Top 10 Bizarre Origins Companies

# Kellogg

It was started on the back of Corn Flake, which was formed by accident. Moreover, it was formed to prevent masturbation and as a healthy meal in accordance to the beliefs of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/secret-ingredient-kelloggs-corn-flakes-seventh-day-adventism-180964247/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20080315031409/http://www.newsoftheodd.com/content/view/214/>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20121102171228/http://web.mit.edu/invent/iow/kellogg.html>

<https://www.google.com/patents/US558393>

# Wrigley

Wrigley was formed in 1892, when Wrigley Jr. began packaging chewing gum with each can of baking powder that he sold. The chewing gum eventually became more popular than the baking powder. This led Wrigley to reorient the company to produce the gum.

<http://www.wrigley.com/global/about-us/the-story-of-wrigley.aspx>

# Toyota

Toyota started out making looms through the Toyoda Model G Automatic Loom in 1924. Its first automobile was not shipped until 1935. At first Toyota Motor Corporation started out as division of Toyota Automatic Loom Works.

<https://www.toyoland.com/history.html>

<http://toyotaextendedwarranty.org/short-history-of-toyota-company>

# Western Union

Western Union is now a money transfer business, but it started life as telegraph monopoly. Back then it was the New York and Mississippi Valley Printing Telegraph Company.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/the-history-of-the-electric-telegraph-and-telegraphy-1992542>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/economics-business-and-labor/businesses-and-occupations/western-union>

# Samsung Group

Samsung is now best known as electronic and applications company. However, Samsung was started on March 1 in 1938, as a trading company based in Taegu, Korea. It started as a grocery store, trading and exporting goods produced in and around the city, like dried Korean fish and vegetables, as well as its own noodles. The original company is now called Samsung Construction and Trading Corporation and is subsidiary of the Samsung Group.

<https://www.lifewire.com/history-of-samsung-818809>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/history-of-samsung-2013-2?op=1/#msung-electronics-started-in-1969-that-division-mostly-made-tvs-samsungs-first-black-and-white-tv-went-on-sale-in-1970-3>

# 3M

3M was formed as the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co. It was formed as a small-scale mining venture to mine corundum. Not much corundum was produced. This failure led the company to be innovative and collaborate with others to form 3M as it known today. They started making sandpaper and the rest is history.

<http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/3M-Company/Information/Resources/History/>

# Vaseline

Vaseline was formed by chemist Robert Chesebrough in 1859. He was down an oil well when he discovered rod wax, a gooey substance. Chesebrough noticed how the workers would use the goo to heal cuts and burns. He extracted a usable petroleum jelly and in 1872 he patented the process before setting up business.

<http://www.businesspundit.com/10-accidental-discoveries-that-generated-great-wealth/>

<http://www.vaseline.us/article/vaseline-history.html>

# Nascar

Nascar has it start in Prohibition when runners (people who delivered moonshine, a home-brewed whiskey distilled from corn, potatoes or anything that would ferment) used soup up cars to deliver the whiskey so that they would not be catch by federal agents who wanted to nab them. The runners out race the agents and then they started to race each other to see who was the best runner.

<https://www.cio.com/article/2447688/it-organization/a-brief-history-of-nascar--from-moonshine-runners-to-dale-earnhardt-jr-.html>

# Volkswagen

Volkswagen owes its origins to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler's vision to enable German families to own their first car. The company was set up by the Deutsche Arbeitsfront. It was made as the people’s car. Hitler decreed that the car should carry two adults and three children at 100km/h (60mph) and that it should be cheap, costing no more than a motorbike to buy.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-34358783>

<http://people.westminstercollege.edu/staff/bknorr/html/history.htm>

# Coca-Cola

Dr. John Styth Pemberton, a pharmacist and the founder of Coca-Cola started selling a nonalcoholic version of his tonic he called French Wine Coca in 1886. It was sold as a patent medicine as it was believed at the time that carbonated water was good for the health. Pemberton claimed Coca-Cola cured many diseases, including morphine addiction, indigestion, nerve disorders, headaches, and impotence.

<http://cocacolaweb.online.fr/chronicle/02_birthofarefreshingidea.php>

<https://www.worldofcoca-cola.com/about-us/coca-cola-history/>

# Iron Mountain

The Iron Mountain started life a mushrooms company. Its founder, Herman Knaust, had made a fortune growing and selling mushrooms, when he decided to buy a depleted iron ore plant to expand his business. When the mushroom business shifted in the 1950s, Knaust decided to use the plant to store corporate information from the side effects of war and other disasters during the Cold War.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/boston/stories/2002/05/20/daily2.html>

<http://www.ironmountain.com/about-us/history>

# IBM

International Business Machine started life as a punched card machines company, which are used to perform censuses. They also produced the Tabulator, which were used in assisting the summarizing of information during the 1890 census. IMB’s subsidiary, Deutsche Hollerith Maschinen GmbH was used by the Nazis to census the German population, so that Jews could be round up. Now IBM is a well-respected enterprise company with several billion dollars in revenue.

<https://www-03.ibm.com/ibm/history/history/history_intro.html>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/ibm-and-nazi-germany/>

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/b/black-ibm.html>

# BMW

Bavarian Motor Work is one of the most luxurious vehicle manufacture in the world. However, it starred life as an aircraft engine manufacturer called Rapp Motorenwerkev, in 1916. After World War I, following the signing of Versailles Armistice Treaty, it was forced to stop making aircraft engines. It then turned its attention to farm equipment, household items and railway brakes. Its first automobile, BMW R 32 motorcycle was produced in 1923.

<http://bmwdrives.com/bmw-history.php>

<https://www.bmwgroup.com/en/company/history.html>

<http://dailynewsdig.com/bmw-history-discover-the-german-car-manufacturers-origins-and-more/>