

Candy cane facts

From the candy makers, the history books and Guinness World Records.



- 1 Long ago, candy canes were all white. Red stripes came along about 120 years ago.
- 2 In the factory, the candy starts out golden brown. A machine called a puller stretches it until it turns silky white.
- 3 A machine called a twister makes the stripes spiral round, and one called a crooker bends the hook.
- 4 A priest, Father Gregory Keller, invented a machine to bend the hooks. Before that, people bent them by hand.
- 5 Mint isn't really cold. It tricks the little cold sensors in your mouth, so your brain thinks it is!
- 6 The biggest candy cane ever measured was 36 feet 7 inches long (11 meters), about as long as six grown-ups lying head to toe.
- 7 National Candy Cane Day is December 26 in the United States, the day after Christmas.

Which end do you start? ☐ The straight end ☐ The hook

Why do YOU think candy canes are red and white?

Checked October 12, 2026: National Confectioners Association, The Conversation, Arkansas Catholic, Guinness World Records.