten by people everywhere.

Chocolate chip cookies can be found throughout almost the entire United States. On the back of some bags of chocolate chips, a recipe can be found to make your own chocolate chip cookies. Almost all bakeries have their own variation that they sell to their customers. Some companies sell fresh cookies in malls or stores. Some hotels, banks and airlines also offer free chocolate chip cookies to people who use their services.

The chocolate chip cookie has even more significance in Massachusetts, where it all began. On July 9, 1997, the chocolate chip cookie became the official cookie of Massachusetts! The idea was proposed by a 3rd grade class in Somerset, Massachusetts, and the chocolate chip cookie is still known as the Official State Cookie to this day! Now, people also celebrate the cookie on National Chocolate Chip Cookie day, each year on August 4.

Since then, there have been many variations of the chocolate chip cookie recipe. Some people put M&Ms in them and call them party cookies. Other people put chocolate chips in chocolate dough mixed with cocoa and call them chocolate chocolate-chip cookies. Other people add peanut butter chips to them to give them a different flavor. Wherever you go in the United States, you can find chocolate chip cookies of many different varieties. It all started with a chef who wanted to create something new for her customers!

