

Proposal for Emoji: MOUSE TRAP

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Emoji Name: MOUSE TRAP

Sort Order: in the HOUSEHOLD category, after SAFETY PIN

Reference Emoji: TUMBLER GLASS

Keywords: mousetrap, trap, snare, bait



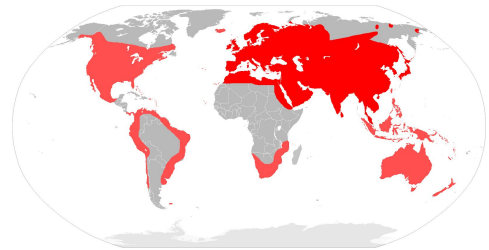
Credit: Apee Messer. Free for use in conjunction with this proposal

Abstract

This proposal is to request the inclusion of a **MOUSE TRAP** emoji. The small household device is a recognizable animal trapping device and an image representing slapstick comedy. It would be used by people all over the world by people who have mice or rodent infestations.

Introduction

The spring-loaded mousetrap was patented in the U.S. in 1894 and has since continued to be a reliable device for executing mice and other small animals. One of the most fundamental snap trap, patented by John Mast of Eititz, Pennsylvania, is made simply out of a rectangular piece of pine and a spring-powered coil has been the most successful. The company owning the patent manufactures 10 million to 30 million units per year. Another popular snap trap known as the “Little Nipper” snaps in 38/1000ths of a second and is manufactured by Procter, which also has a ‘MOUSE TRAP’ museum in their factory headquarters.



Distribution map of *Mus musculus*

It is used in homes across the world who have mice or rodent infestations primarily for smaller or more simple households. It kills a small house mouse species called *mus musculus*, which exist all around the world and are an invasive species in many nations spread by European colonizers.



In animal rights conversations, the MOUSE TRAP is considered a much more humane way of eliminating mice as opposed to glue traps and safer than a electric mouse trap which delivers a lethal dose of electricity.

Synonyms for the MOUSE TRAP are words like ambush or land mine, which allude to potential threats around us. It is a humorous and slapstick reference to being baited by others or trapped by commitment. The MOUSE TRAP brings up images of the cartoon *Tom and Jerry* and cat-mouse chases, wherein two species are inherently enemies though constantly drawn to each other. The trap typically uses cheddar cheese as a bait which has the connotation of being a mouth-watering and irresistible treat. Users can include the emoji when referring to

social scenarios where someone is being baited into sticky situations or when they wish to bait someone else. The phrase ‘get the cheddar’ refers to a person going out of their way and facing risk to obtain a reward.

In the context of the creative and startup world, the mousetrap is a symbol for ingenuity. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said “Build a better mousetrap, and the world will beat a path to your door.” Though over 4,400 patents have been approved for various designs of a mouse trap,

which is more than any other device in history. Many of those patents were filed by amateur or first time inventors who tried their best; however, only the snap trap has been successful. Because of the vigorous drive to invent to design the best mice-catching machines, *The Atlantic Magazine* has named the MOUSE TRAP as a “Symbol of the American Entrepreneurial Spirit.”

Selection Factors – Inclusion

Compatibility

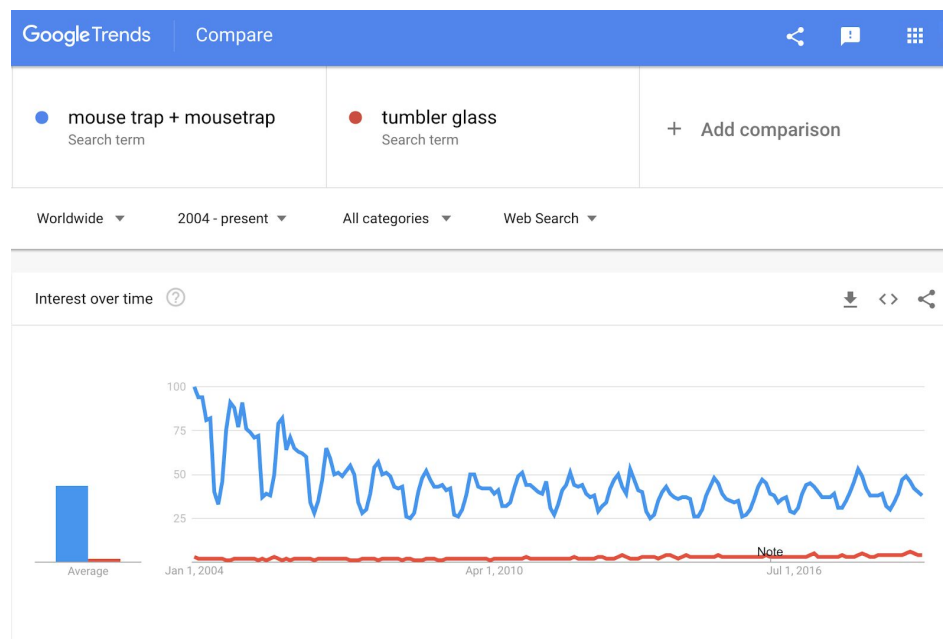
Not applicable.

Expected Usage Level

Frequency

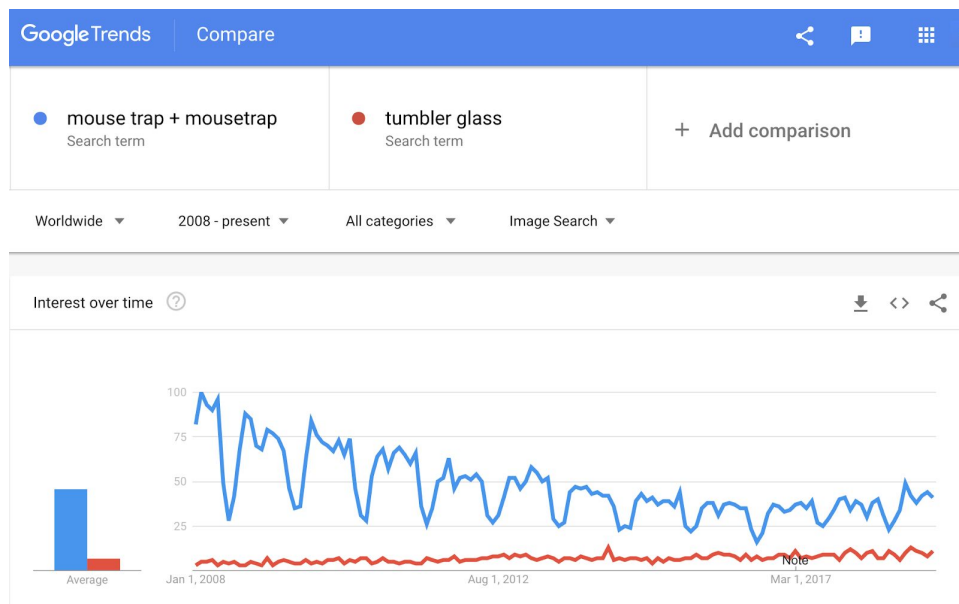
Google Trends: Web Search

As you can see, Google trends search data for MOUSE TRAP is almost 10x as higher than TUMBLER GLASS.



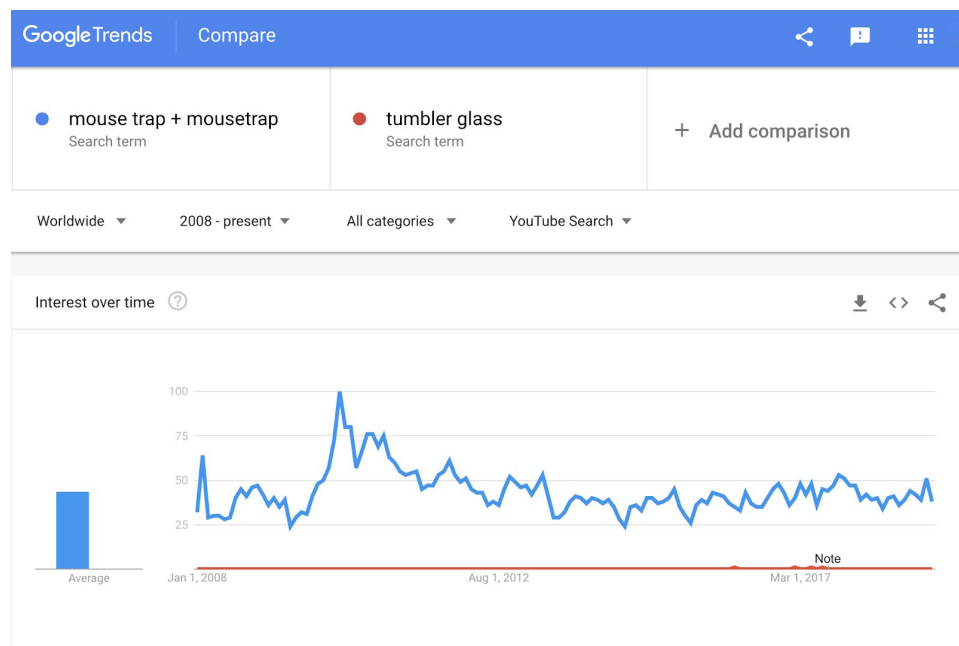
Google Trends: Image Search

For image searches, mousetrap does seem to have at least 4x times more volume.



Google Trends: YouTube Search

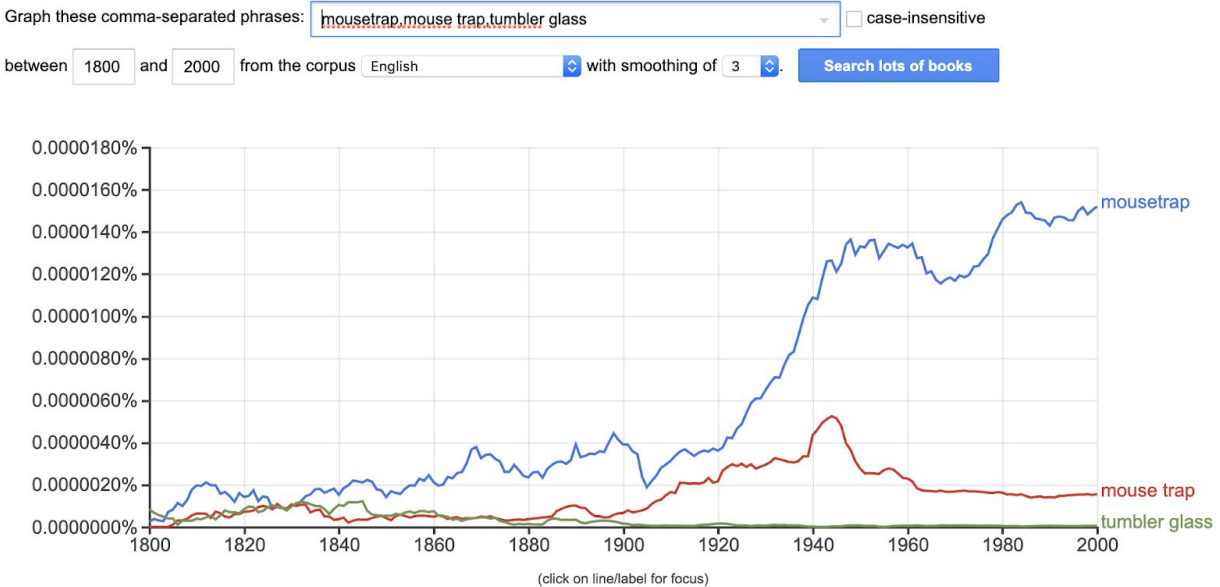
The results for YouTube searches are even more dramatic, with at least 30 times more searches.



NGram Viewer


In addition, you can see from Google Ngram viewer that the cultural resonance of MOUSE TRAP and mousetrap both really began to pop in popular culture starting in the 1940s, and have steadily increased in its popularity.

Google Books Ngram Viewer




Google Search

MOUSE TRAP shows almost 30 times more results than the reference emoji.



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About 29,400,000 results (0.54 seconds)

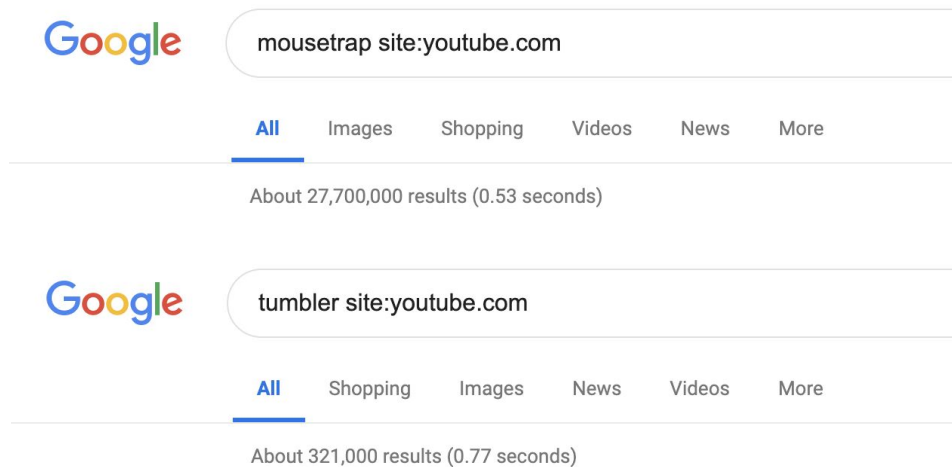


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About 1,060,000 results (0.55 seconds)

YouTube Search

Video searches show MOUSE TRAP as a frequent topic of YouTube videos. The search for “tumbler glass” resulted in only over 300 videos, a more wide search for “tumbler” still was 30 times smaller than the number of hits for “mousetrap”.

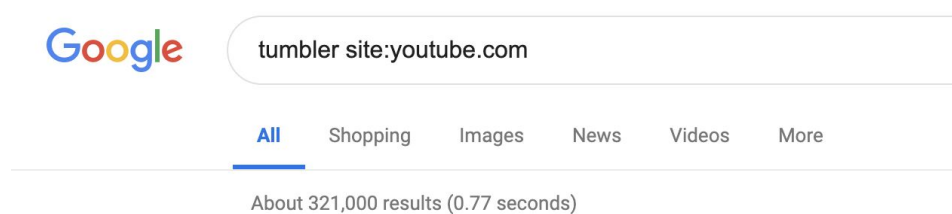


Google

mousetrap site:youtube.com

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About 27,700,000 results (0.53 seconds)



Google

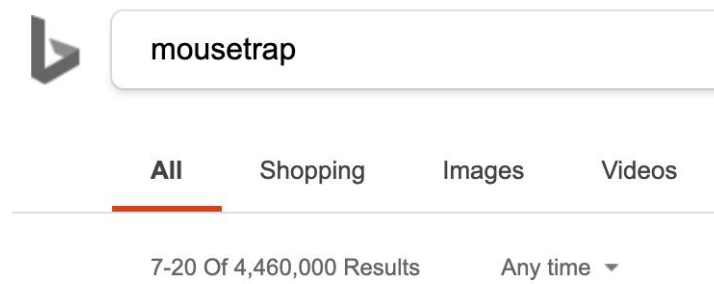
tumbler site:youtube.com

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About 321,000 results (0.77 seconds)

Bing Search

The number of results in Microsoft's search engine is still about 10 times larger for MOUSE TRAP than for TUMBLER GLASS.

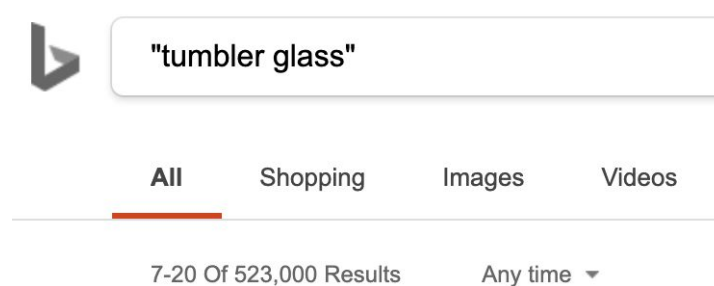


Bing

mousetrap

All Shopping Images Videos

7-20 Of 4,460,000 Results Any time ▼



Bing

"tumbler glass"

All Shopping Images Videos


7-20 Of 523,000 Results Any time ▼


Twitter Search

On Twitter there is a frequent demand for a mouse trap emoji with users frequently subbing in their own *mousetrap emoji* if there is none available.

**Kashia Kennedy** @kashiaSrsly · 28 Dec 2012
If there's a mouse **emoji** there damn well should be a **mousetrap emoji**

**Solid** @trey2juiced · 16 Aug 2017
It'd be dope if they had a **mousetrap emoji**

**Matt Sutton** @CorporateSizzle · 4 Aug 2017
Replying to @MarinaHyde @GARSIDEK
mousetrap emoji


**Hannah** @Hanne o Saurus · 23 Feb 2017

**Ferg FergTM** @itsfuckinFERG · 19 Jul 2015
Where's the **mousetrap emoji** when you need it twitter.com/superstarfeddr...

This Tweet is unavailable.

**hot mess** @katiebeveridge · 26 Oct 2013
Replying to @oregonstephen
@SippinStephen hell yea ***mousetrap emoji***

**Diana Sutton** @didi11 · 3 Feb 2016
It's 2016 and there is still no **mousetrap emoji**

**Killa kha** @KsAffair · 13 Oct 2015
They need a **mousetrap emoji**

**Why is there emoji** @butnoemoji · 21 Feb 2018
Replying to @happy_botday
Why is there an **emoji** for 🐭 but no **emoji** for **mousetrap**?

Multiple Usages

The MOUSE TRAP emoji can also be used to represent the following concepts and activities:

- A baiting device for tasks a person does not want to do
- As a slapstick joke about trapping or alluring another person into a sticky situation
- A sign for entrepreneurship or ingenuity
- A sign to let someone know they've been tricked or fooled

Use in sequences

Some possible sequences would be:

- MOUSE TRAP + CHEESE WEDGE → indication of an irresistible offers yet likely yielding unfortunate results.
- MOUSE TRAP + MOUSE or MOUSE FACE → tell a friend they are in a very vulnerable situation
- MOUSE TRAP + SKULL AND CROSSBONES → plans to kill a pest in the house

Breaking new ground.

Yes, the MOUSE TRAP signifies “entrapment” in way that is not depicted by other emojis.

Image Distinctiveness

The MOUSETRAP is very distinctive and standard in form and shape, with its metal fork and wooden rectangular shape. It does not look like other emojis in the household category.

Completeness

The MOUSE TRAP does help in completeness because it accompanies the cartoon FIRECRACKER and HOLE as a humorous device for revenge and can be paired with the CHEESE WEDGE and MOUSE or MOUSE FACE to indicate bait or entrapment scenarios.

Frequently Requested

Not Applicable.

Selection Factors – Exclusion

Overly Specific

The MOUSE TRAP is not too overly specific as it is a widely-owned household item. There are multiple styles of mouse traps, and while this emoji represents the most popular form, it's generic enough to encompass the entire category.

Open Ended

This is not open-ended, as MOUSE TRAP has occupied a unique position for centuries in human history and has not since been replaced. It is a stalwart invention.

Already Representable

This MOUSE TRAP is unlike any other symbol, as it refers to social entrapment with a humorous way.

Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

There are no logos, brands, deities or specific people represented by this.

Transient

There will always be mice and thus a need for MOUSE TRAPS across the world. Inventors have yet to find a more efficient and cheaper alternative. Despite 4,400 patents filed as MOUSE TRAP, this distinct snap trap style has remained the most popular.

Exact Images

MOUSE TRAPS are recognizable as wooden plaques with a metal spring coil, baited with a piece of cheese, though the spring coil can be depicted through various designs. The cheese can also be different shapes as long as it is one color. This proposal does not require a specific representation.

Other Character Properties

The other character properties are suggested to be defined as follows.

General Category: So

Canonical Combining Class: 0
Bidirectional Class: ON
Decomposition Type:
Decomposition Mapping:
Numeric Type:
Numeric Value:
Bidirectional Mirrored:
N Unicode 1 Name:
ISO Comment:
Simple Uppercase Mapping:
Simple Lowercase Mapping:
Simple Titlecase Mapping:

Author Biographies

Shirley Wang (shirley.wang5615@gmail.com) is a radio journalist and writer from Iowa City, Iowa. She grew up with a love for simple inventions and has lived in numerous big cities like Boston, New York City, Hong Kong and San Francisco where there is an abundance of rodents in the wrong places.