**Symbiosis School, Nasik.**

**Std: X Term I (2020-21)**

**Subject: English Language & Literature - Worksheet – 34**

**Lesson : Chapter 7 - Glimpses of India (Part 3) Tea from Assam**

**By Arup Kumar Dutta**

***Pranjol, a youngster from Assam, is Rajvir’s classmate at school in Delhi. Pranjol’s father is the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam and Pranjol has invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation***

**About the Author**



**Arup Kumar Dutta** is an Indian writer and journalist based out of [Guwahati](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guwahati) in Assam. He has written 16 books for adults and 17 adventure novels for young people . In 2014 he was awarded the Life Time Achievement Honour by **Association** [**of Writers and Illustrators for Children**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Association_of_Writers_and_Illustrators_for_Children&action=edit&redlink=1)**,** New Delhi, the Indian chapter of the International Board of Books for Young People.He has been not only acknowledged as a pioneer in English writing in the North-East, but also as a writer who has spent a lifetime familiarizing the rest of India about the history and culture of this region.He has also won numerous awards including the Shankar's Award in 1979, conferred to mark The International Year of the Child. He has been awarded the civilian award [**Padma Shri**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Padma_Shri) by Government of India in 2018.

## Tea from Assam Introduction

## The lesson is about two friends- Pranjol and Rajvir who are travelling to Pranjol’s hometown Assam for the summer vacation. Assam is known as the ‘tea country’. It has the largest concentration of plantations in the world. During their journey they discuss about the various ‘legends’ that are known to have discovered tea.  The story tells us about the popularity of tea as a beverage.

**Tea from Assam Summary**

The story revolves around the infamous beverage ‘tea’ telling us more about its history and discovery. It begins from the scene where two friends, Pranjol and Rajvir are set to go to Assam, Pranjol’s hometown when a tea vendor asks them if they would like to have some freshly made tea. They buy two cups joining almost every other person in their compartment. From there, the journey begins and Pranjol starts reading his detective book while Rajvir decides to enjoy the scenic beauty. There were soft green paddy fields followed by tea bushes. Rajvir is very excited on seeing such large plantations of tea but Pranjol is unable to match the same level because he was born and brought up in Assam, famously known as the ‘Tea country’. Visiting there for the first time, Rajvir did a lot of study about how tea was discovered and that it dates back to 2700 B.C. According to what he read, it was first consumed in China and reached Europe in the 16th century, where it was mostly popular for it’s medicinal properties. There are numerous stories as to how it was discovered, one about a Chinese Emperor and the other about a Buddhist monk. The former liked the taste of it while the latter, used it to get rid of sleep. As they were having this discussion, they reached their destination where Pranjol’s parents had come to receive them and take them to their tea garden. On their way, they passed a cattle bridge and gave way to a truck filled with tea leaves which drew their attention to the fact that it was the second sprouting season. Rajvir, indeed did a lot of study before coming which impressed Pranjol’s father and he intended to learn a lot more.

**Word Meanings**

*Chai*- Tea  
*Garam*- hot  
*Sa’ab- Sahab* or Sir  
Steaming- extremely hot  
Exclaimed- cry out suddenly in surprise

Paddy fields- a field where rice is grown  
Backdrop- lie behind or beyond; serve as a background to  
As far as eye could see- for a long distance until something is so far away and small it cannot be seen anymore  
Dwarfing- cause to seem small or insignificant in comparison  
Sturdy- strong  
Amidst- in the middle of

Billowing- moving or flowing outwards  
Concentration- cluster

Ascetic- characterized by severe self-discipline and abstention from all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons.

Banished- get rid of

Clattered- (loud noise made by the train brakes)  
Veered- change direction

Gravel- small, rounded stones often mixed with sand  
Pruned- cut away from a tree

Sprouting period- when a plant sends out new growth (second harvest of tea leaves in a season)

**Concept based questions**

**Q1. Who is the author of the lesson Tea from Assam ?**  
**Q2. Which tea estate / garden is managed by Pranjol's father ?**  
**Q3. What was the vendor calling in a high pitched voice ?**  
**Q4.How many cups of tea are drunk throughout the world ?**  
**Q5. What did Rajvir see outside the train ?**  
**Q6. Who was an ardent fan of detective books ?**  
**Q7. Which state has the largest concentration of tea garden in the world ?**  
**Q8. Who discovered tea ?**  
**Q9. Where and when tea was first drunk ?When did tea come to Europe ?**  
**Q10. What are the words that originated from Chinese ?**  
**Q11. Where tea is drunk more as medicine than beverage ?**  
**Q12. Where did the boys get off ?**  
**Q13. What was Pranjol's father’s profession ?**  
**Q14. What were the groups of tea pluckers doing ?**  
**Q15. When does the best tea yield ?**  
**Q16. What is the second flush or sprouting period ?**