Guide to Good Food
Chapter 26 History Activity
The History of Preserving Foods

In earliest times, nearly every person had some responsibility for hunting and gathering food. Even these early people probably sought ways to preserve foods. Individuals needed to store what was gathered in times of plenty so they would have something to eat when food became scarce.

As society progressed, people learned more reliable ways to secure food through herding and farming. With these advances in agriculture, a few people were able to produce enough food to feed most of the population. Therefore, food preservation needed to take place on a mass scale. Foods produced in one area needed to be preserved so they could be stored for long periods and shipped to other areas.

Visit the Web site http://www.answers.com/topic/history-of-packaging-and-canning to read about the history of food preservation. Then answer the questions that follow.

Activity Questions:

1. What was the first breakthrough in modern food packaging and canning, and who developed this preservation method?

2. What advance in food preservation was made in 1810 by Peter Durand?

3. What event significantly contributed to the popularization of canned foods?

4. What were three drawbacks of early canned foods?
5. What advance in canning was made by the Reynolds and Alcoa companies in the 1960s?

6. What advantage did glass have over cans?

7. What invention became a serious threat to the market for glass and cans?

8. How has the primary goal of food packaging changed since its early days?