



Picture of candle courtesy of Michael Welch.

For more information on candle-making, click on one of these links:

[A photo of home-made candles](#)

[How to make candles at home](#)

[History of candles](#)

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Candle-Making

Have you ever wondered who first thought of making candles and what they were originally used for? It would be impossible to know the exact origin of candles, but remains of candles dating back to 3000 B.C. have been found in Greece and Egypt. Candles used to be made of tallow—solid fat, which was extracted from animals, mostly from cattle and sheep.

The Romans used candles to light up their homes, because they didn't have electricity in those days. They also used candles when traveling at night, since they obviously didn't have flashlights either! Today we use candles to decorate our homes and for their good scents. A scent that's often used for candles is magnolia, which also happens to be the Louisiana state flower.

If you have ever been to the Louisiana Purchase Bicentennial, you may have noticed that the activities include candle-making. Even though most candles today are made by machines, some people still enjoy the craft of making their own candles—even some people right here in Louisiana!