Pioneers of Food Science

Adams, Thomas . . Opened first chewing gum factory — 1869
Anderson, Alexander P. . Developed stem injection “gun” for puffing cereals — puffed rice 1901
Appert, Nicolas . . Developed method of food preservation — canning; received award from Napoleon
Armour, Philip D. . Meat packing industry — use of refrigeration and meat canning
Bacon, Sir Francis . . Experiment with effect of cold on decay of meat — 1626;
Ball, Charles Olin . . 1928 research was the standard used by USDA for calculating thermal processes in canning
Beach, Chester . . With Frederick Osius in Racine, WI invented small motor on AC/DC plug powered machines
Beal, William J. . Hybrid corn development
Birdseye, Charles . . Process of quick freezing and developed special packaging for freezing retail portions
Borden, Gail Jr. . . Patented process for vacuum-evaporating milk mixed w/sugar under sterile conditions— “condensed milk”
Borlaug, Norman . . Agronomist — Nobel Peace Prize for efforts to overcome world hunger — developed wheat/rye hybrid
Brandenberger, Jacques . . Swiss chemist created cellophane — 1908
Brearley, Harry . . Stainless steel — 1914
Bunsen, R. W. . Bunsen burner — 1855
Burbank, Luther . . Bred blight resistant potatoes (Idaho potato 1871); helped combat Irish potato famine
Cade, J. Robert . . Professor of medicine and physiology — invented Gatorade 1965
Carver, George Washington . . Discovered hundreds of uses for peanuts; improved output of southern farmers — 1912
Cooper, Peter . . Patent for manufacture of gelatin dessert - 1895 purchased by Pearl Wait and called Jell-o
Crum, George . . Native American/African American chef invented potato chip — 1853
Dewar, Sir James . . Scottish chemist invented the vacuum flask — 1892
Diemer, Walter. Invented Double Bubble gum — 1928

Donkin, Bryan. Set up first cannery to use tinned iron containers

Durand, Peter. Patent to preserve foods in metal can — 1810

Farmer, Fannie. Author of one of the first cookbooks — 1896

Fraze, Ermal. Created self-opening can by putting first pull tabs on cans — designed 1959; patent 1963

Gaulin, Auguste. Invented homogenization in France 1899 — patent 1902

Haas, Edward III. Pez candies — 1927 Vienna, Austria

Haber, Fritz. with Carl Bosch determined nitrogen needs of plants; 1918 Nobel Prize chemistry synthesizing ammonia

Hall, Charles Martin. Invented method for inexpensive production of aluminum

Hawkins, Joseph. Created grid iron for broiling food, early oven racks — 1845

Hellman, Richard. 1912 built factory to produce mayonnaise in jars

Hershey, Milton. Made milk chocolate and sold nationwide at a low price — 1905

Hormel, George A. Founded Hormel in Austin, MN in 1891 — invented SPAM in 1937

Kellogg, John Harvey. Corn flakes cereal — 1884 patent

Keys, Ancel. Developed K-rations during WWII — 1950s studied diets and health statistics

Kraft, James L. 1903 began wholesale cheese business — introduced processed cheese 1915

Lavoisier, Antoine. Quantitative chemical experiments — system to describe structure of chemical compounds

Mars, Forrest E. Started candy company — developed Mars Bars and created M & M's

McCollum, Elmer V. Discovered vitamin A & D — pioneered study of vitamins and minerals

Mendel, Gregor. Father of modern genetics; worked with peas 1856 — 1863 theories of heredity

Mitchell, William. A research chemist for General Foods invented Pop Rocks; also created Cool Whip, Tang

Moore, Thomas. First electric refrigerator — 1803

Moore, Hugh. With Lawrence Luellen invented disposable Dixie cups — 1907; prevented spread of germs

Norman, William. Received a patent in 1903 describing a hydrogenation process for fats and oils

Pasteur, Louis. French chemist developed process of pasteurization

Peebles, David D. Inventor of instant non-fat dry milk products — 1950s

Pemberton, John S. Atlanta, GA pharmacist invented Coca-Cola — 1886
Perkins, Edwin . . Nebraska chemist invented Kool Aid — 1927
Plunkett, Roy J. . . While working for DuPont discovered Teflon — 1949
Poplawski, Stephen . . With Fred Waring as financial backer invented the blender — 1922
Post, Charles W. . . Founded cereal company in 1895
Potrykus, Ingo . . Developed genetically modified food called golden rice — 1999
Richards, Ellen . . Founder of home economics — first woman to be admitted to MIT; worked on air, water, & food quality
Schlumbohm, Dr. Peter . . Invented coffeeemaker — patent 1941
Spencer, Percy Le Baron . . As an engineer for Raytheon Corporation invented the microwave oven — 1946
Steenbock, Harry . . Demonstrated irradiation by UV light increased vitamin D content of food — 1924
Stillwell, Charles . . Inventor of paper bag machine for flat bottoms and pleated sides — 1883
Stride, Charles . . Mechanic at a plant in Stillwater, MN frustrated by burnt toast designed pop up toaster — patent 1921
Sullivan, Thomas . . First tea bag — invented 1904 in New York, NY
Swanson, A.C. . . Frozen food — introduced TV dinner in 1952
Tupper, Earl . . Tupper seal and Tupperware — late 1940s
Van Wormer, John . . Waxed cardboard milk carton — 1915
Von Liebig, Justus . . Father of the fertilizer industry — agricultural chemistry studied effect of individual nutrients on crops
Wiley, Dr. Harvey . . Chief chemist of USDA — Pure Food and Drug Act 1906
Wiley, Ralph . . Discovered polyvinylidene chloride at Dow Chemicals; Saran Wrap — 1933
Williams, Robert R. . . Process for obtaining vitamins; helped fight malnutrition and vitamin deficiency diseases
Wyeth, Nathaniel . . Received patent for PET beverage bottles to hold carbonated beverages — plastic soda bottle