You heated rubber with sulfur to make it less sticky. Vulcanized rubber was more able to bounce back to its original shape after being squished. By 1845, a British man had invented the rubber band, but people were still not using rubber that much. Tapping a rubber tree. But that all changed with the British development of cheap steel in the 1850s. Vulcanized rubber solved the problem of how to pad steel machinery. Rubber kept the parts from rubbing against each other and wearing out. Suddenly inventors wanted to use rubber in all these machines. More about Bicycles The Invention of Steel. Bibliography and further reading about the history of rubber: History of Congo Rubber Has Been Around … Use of rubber dates back to 1,600 BC, the era of the Aztecs, who extracted it from trees and used the heat from their hands to form it into balls. And that’s one of the main ways they used it. Their ancient ball courts are still on display today at ruins throughout Mexico and South America. However, the first pioneer of rubber in the industrial age was Charles Goodyear, for whom the famous Goodyear tire company is named after. For More, Check Out This Video on the History of the Vulcanization of Rubber: Video url: https://www.history.com/embed/8995395675. By Tyler Seeley| 2018-12-17T15:18:28+00:00 August 12th, 2016|Categories: O-Rings|0 Comments. Share This Post, Choose Your Platform! Facebook Twitter Linkedin Google+ Email.