

Coffee

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Do you drink coffee? If so, how many cups of coffee do you drink every day?
2. Where do you think coffee originated?
3. What are some different reasons for drinking coffee?
4. What country do you think is the largest coffee producer in the world?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

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|--------------------|---|
| ___ 1. tropical | a) religious |
| ___ 2. harvest | b) to go secretly, to take secretly |
| ___ 3. roast | c) a large area of land for growing crops |
| ___ 4. grind | d) to cut and gather crops from the land |
| ___ 5. forbid | e) an assistant, a helper |
| ___ 6. shrine | f) a religious place or monument |
| ___ 7. holy | g) a country or territory controlled by another country |
| ___ 8. fashionable | h) to crush into powder |
| ___ 9. adventurer | i) someone who likes exciting travel |
| ___ 10. plantation | j) to not permit, to not allow |
| ___ 11. colony | k) to cook in a hot oven or fire |
| ___ 12. aide | l) related to an area that is near the equator and very hot |
| ___ 13. sneak | m) in style |

Reading

1. Coffee is a drink made from the beans of the arabica tree, a small tree that grows in **tropical** climates. The beans are **harvested** from its fruit.
2. The arabica tree grows wild in Ethiopia. About 1,000 years ago, monks noticed that after eating its berries, they stayed awake longer and had more energy. Other Africans made wine from the berries or mixed them with fat and ate them.
3. Sometime later, seeds of the tree arrived in the Arabian Peninsula, where the plants have been grown ever since. Arabians discovered how to take the beans out of the berries, **roast** them over high heat, **grind** them up, and boil them in water to make “kahweh” (coffee).
4. Coffee became very important to Muslim people. Their religion **forbids** them to drink alcohol, but they could drink coffee with their friends. By the 1300s, Arab traders and Muslims traveling to the **holy shrine** of Mecca were telling other Muslims about “kahweh.” Coffee made its way to Turkey in the 1500s and to Italy in the 1600s. A trader from Venice introduced it to northern Europe, where coffeehouses became very **fashionable**.
5. Coffee was not grown outside of Africa or Arabia until the late 1600s. The Arabians tried to control its production, but in 1616, some Dutch **adventurers** stole an arabica tree. The Dutch used it to start coffee **plantations** in their **colonies** in Indonesia and the South Pacific.
6. In 1723, a French naval officer managed to get a tree to Martinique, a French colony in the Caribbean. Fifty years later, coffee trees were growing throughout Central America.
7. In 1727, a military **aide** to the Emperor of Brazil **snuck** a tree branch out of French Guiana. By 1906, Brazil was the world’s largest coffee producer and still is.
8. Today, about 50 countries produce coffee for world markets.

*“What goes best
with a cup of coffee?
Another cup.”*

—Henry Rollins

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. Coffee beans are harvested in tropical climates.
- _____ 2. Africans made wine from the bark of the arabica tree.
- _____ 3. Coffee was first made in Arabia.
- _____ 4. Muslim people are not allowed to drink coffee.
- _____ 5. Brazil has been the world's largest coffee producer for over 100 years.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner.

Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

1. What effect did the berries of the arabica tree have on the ancient Africans who ate them?
2. How did Arabians first make coffee?
3. Why did coffee become important to Muslim people?
4. How did people in Europe eventually learn about coffee?
5. Why was coffee not grown outside of Africa and Arabia until the late 1600s?
6. How were the Dutch able to start coffee plantations in their colonies?
7. How was Brazil able to start producing coffee?

Vocabulary Review

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. I like to _____ potatoes with garlic and onions. They're delicious.
2. You can't see the company president today, but his _____ can help you.
3. Many former British _____ are now independent countries.
4. Robert's wife _____ him to smoke in the house. If he wants to smoke, he must go outside.
5. She comes from a _____ climate, so she can't get used to our cold weather.
6. Her clothes are always very _____ .
7. He didn't want his parents to know that he got home late,
so he _____ into the house very quietly and went right to bed.

Discussion

1. Why do you think so many people like to socialize over a cup of coffee?
2. What is decaffeinated coffee? Is it popular in your country?
3. Do you think the people who harvest coffee beans are well paid for their work?
4. Many coffee shops now sell "fair trade" coffee.
What do you think this means?