

Tea around the World



Tea is made from the leaves of a small bush. The bushes are grown on the hillsides in India, Sri Lanka, China, in the Honde Valley of Zimbabwe, southern Africa and Turkey. India is the world's largest producer and exporter of tea. Calcutta is the business capital of India's tea trade

Source A.

In Sri Lanka, tea has always been a vital component of her economy. It is also the country's largest employer providing employment both directly and indirectly to over one million people.

Ceylon tea from Sri Lanka, acclaimed as the best tea in the world. The climate is very good for the production of a variety of flavours and aromas, synonymous with quality.

Tea is grown between altitudes 600m-2,500m.

Sri Lanka is the 3rd biggest tea producing country globally.

Sri Lanka produces tea throughout the year and the growing areas are mainly concentrated in the central highlands and southern inland areas of the island

Source B.

Chinese legend has it that tea trees were discovered in the prehistoric times and tea was said to have been first used by ancient Chinese people as medicinal herbs.

In China "Tea" is first of all a plant.

The word tea comes from the Chinese language. In Mandarin it is called "**Cha**" and the sign for it looks like this:



The main tea areas are situated in the south of China. Most of the tea produced in China is also consumed there (90% of green, 10% of black tea).

Today tea plantation in China totals over one million hectares.

Source C

The bush need a hot climate where there is plenty of rain. In the wild the tea can grow as tall as 12m/40ft, but in cultivation it is kept down to a bush 1.5m/4ft high.

Tea bushes are usually grown from cuttings. The cuttings grow into young plants and these are planted on the hillsides. From time to time they are cut back so that they do not grow too tall.

After a few years the bushes are ready for picking. Only the young leaves at the tips of the branches are picked. They are picked every five days. The young leaves make the best tea.



Tea around the World

Read the general information and sources A-C carefully about “Tea Around the World”, then answer the following questions:

Section A

- What is tea made from?
- Where are the bushes grown?
- Using the map of the world locate the tea growing countries
- Identify the business capital of India’s tea trade, colour it “Green”
- Why is Sri Lanka’s tea the best in the world?

Section B

- What was the first use of tea?
- What is the Chinese word for tea?
- How large is the tea plantation land in China?
- Try and copy the sign, look for other signs or words in other languages and compare it with English word/s

Section C

- What sort of climate do bushes need?
- Why are the bushes cut back?
- Which leaves make the best tea?

Sequencing

How to make a cup of tea

These sentences are in wrong order. Write them in the correct order, beginning with the words

First of all...

| |
|--|
| Next, boiling water is poured onto the leaves. |
| After a few minutes the tea is ready to be poured. |
| First of all, you should warm the tea pot. |
| Having made the tea, let it stand for a few minutes. |
| Then put the tea leaves in the pot. |

Further Activities

- Research other countries growing and exporting Tea { Resources websites}
 - Investigate when tea arrive United Kingdom, which company first traded in tea.
 - Economy and the Lifestyle of the Tea producing countries
- Tea and Global trade {Websites, Oxfam Education Materials, Fair Trade etc.}

Fact File: Malawi



Malawi is surrounded by three other African countries.

What are they? Find out using an atlas.

Lilongwe is the capital of Malawi and where international visitors land by aeroplane. What are the capitals of the four countries that make up the UK? Name some airports, which you may have used or can find on an atlas.

Blantyre is the main commercial town and here tobacco auctions can be visited between April and October. What does this tell you about the climate?

Lake Malawi is 365 miles long and 52 miles wide and so is sometimes called the Calendar Lake. Why is this?

David Livingstone was a famous missionary in this area and was influential in stopping the slave trade. Find out more about him and the slave trade.

British Airways' flights to Lilongwe are once a week and take 12 hours 10 minutes. This includes a stopover in Harare (Zimbabwe). Find the route in an atlas. Which countries do you fly over?

What time will it be in Lilongwe when you land if you leave here at 21:25? (Don't forget to check on any world time difference.)

If you visit Malawi you will be advised to take a course of anti-malaria pills and vaccinations for Hepatitis A, polio and typhoid. Are any of these diseases common in Britain? Why?

Malawi has five National Parks in spite of being a comparatively small country. Here the country's many species are protected. You can stay overnight in the park, if you book in advance. Which creatures might you see? Name some of the National Parks in Britain - do you know anything about any of them? Why have they been developed? Are they similar or different to those of Malawi?

The main river is the Shire (pronounced the Shiree). Where the river runs out of Lake Malawi it is at a height of 500 metres. When it leaves the country it has dropped to 50 metres. What features could you see along the river showing this huge drop in level? Can you draw the pathway to show examples of the feature?



Janet's Day

Here is a timetable showing a day in the life of a 12-year-old girl who lives by Lake Malawi in Central East Africa.

4:00am

Get up, prepare breakfast. Wash last night's dishes in the lake. Eat breakfast with the family.

6:00am

Walk to school with sister Lucy and friend Susan.

7:00am

Arrive at school, sweep an area of the school grounds. Assembly, post given out.

7:30am

School starts, all ages in one class until that year's examinations are passed. 58 pupils in class (some have over 100).

10:30am

Break. Activities – stepping games, skipping, circle games and circle dodge ball.

1:15pm

School finishes.

2:30pm

Arrive home. Cook lunch.

3:30pm

Play, perhaps dancing by the lake.

5:30pm

Work in the home: 1) Repair walls with soil, sand and water. 2) Pound maize to make flour.

8:45pm

Bedtime. (Janet sleeps in a hut with her brothers and sisters. Her parents sleep in another hut.)

Draw a clock face and divide it into 24 hours. Mark in different colours the different things that Janet does during this day.

Prepare a similar chart or clock for one of your school days.

List the similarities and differences between the two clocks.

Which lifestyle do you prefer?

Which aspects of Janet's life would you like?

Which aspects would you not like?

How is village life threatened in many countries?

In some countries, big companies are destroying the rainforest because they want to sell the timber, or they want to mine valuable underground minerals. Improved transport links mean that tourists can now visit many remote villages. This has its advantages and disadvantages.

Janet's Day



What is one of the main problems for remote villages?

Obtaining water is an essential part of village survival. In some countries women and children spend as much as six hours each day fetching water for their families. Even then the water is often dirty and not fit to drink.

What sort of jobs do people in overseas villages do?

Most jobs are connected with survival: growing crops, feeding and milking farm animals, and building homes to live in. Villagers also use their traditional skills to make art and craft objects to sell to tourists.

Do you think all Africa countries are poor? Give reasons for your answer.

Further Activities

Using the Internet and the Map of AFRICA;

- List different exports from these countries to other parts of the world.
- People who have contributed to the technology and science
- Some things Africa countries share with other parts of the world
- Examine the importance of produce from Africa to other parts of the world.

Teachers are free to adapt the material to suit different level of learners.