

The Toothbrush

Did you know that the toothbrush was invented in a prison? One morning in 1770, a man in an English jail woke up with a new idea. He thought it would be better if he could use a brush to clean his teeth, rather than wipe them with a rag. At dinner he took a bone from his meat and kept it. Then he told the prison guard about his unusual idea. The guard gave him some bristles to use for the brush. The prisoner made holes in the bone and stuffed the bristles into the holes. It was a success! The prisoner was so excited about his new invention that he went into the toothbrush making business when he got out of jail.

For more than 200 years we have used toothbrushes similar to the one the prisoner invented. Toothbrushes are not made out of bones anymore. They come in all kinds of colors, shapes, and sizes. The next time you brush your teeth, think about the prisoner in England who invented the toothbrush.