

UNIT 6 Inventors and Their Inventions

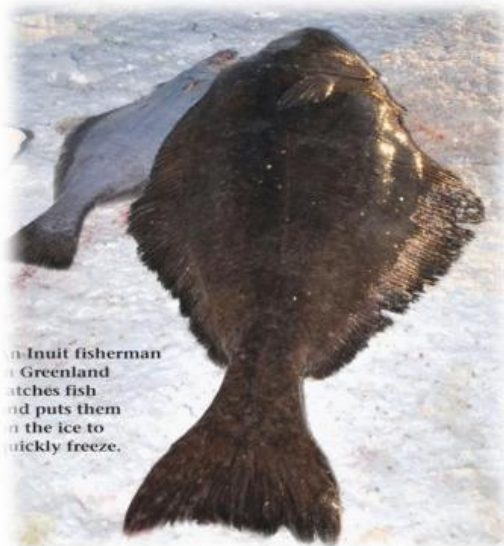


1 **Y**ou need to make dinner, but don't have any fresh vegetables. So you go to the freezer and take out some frozen ones. When you have dinner, the **taste** of the vegetables is fresh and **delicious**. You can thank Clarence Birdseye for that. Clarence Birdseye invented a way for us to have **frozen food** in **convenient** packages.

2 Clarence Birdseye was born in 1886 in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of eight children. He loved nature and animals. Later, he started to study biology at college. He didn't finish college and started to work to make money. In many jobs around the country, he worked with animals and nature.

3 In 1912, Birdseye went to the north of Canada. He liked it there and bought and sold **fur**. He also took his new wife and baby son there. They lived in a cabin 250 miles (402 kilometers) away from the nearest doctor. He often traveled with the local

Inuit¹ people, and he went fishing with them. As soon as one of them caught a fish, it quickly froze because the air was so cold. He asked them, "Are we going to eat this fish today?" The Inuit replied, "No, we already have fish for one month." Birdseye didn't understand. How could fish stay for a month and not go bad? Later, when he ate the frozen fish, it was as delicious as the fresh fish. Then he understood! When you freeze fish fast enough, it doesn't change its taste or the way it looks. He tried this new idea on vegetables. He froze cabbage so his family could eat vegetables in the winter.



An Inuit fisherman in Greenland catches fish and puts them in the ice to quickly freeze.

4 In 1917, Birdseye returned to the United States and took different jobs. In the end, he worked for a fish company and started to **try out** the quick-freezing method he learned in Canada. Finally, in 1924, he started a company called Birdseye Seafoods. It sold frozen foods such as fish, meat, and vegetables. In 1930, he tested the foods in Springfield, Massachusetts. For the first time, shoppers saw frozen foods in their grocery store. Did they buy them? Yes, they did! And what a change Birdseye made to the American **diet**, all because of his **curiosity**.

¹ **Inuit**: native people who live in the north of Canada, Alaska, Greenland, and Siberia, originally called *Eskimos*

KEY VOCABULARY

Do you know these words? Match the words with the meanings.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| _____ 1. taste | a. food that is hard because it is stored at a very cold temperature |
| _____ 2. delicious | b. the kind of food you eat every day |
| _____ 3. frozen food | c. interest |
| _____ 4. convenient | d. helpful; useful |
| _____ 5. fur | e. see if something works or not |
| _____ 6. to try out | f. flavor |
| _____ 7. a diet | g. thick hair of animals |
| _____ 8. curiosity | h. tasty |

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

A Complete these sentences with the words in the box.

convenient	delicious	frozen food	taste
curiosity	diet	fur	try out

1. Today we often have _____ when we cannot have fresh food.
2. In Canada, Birdseye sold the thick hair of animals, or _____, for money.
3. To have frozen food in a package, ready to use whenever you want, is _____.
4. After you cook frozen vegetables, the _____ is like fresh vegetables.
5. The meal had frozen vegetables, but it was good and _____.
6. The American _____ changed because of Birdseye's frozen foods.
7. When Birdseye came back to the United States, he started to _____ what he learned in Canada.
8. Birdseye's _____ made a change to the American way of eating.

READING COMPREHENSION

LOOKING FOR MAIN IDEAS

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. Birdseye always loved _____.
 - a. animals and nature
 - b. fishing
 - c. money
2. Birdseye got the idea of frozen food _____.
 - a. because it was cold in Canada
 - b. from the Inuit in Canada
 - c. from frozen cabbages
3. Birdseye changed _____.
 - a. the taste of American food
 - b. American frozen foods
 - c. the American way of eating

LOOKING FOR DETAILS

One piece of information in each sentence is not correct. Rewrite the sentence with the correct information.

1. Birdseye was one of four children.

2. In 1920, Birdseye went to Canada.

3. Birdseye bought and sold fish in Canada.

4. After Birdseye returned to the United States, he worked for a meat company.

5. Birdseye started a company called Birdseye Frozen Foods.

6. Shoppers saw frozen foods for the first time in 1924.
