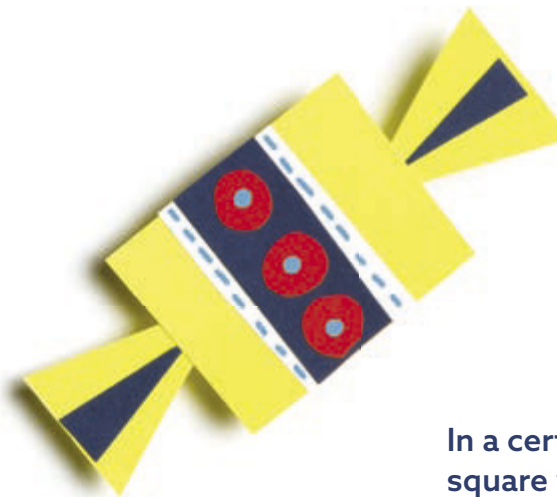
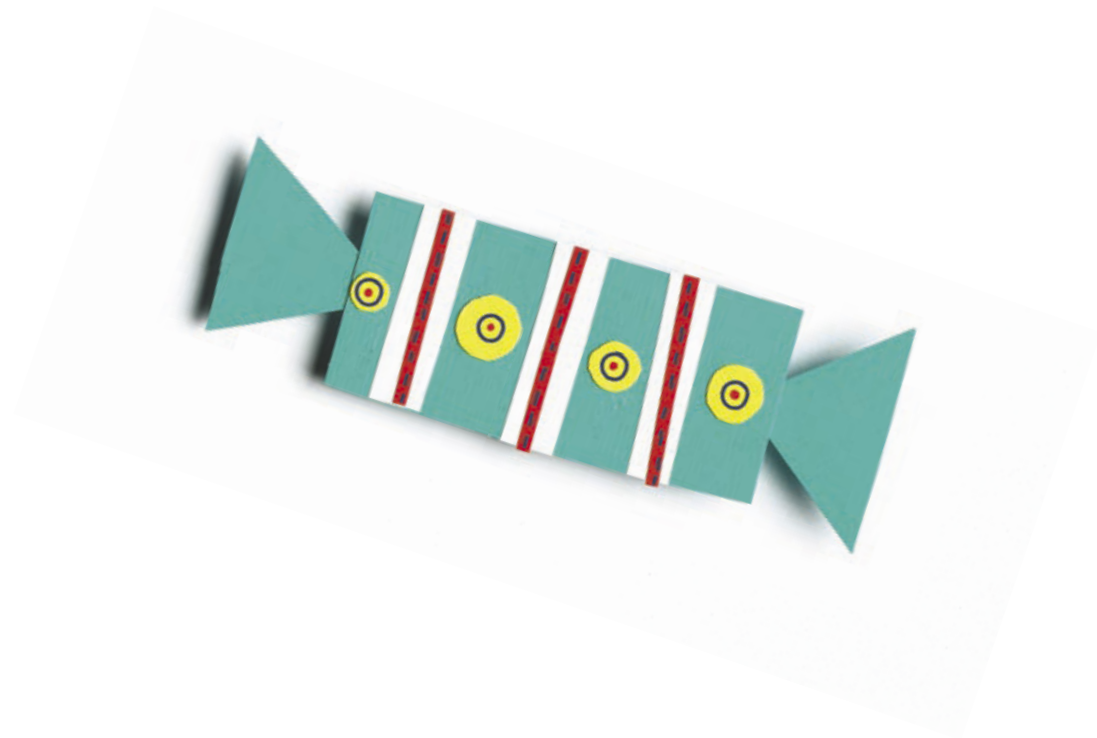




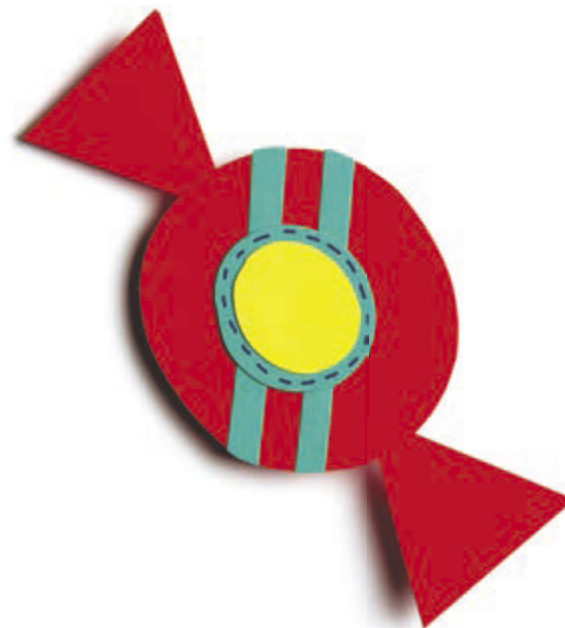
# THE SECRET BEHIND THE SNOWY MOUSTACHE

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Albatros



In a certain big town, there is a large square with a fountain that is just as big as it needs to be. Grown-ups and small children throw coins into it as they pass, believing this will bring them luck. Grey-and-white pigeons sit about on the fountain, cooing, getting bored, pecking at this and that, and pooing on the statue of a chubby little angel who has a spout instead of a mouth. Or is it a chute? Who knows what the difference is between a spout and a chute?









If you walk behind the pigeons, take a slight left and carry on to the last in a row of little houses, you'll find a confectioner's store. The building is so tiny, it is practically invisible. Yet you can smell it from 112 paces at least, my dears. Intoxicating fragrances of Belgian chocolate, blanched almonds and real vanilla waft from its windows. If you have a taste for sweet things, you'll find the confectioner's in a jiffy, just by following your nose.





This is a place for children above all. Not only are children extremely fond of all things sweet, they are small, so they fit in very well. When they sit at the little tables stuffing themselves with candy, their heads don't brush against the light fittings and their chins don't knock against their knees.

The queen of local goodies is the confectioner Miss Roisin Sweet, who is beautiful and forever smiling. Her honey hair is combed into a perfect bun and her cocoa eyes shine like two umbrellas in an ice-cream sundae. Above her raspberry lips lies an elegant, fluffy, white moustache, for she is forever tasting the cream foam in the foam rollers. It is very important to Roisin that her desserts should be choice and extraordinary—perfect, in fact. And indeed they are.



Every morning, Miss Sweet puts on an embroidered apron with a little pocket at the waist. This pocket is the home of Roisin's best friend Celestina the wasp, who is as slim as a liquorice lace. Whenever Roisin bakes a cake, she asks Celestina to taste it first.





"It needs more strawberry foam," or, "Add a few more caramel shavings," the clever wasp might tell her. As it is widely known that wasps are experts on all things sweet, Roisin sets great store by Celestina's opinion.





## AUNT JANE'S BROWNIE

Chocolate cake recipe

### What you need:

1 pack butter  
350g chocolate  
3 eggs  
200g brown sugar  
80g plain flour  
Teaspoon baking powder  
(so-called beg-your-pardon)

### What to do:

Melt the butter and chocolate in a water bath. Beat the eggs and sugar in a bowl, then add this mix to the butter and chocolate. Add the flour and the beg-your-pardon. Bake for 30–40 minutes in an oven preheated to 170 degrees C. Eat hot or cold—on its own, with whipped cream, with strawberries or with vanilla ice cream.





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