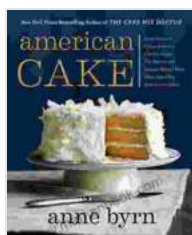


# From Colonial Gingerbread to Classic Layer: The Stories and Recipes Behind American Cakes

American cakes have a long and storied history, dating back to the colonial era. The earliest cakes were simple affairs, made with flour, sugar, eggs, and butter. But over time, American cakes evolved into the elaborate and delicious creations we know today.



## American Cake: From Colonial Gingerbread to Classic Layer, the Stories and Recipes Behind More Than 125 of Our Best-Loved Cakes by Anne Byrn

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
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Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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## Colonial Cakes

The first cakes baked in America were likely very similar to the cakes that were popular in England at the time. These cakes were typically made with flour, sugar, eggs, and butter, and they were often flavored with spices such as cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger.

One of the most popular colonial cakes was gingerbread. Gingerbread was made with molasses, which gave it a dark brown color and a spicy flavor. Gingerbread was often baked in the shape of men or animals, and it was a popular treat at Christmas time.

Another popular colonial cake was pound cake. Pound cake was made with a pound of each of the four main ingredients: flour, sugar, eggs, and butter. Pound cake was a rich and dense cake, and it was often served at special occasions.

## **19th Century Cakes**

In the 19th century, American cakes began to evolve into the more elaborate creations we know today. Bakers began to experiment with new ingredients and flavors, and they developed new techniques for baking and decorating cakes.

One of the most popular cakes of the 19th century was the layer cake. Layer cakes were made with multiple layers of cake, which were then frosted and decorated. Layer cakes were often served at weddings and other special occasions.

Another popular cake of the 19th century was the sponge cake. Sponge cake was made with whipped egg whites, which gave it a light and airy texture. Sponge cake was often used as a base for other cakes, such as the Boston cream pie.

## **20th Century Cakes**

In the 20th century, American cakes continued to evolve. Bakers began to use new ingredients, such as chocolate chips and marshmallows, and they

developed new techniques for decorating cakes.

One of the most popular cakes of the 20th century was the chocolate cake. Chocolate cake was made with chocolate frosting, and it was often decorated with chocolate chips or other candies.

Another popular cake of the 20th century was the carrot cake. Carrot cake was made with grated carrots, and it was often flavored with spices such as cinnamon and nutmeg.

## **Today's Cakes**

Today, American cakes are more diverse than ever before. There are cakes for every occasion, and there are cakes to suit every taste. Whether you prefer a classic layer cake, a decadent chocolate cake, or a light and airy sponge cake, you're sure to find a cake that you'll love.

## **Recipes**

Here are a few recipes for some of the most popular American cakes:

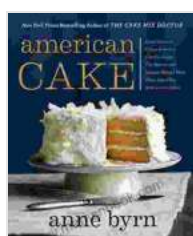
### **Gingerbread Cake**

- 1 cup molasses
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves

### Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. Grease and



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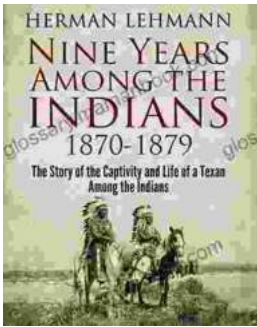
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