



Smithsonian

# Selling More Snacks



Vickie An

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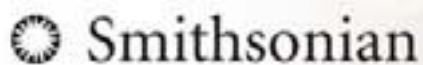
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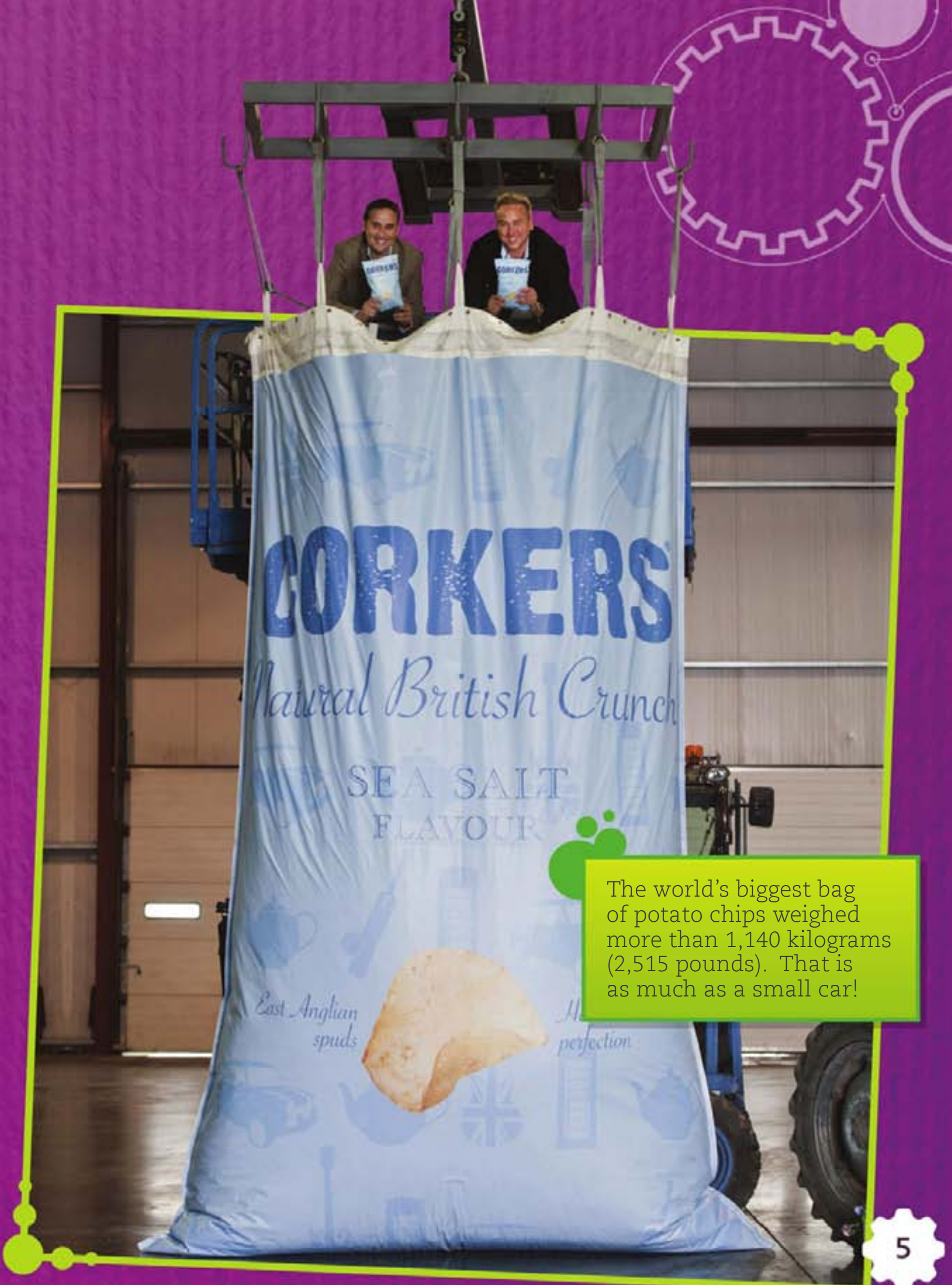
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# Nation of Snackers

You come home from school and your stomach is rumbling. “Feed me!” it growls. So you stroll into the kitchen to find a snack. What do you usually reach for? Do you grab a granola bar? How about a bag of cheddar cheese crackers? Or maybe some fresh baby carrots? Whatever you choose, you have many options. That is because snacks are easier to come across than ever before.

Snacking has become a regular part of the day for many people. From popcorn and apples to yogurt and ice cream, take a trip to any grocery store and you will find all kinds of delicious treats in the aisles. These foods and more became popular in the 1950s **snack revolution**. Since then, **innovations** (ih-nuh-VAY-shunz) in food have made snacks much easier to munch on the go. And there are more choices than ever before.





**CORKERS**

*Natural British Crunch*

SEA SALT  
FLAVOUR

*East Anglian  
spuds*



*perfection*

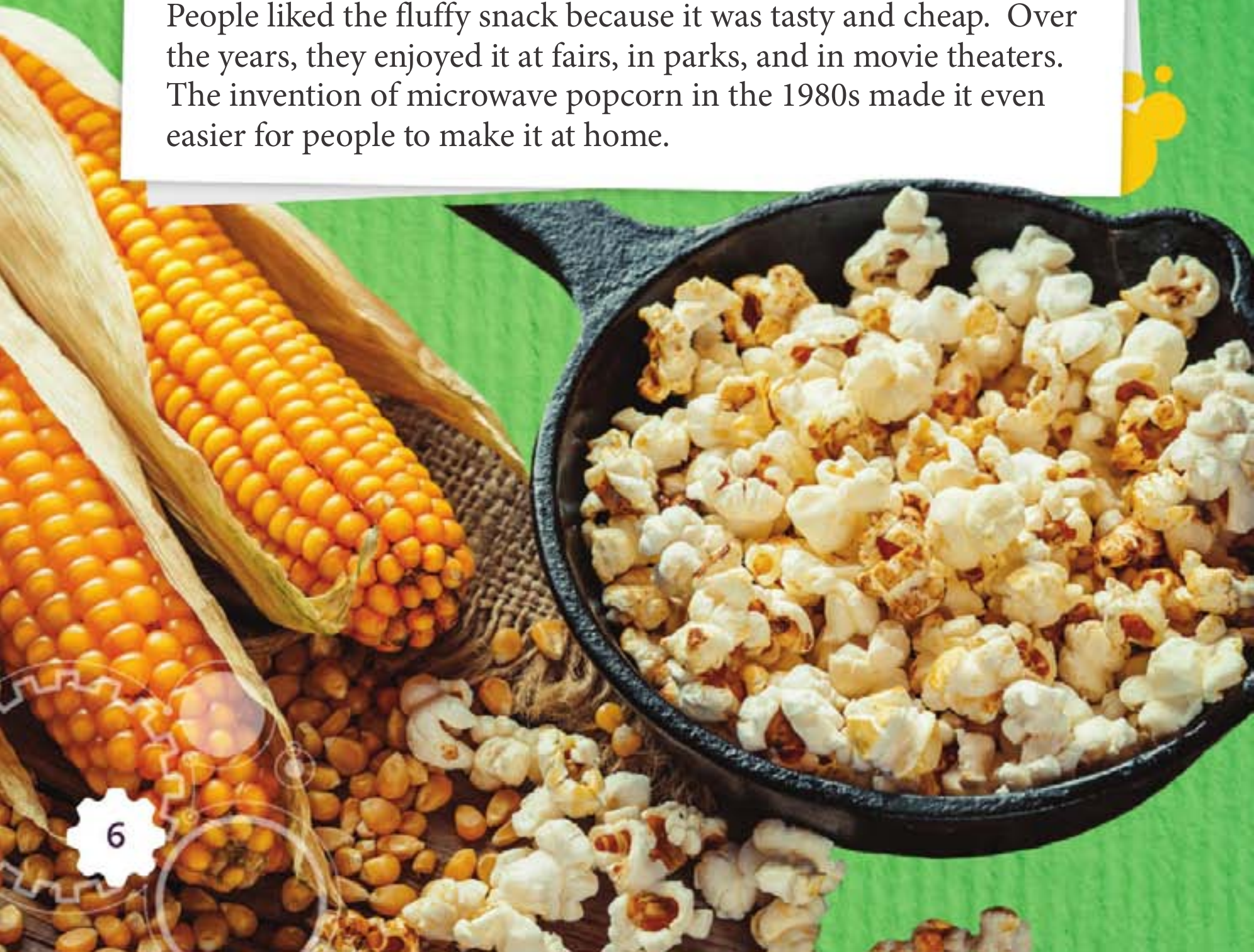
The world's biggest bag of potato chips weighed more than 1,140 kilograms (2,515 pounds). That is as much as a small car!

# Snacking through the Years

Some snacks people eat today have been around for a long time. Popcorn and pretzels are two of the world's oldest snack foods. But which one came first? Historians aren't sure. Some say popcorn came first. The airy snack comes from a type of corn plant. It dates back thousands of years. One of the oldest popped corn cobs was found in Peru, a country in South America. Back then people roasted the cobs over fire until the kernels popped.

## What's Poppin'?

Popcorn got a popularity boost in the mid-1800s. That is when the planting of corn became widespread in the United States. People liked the fluffy snack because it was tasty and cheap. Over the years, they enjoyed it at fairs, in parks, and in movie theaters. The invention of microwave popcorn in the 1980s made it even easier for people to make it at home.



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