

COCA-COLA

What do you see in the picture?

When did you drink your first Coca-Cola?

Where did you drink it?

In 1886 John Pemberton, a druggist in Atlanta, Georgia, made a brown syrup by mixing coca leaves and cola nuts. Pemberton sold the syrup in his drugstore as a medicine, to cure all kinds of problems. Pemberton called his all-purpose medicine "Coca-Cola."

When few people bought Coca-Cola, Pemberton sold it to another druggist, Asa Candler. Candler decided to sell Coca-Cola as a soda-fountain drink instead of as a medicine.

At the soda fountains in drugstores, the syrup was mixed with soda water to make the drink Coca-Cola. Candler advertised a lot and sold his syrup to many drugstores. Soon everyone was going to soda fountains and asking for Coca-Cola.

Candler saw no reason for putting Coca-Cola into bottles. But two businessmen thought this would be a good idea. They got permission from Candler, and before long they became millionaires.

As of 1903, coca leaves were no longer used in Coca-Cola. The exact ingredients used and their quantities are not known—the Coca-Cola Company keeps its recipe a secret.

World War I helped make Coca-Cola popular outside the United States. The Coca-Cola Company sent free bottles of the drink to U.S. soldiers fighting in Europe. Coca-Cola became very popular with the soldiers—so popular that the U.S. Army asked the company to start ten factories in Europe. After the war, these factories continued to make Coca-Cola. Today, there are Coca-Cola factories around the world.



VOCABULARY

Complete the sentences. Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. A person who sells medicines is a _____.
a. druggist b. millionaire c. businessman
2. _____ is a sweet, heavy liquid that tastes good.
a. Syrup b. Cola c. Soda
3. Pemberton sold Coca-Cola to make people well and _____ their problems.
a. keep b. cure c. mix