

Dental Floss

By Alana Bortman

What?

Dental Floss - a thin, waxen silk thread



Why?

Remove plaque, prevent bacteria
growth

To help patients better clean
between their teeth with ease
(prehistoric humans would use
horse hair and twigs)

When?

- 1815- Dr. Levi Spear Parmly
- 1882 - the Codman and Shurtleff Company manufactured unwaxed floss
- 1896, Johnson & Johnson manufactured
- 1940- silk replaced by nylon, cheaper and more durable floss



Where?

New Orleans, USA (the first version)

NJ, USA based Johnson and Johnson



Who?

- Dr. Levi Spear Parmly (first)
- Codman and Shurtleff Company (marketing)
- Johnson & Johnson



How?

- 1898 Johnson and Johnson took out a patent
- Distribute product to the masses
- Improving (newer materials ex. Gore-tex)
- Different versions for people with braces (stiffer ends)
- Spongy and softer versions



Sources

<https://signaturesmilesfamilydentistry.com/blog/evolution-dental-floss/>

<https://www.speareducation.com/spear-review/2013/01/a-brief-history-of-dental-floss>

<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/who-invented-dental-floss>

<https://time.com/4435267/dental-floss-history/>