

WRIGLEY

Wrigley

Listening Questions 1

1. In what year was Wrigley founded?
2. What was the first product William Wrigley Jr. sold?
3. Why did he decide to focus on selling gum?
4. When was Doublemint introduced?
5. Who bought Wrigley in 2008?

Listening Questions 2

1. Which MLB team did the Wrigley family own and when did they sell it?
2. How old is Wrigley Field?
3. What does Koshien Stadium share in common with Wrigley Field?
4. When was the first official night game played at Wrigley Field?
5. How long did the Chicago Cubs go between World Series championships?

Transcript 1

When it comes to chewing gum, the Wrigley name is one of the most famous.

The Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company, or Wrigley for short, was founded by William Wrigley Jr. in 1891 and is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

When William Wrigley Jr. started out, the first product he sold was actually the soap his father's company produced. From soap, he went to baking powder and eventually threw in gum for free with each product to increase sales. After some time, Wrigley realized that his customers were actually more interested in the gum he was giving away than the baking powder he was selling, and that inspired him to focus on selling gum.

Three of the company's best-known brands are Spearmint, Juicy Fruit and Doublemint. The first two products came out in 1893 while Doublemint debuted in 1914. In 2005 Wrigley bought the multi-colored Life Savers brand.

Mars, Incorporated, the company that makes the Mars chocolate bar and M&M's, bought Wrigley in 2008.



Transcript 2

The Wrigley family's ties to the Chicago Cubs baseball team go back to 1916 when William Wrigley Jr. invested in the club. In 1981, his grandson sold the club to a company that owned one of the newspapers in Chicago.

Only one other MLB baseball stadium is older than Wrigley Field, where the Chicago Cubs have played since 1914. The oldest is Boston's legendary Fenway Park which opened in 1912, just two years before Wrigley Field.

One of the things that makes Wrigley Field interesting is the ivy that covers the outfield walls. In Japan, ivy has also been a part of Koshien Stadium's history.

Another interesting thing is that the Cubs didn't play night games at Wrigley Field until 1988, when the Cubs played and beat the New York Mets after it was rained out the night before.

In 2016, the Chicago Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians in Game 7 of the World Series and ended their 108-year championship drought. The Cubs have won three World Series titles in total (1907, 1908, 2016).