

TEA (taken from *Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia*, 1996) (303 words)

In the United States a short interruption in the workday is called a coffee break. In other parts of the world, it is more likely to be a tea break. In all of Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa, tea is the more popular drink of the two. In many of the countries once part of the British empire, afternoon tea is as much a tradition _____ 1 _____ it is in Britain. It was the Duchess of Bedford _____ 2 _____ originated the British custom of afternoon tea in about 1840. According to Chinese legend, tea _____ 3 _____ during the reign of Emperor Shen Nung in about 2737 BC. It is probable that tea was first cultivated in China. The China plant was taken to Japan in about AD 800, where it was regarded as a medicine _____ 4 _____ about a hundred years.

Tea was introduced into England as a gift from the British East India Company in about 1600 and reached the rest of Europe soon after. The company eventually gained a monopoly on trade with the Far East, but in 1833 the company lost _____ 5 _____ legal monopoly and _____ 6 _____ looking for other sources of supply. The growing of tea started in India in 1834, but at the end of the 19th century, China still supplied the bulk of _____ 7 _____. In 1886 it exported 136 million kilograms, of which 77 went to Great Britain. In that year India produced 40 million kilograms, but _____ 8 _____ a few years it had moved ahead of China. Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) emerged as a tea producer in 1867 and Java in 1878.

The British Isles are still _____ 9 _____ importers of tea. The United States, despite its large population of coffee drinkers, is second. Other Commonwealth countries _____ 10 _____ Australia, Canada and New Zealand also import large quantities.

1. a) as b) than c) that
2. a) which b) who c) who's
3. a) first used b) was first used c) has been first used
4. a) since b) from c) for
5. a) it's b) its c) it
6. a) has begun b) began c) begins
7. a) the worlds' tea b) the worlds tea c) the world's tea
8. a) since b) within c) between
9. a) the most big b) bigger c) the biggest
10. a) such like b) as c) such as