The Kid Who Invented the Popsicle

Name: _____ Date: _____



Some great inventions happen by accident. As the story is usually told, it was a chilly evening in 1905 in San Francisco, California. Eleven-year-old Frank Epperson mixed powdered soda flavoring with water to make a fruity drink. He stirred it with a wooden stick, left the cup on his porch and forgot about it. That night, the temperature dropped below freezing. The next morning, Frank found his drink frozen solid, with the stick standing straight up in the middle. He pulled it out and tasted a brand-new frozen treat on a stick.

Frank did not sell his idea right away. Years later, as a grown-up, he began selling frozen pops at an amusement park, and people loved them. In 1924, he applied for a patent, a legal paper that says an invention belongs to the person who created it. He first called his treat the "Epsicle," but his own children called it "Pop's 'sicle," and the name Popsicle stuck.

Today, people all over the world enjoy frozen pops on hot summer days, all thanks to a forgotten cup on a cold porch.

1 MAIN IDEA **What is the main idea of the passage?**

- A boy invented the Popsicle by accident.
- San Francisco is cold.
- Patents are legal papers.

2 **Number the events in order from 1 to 3.**

- ☐ Frank left his drink on the porch.
- ☐ Frank applied for a patent.
- ☐ The drink froze with the stick inside.

3 WORD: **In this passage, a "patent" is a...**

legal paper fruit drink wooden stick

4 HOW? **How did the Popsicle get its name?**

_____

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Answer Key



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