

Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question.

A Taste of Tea

- 1 Coffee is the American drink of choice for a cold day or a morning pick-me-up, but hot tea is far more popular worldwide. Tea time, a small meal of tea and pastries, also fills the afternoons of many people in Europe, Australia, and Asia. This tradition, thought to have begun in England in the 19th century AD, could never have come about without the Chinese discovery of tea around 2700 BC.
- 2 Legend has it that the emperor of the time was sitting near a tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*), boiling water to drink. Somehow, the leaves of the plants fell into his drink. The resulting concoction pleased him so much that he began spreading it throughout the empire. At first, tea was used mostly as a medicinal drink and its leaves as currency. In fact, historical records don't place tea as a popular recreational drink until the Tang Dynasty (around 618 AD).
- 3 Once the population of China began to enjoy tea regularly, they spread it to neighboring peoples through the vast trade routes of the time—first to Japan and later throughout the world. For ease of transport, tea was fired into hard bricks. The loose leaf teas of today did not appear for several hundred more years.
- 4 Tea ceremonies, elaborate displays in which tea masters showed their skills in formal, traditional service of tea, then began to take root throughout the Eastern world. Emperors of China and Japan held competitions to honor the most talented of these masters, and tea's popularity grew even more.
- 5 In the twelfth century, black tea (the original form of tea) was joined by other types, which eventually grew into the four main types we see today: white, green, oolong, and black. Iced black tea, an extremely popular drink in the southern United States, was probably invented in Virginia in the 1860s. The next time you enjoy a refreshing glass of iced tea, sweetened or not, think of just how much history this simple drink has.



- 1 Read the dictionary entry for the word fire.

fire \ˈfɪ(ə)r\ v
1. to bake in a kiln 2. to make bright or illuminate 3. to animate or inspire 4. to shoot or discharge

Which definition of the word fired is used in paragraph 3?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

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- 2 Which sentence from the selection shows that tea can be difficult to prepare and serve?

- F *The next time you enjoy a refreshing glass of iced tea, sweetened or not, think of just how much history this simple drink has.*
- G *Tea ceremonies, elaborate displays in which tea masters showed their skills in formal, traditional service of tea, then began to take root throughout the Eastern world.*
- H *For ease of transport, tea was fired into hard bricks.*
- J *Tea time, a small meal of tea and pastries, also fills the afternoons of many people throughout Europe, Australia, and Asia.*

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- 3 What is paragraph 1 mostly about?

- A The importance of tea throughout the world
- B How tea time began
- C How much coffee Americans drink
- D The Chinese discovery of tea