



lingoda

The history of beer

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1065R_EN

LANGUAGE
English



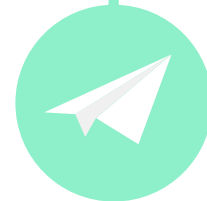


Goals

- Can read and understand a complex text about the history of beer.
- Can talk at length about my own opinions, tastes and preferences.



Beer is an enduringly popular drink, though its origins may surprise you. Read on to find out who **brewed** the first beer and who made it taste like it does today.





What do you drink?

Do you like beer? What kinds of drinks are most popular in your country?





Vocabulary



A **brewery** is a place where beer is made.

A **beverage** is anything we drink, alcoholic or not.



If something is **unpalatable**, it is not pleasant to taste.

Inebriation is a synonym for drunkenness.





Vocabulary



Barley is a cereal crop with a nutty taste.

Hops are flowers which give beer its distinctive flavour.



Monks live in a **monastery**.

Prohibition was the time when alcohol was banned.





History of beer

Beer is the most widely consumed alcoholic beverage in the world, and the third most popular beverage overall after water and tea. Now, the Czech Republic consumes the most beer of all countries, and we have access to a multitude of different beers, from the dark Guinness of Ireland to banana beer from Africa.

The origins of beer are disputed but it certainly originated where we now call the Middle East, in Sumerian Mesopotamia and Iran around 5000 BC. The first documentary evidence is from Mesopotamia, and the first written recipe originated in Ancient Egypt. In fact, the recipe for beer is said to be the oldest recipe in the world. By 2000 BC, the Babylonians, descendants of the Sumerians, were brewing at least 20 varieties of beer and all citizens received a beer ration.





History of beer

Early beer was cloudy due to the residue it contained, and had to be drunk with straws. Indeed, it is difficult to see how the very first beer was consumed, as we have to assume that it was almost an unpalatable mush of barley and water. However it was first discovered, production techniques were developed and a taste for beer, and the inebriation that goes with it, was born.





Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with words from the text. Check with your teacher that you know what they all mean.

1. Beer was first produced in the _____.
2. _____ in early beers made them cloudy.
3. Early _____ for beer would likely have been very different to today's.
4. The Czech Republic _____ the most beer in the world today.
5. In Babylonian times, people received a certain amount of beer each month, a _____.
6. People had to drink beer through a _____ to avoid the residue.

consumes

residue

straw

recipes

Middle East

ration



True or false? If they are false, can you correct them?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Beer is the most widely consumed beverage in the world.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Guinness is a banana beer from Ireland.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. The Mesopotamians brewed some of the first beer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The first recipe was written around 5000 BC.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Early beer was very cloudy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The first beer probably tasted nice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Tell your teacher

Are you surprised by any of the information on the previous slides?





History of beer

Although the Romans did brew beer, it fell in popularity next to wine, which was seen as a gift from the gods. Beer began to be seen as the drink of the barbarians; indeed it was most popular in Northern Europe and on the fringes of the Roman Empire. In these places barley, used to make beer, was much easier to grow than grapes for wine. Furthermore, beer was the safest alternative to often contaminated water. Beer was drunk by all classes and ages, and was a staple of most people's daily diet.

Beer as we know it began to be produced in Europe in the early Middle Ages. It was during this time that hops started to be used as a flavouring agent, giving the pleasant and familiar bitterness to beer, and having the added value of acting as a preservative.





History of beer

This discovery was first made by monks in Germany, though the use of hops quickly became widespread. Monks, in fact, were the pre-eminent producers of beer in the Middle Ages; the profits from beer often supported the monasteries, and Christians believed that beer was a gift from God, just as the Romans had with wine.

The British Isles also became a centre for brewing and many styles of beer, including pale ale and stouts, have been brewed there for centuries. When the British Empire was at its height, the Royal Navy delivered beer to all corners of the globe. In fact, India Pale Ale was developed out of a need to find a beer which could survive the long journey out to India and Burma.





Check your vocabulary

Do you know these words? Check their meaning with your teacher.





Complete the sentences

Use the words on the previous page to finish these sentences appropriately.

1. In Roman times, water was _____.
2. Hops were discovered to be a _____ as well as adding _____.
3. People who lived on the _____ of the Roman Empire were called _____.
4. Beer was drunk by all and became a _____ in people's diet.
5. The addition of hops to beer was first done by _____.



Over to you

Answer these questions with your teacher.



How do we treat water which is contaminated?

Which foods or drinks are staples in your diet?

Who might we say lives on the fringes of society now?



Beer now and beer then

Read the quote below and discuss the attitudes towards beer and status of beer in society in the past compared with now. What has changed?

“

Beer was drunk by all classes and ages, and was a staple of most people's daily diet.

”



What about you?

**Every country has a
different attitude
towards alcohol.
What kind of approach
does your country
take?**

conservative

big part of the
culture

expensive

liberal



History of beer

Beer arrived in the New World with the earliest colonists; first the English-style ales and then, as more immigrants arrived, the Pilsner-style beers of the Czech Republic and Germany. Developments such as the invention of pasteurisation and industrial refrigeration allowed for beer to be produced on a commercial scale and by the 1880s, 3200 breweries were operational in the USA. The brewing industry was devastated by Prohibition in the 1920s, as small regional breweries went out of business. The only outfits to survive Prohibition were large scale ones such as Budweiser, whose huge operation allowed them to keep their costs low.





History of beer

During the Second World War, rationing restricted the ingredients available for beer production and lighter beers began to be produced. These maintained their popularity alongside more traditional beers even after the war ended.

Today, beer drinkers are spoilt for choice. Craft beer, produced by small breweries, is becoming increasingly popular as people are prepared to pay more for special brews. Many people are also beginning to make beer at home again, coming full circle to the ancient traditions of beer production.





Answer the questions

Using vocabulary from the text, answer the questions below.

1. How do we describe having a lot of or too many choices?
2. What is it called when we use heat to process a liquid in order to kill bacteria?
3. When something is made by artisans or small-scale operators, how do we describe it?
4. How do we say that a trend has come around again?
5. What is the method of keeping things cool called?





Craft beer

Consider the following questions in relation to the text's discussion of modern brewing and craft beer.



1

Can you think of any trends or products that have come full circle, from original production methods, through technological innovation, right back around to the original method?

2

Why do you think people are now prepared to pay more for speciality products?

3

The text talks about the impact of scientific and technological advances on beer production. Do you think these changes were for the better?



International Beer Day

The first Friday of August is *International Beer Day*. Can you think up some events to celebrate this day? Imagine some for people who don't like beer too!



games



tastings



Over to you

Can you remember the first time you tasted beer? How old were you? Who were you with? Did you like it? Use the words below to help you describe your memory of the taste in as much detail as possible.



bitter

foamy

unique

refreshing

sweet

filling



What's your poison?

Are you a beer person or a wine person? Or both? Pretend you are speaking to somebody with the opposite opinion to you, and try to convince them your drink is better!





A matter of taste

Look at the pictures below and think about their relation to one another. What is this pair of pictures trying to say, in your opinion? What do people tend to say about each food? What do you think about each food personally?



Brussels' sprouts



chocolate



Acquired taste

A taste you may dislike at first but eventually grow to like is called an 'acquired taste.'

Can you think of any examples of foods that are typically thought of in this way?

Did you ever acquire a taste for something you didn't like at first?



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p. 21

1. spoil for choice, 2. pasteurisation, 3. craft, 4. come full circle, 5. refrigeration

Exercise p. 15

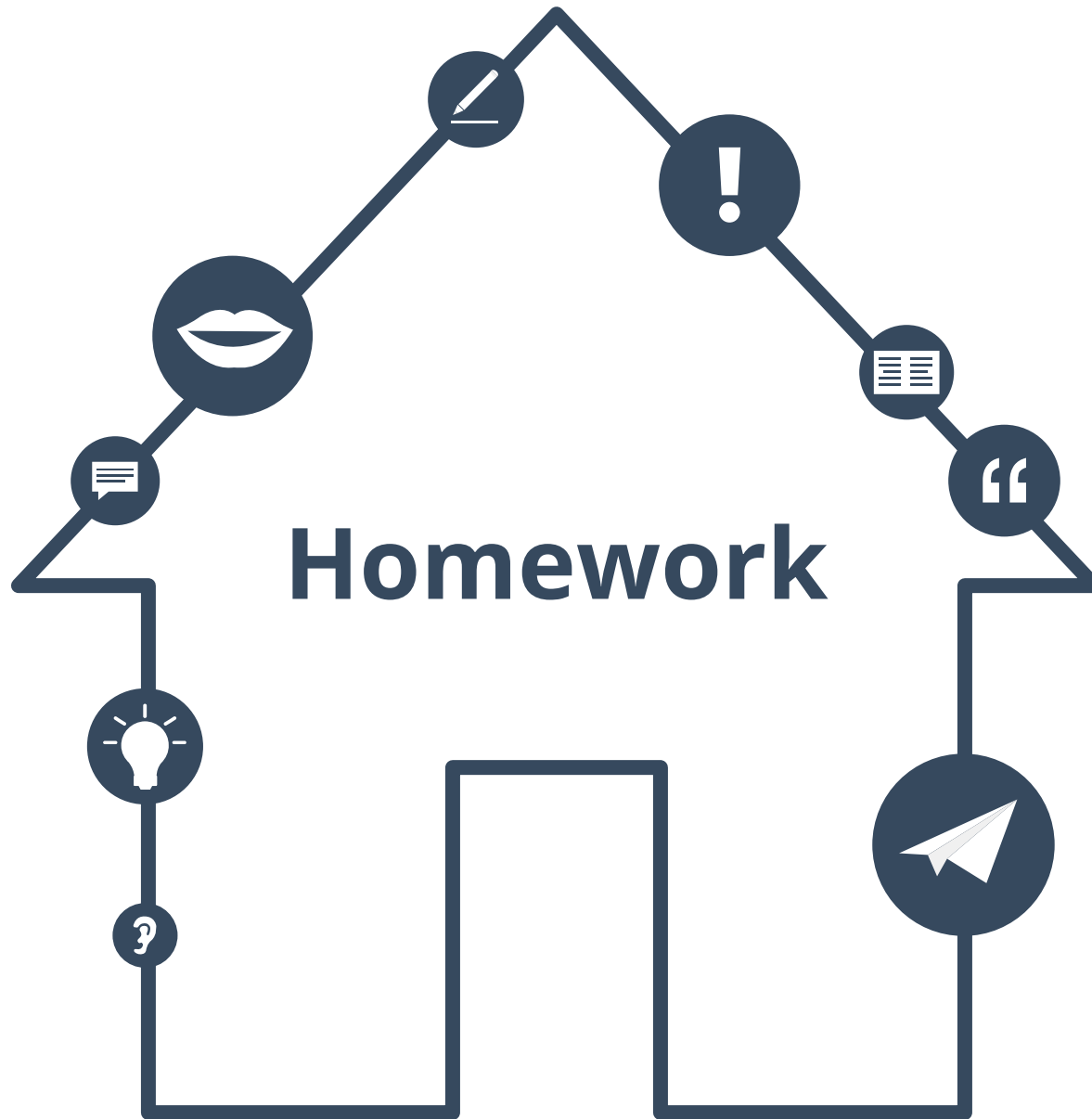
1. contaminated, 2. preservative, bitterness, 3. fringes, barbarians, 4. a staple diet, 5. monks

Exercise p. 10

1F, 2F, 3T, 4F, 5T, 6F

Exercise p. 9

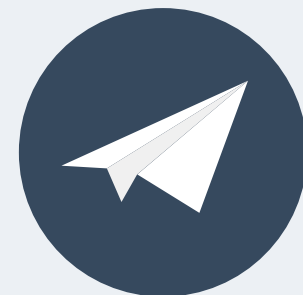
1. Middle East, 2. Residue, 3. recipes, 4. consumes, 5. ration, 6. straw





Write synonyms for the words. All the synonyms are in the text

edge	_____
not tasty	_____
artisanal	_____
drink (noun)	_____
business	_____
fundamental	_____
eat/drink	_____
polluted	_____





Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences

1. The first recipe for beer was written down...

2. The first beer would have been a mush of...

3. The Romans saw beer as the drink of...

4. Small breweries were devastated by...

a. barley and water, and surely quite unpalatable.

b. the barbarians, while wine was from the Gods.

c. the Great Depression in the United States.

d. in Ancient Egypt, though they were not the first producers.



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 24
1D, 2A, 3B, 4C

Exercise p. 23
fringe, unpalatable, craft, beverage, outfit, staple, consume, contaminated



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