

Taking Care of Yourself: The Band Aid



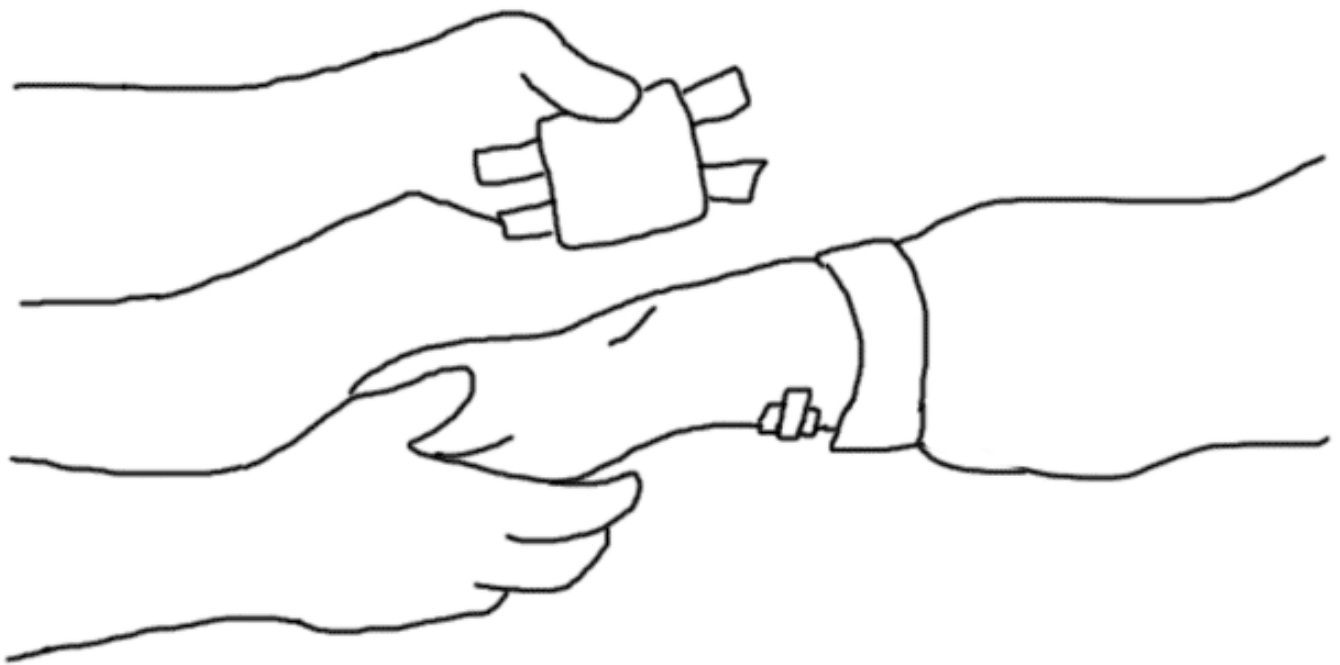
edHelper.com



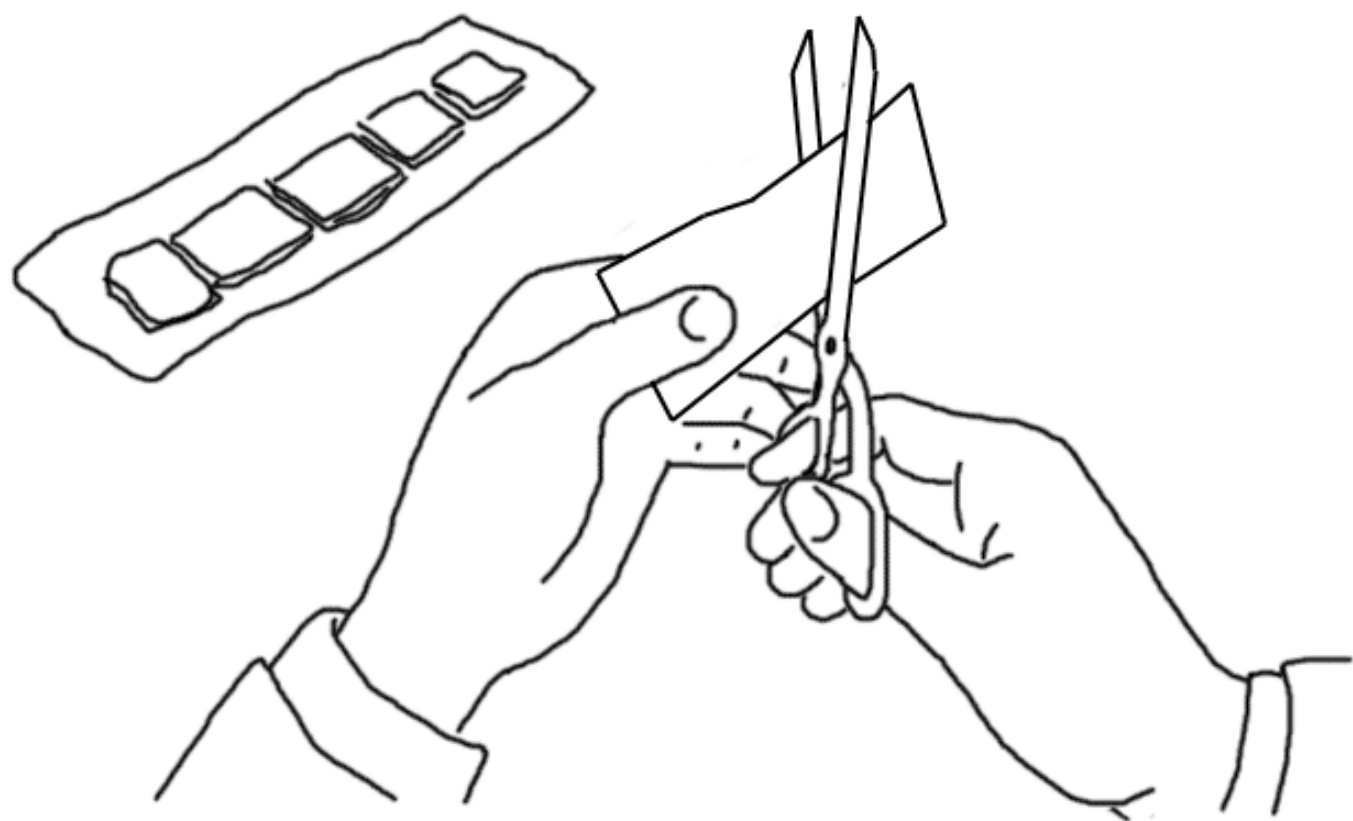
What do you reach for when you get a scrape, a cut, or a boo-boo? A Band-Aid, of course! How did we treat cuts and scrapes before there were Band-Aids? Rags or strips of cloth were used, and then washed over and over again. If the cloth wasn't clean enough, a person could develop an infection in the wound from the unclean cloth.



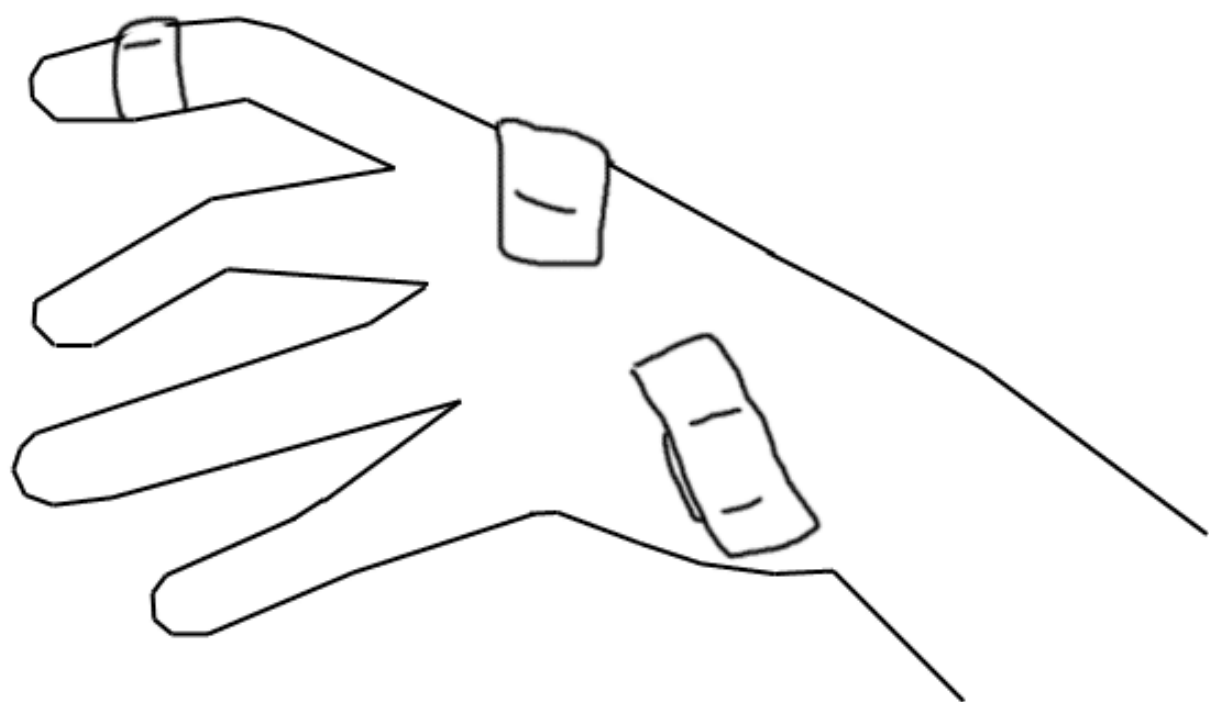
In 1920, a newlywed couple named Earle and Josephine Dickson set up housekeeping in New Brunswick, New Jersey. At the time, Earle was working as a cotton buyer for the Johnson & Johnson Company, a producer of medical supplies. Josephine seemed to enjoy married life, but she never quite got the knack of cooking and cleaning. She bumped into furniture, cut herself in the kitchen, and had one injury after another.



Josephine could not bandage her own cuts when this happened. Earle had to cut pieces of gauze and adhesive tape to make a bandage for each wound. This was an unhappy situation for both of them. Josephine continued to injure herself as she learned about housekeeping. It seemed that Earle had to make bandages for his young wife nearly every day.



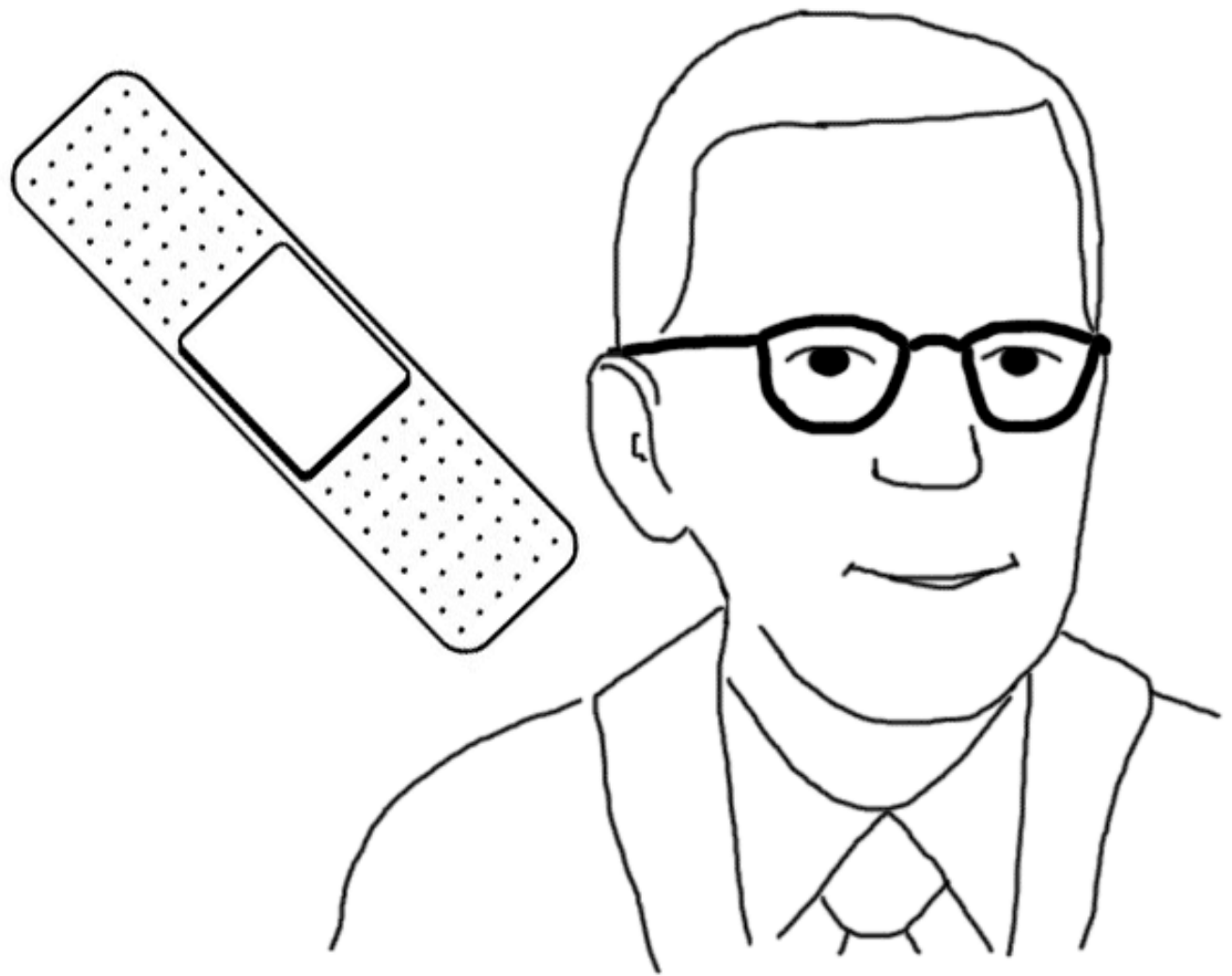
After several weeks of accidents, Earl began thinking about ways to make it easier to bandage his wife's injuries. He thought about how he could make a bandage that she could apply herself. He sat down and made up some ready-made bandages using squares of cotton gauze on strips of adhesive tape. He covered these with a stiff cotton fabric called crinoline.



All Josephine needed to do now was cut off a piece of prepared tape from the strip if she injured herself. This solution seemed to work. Earle was so proud of his invention, he told his boss at Johnson & Johnson about it. His boss was so impressed that he decided to manufacture these bandage aids right away. He decided to call them “Band-Aids.”



The first Band-Aids were handmade, and sales were slow. Then Johnson & Johnson decided to give Boy Scout troops free Band-Aids to promote their product. It worked. Within two years, Band-Aids were made by machine and completely sterile, or germ free. By 1940 each Band-Aid had its own wrapper that was opened using a little red string. In 1951, the Band-Aid plastic strip was introduced. Since then, there have been all kinds and colors of Band-Aids on the shelves. In 2002, a liquid Band-Aid was introduced.



Earle Dickson was rewarded for his role in the invention of the Band Aid with a position as vice-president of the Johnson & Johnson Company. He continued to work there until his retirement. He died in 1961. His invention has certainly stuck around.

1. What did people use for bandages before Band-Aids became available?
 - a. bark
 - b. grass
 - c. strips of cloth
 - d. leather

Answer: _____

2. Why did Mrs. Dickson need all those bandages?
 - a. She was becoming a nurse.
 - b. She kept injuring herself.
 - c. She was sewing a costume.
 - d. She was learning first aid.

Answer: _____

3. Who was Earle Dickson?
 - a. He wrote a book.
 - b. He started the Red Cross.
 - c. He was a movie star.
 - d. He invented the Band-Aid.

Answer: _____

4. Why was Earle Dickson proud of his idea?
 - a. It was a bandage his wife could apply herself.
 - b. It was going to help the Boy Scouts.
 - c. He thought it would make him famous.
 - d. He thought his boss would steal his idea.

Answer: _____

5. What products did the Johnson & Johnson Company make at the time?
- a. They sold sports equipment.
 - b. They sold medical supplies.
 - c. They sold ambulances.
 - d. They sold cotton clothing.

Answer: _____

6. In what year was the liquid Band-Aid introduced?
- a. 2000
 - b. 2004
 - c. 2002
 - d. 2006

Answer: _____