

## **2. Lipton Tea's History**

The tea we drink today is virtually unchanged from that which Chinese Emperor Shen-Nung discovered in 2737 B.C. According to the legend, Shen-Nung was boiling a kettle of water in his terrace when the wind blew a few tea leaves into the kettle. The curious Emperor sampled the steaming liquid. He delighted in its pleasing aroma and pleasant taste, and soon the taste for tea spread to Japan and other Far East countries.

Tea traveled throughout Asia, eventually capturing the interest of explorers from Europe. It was the famed East India Trading Company that formally introduced tea to England in the early 1600's. At first, tea was highly taxed, expensive and rare. Only aristocrats were able to enjoy its appealing aroma and flavor. But as trade increased, prices fell and soon everybody had their daily cup of tea.

Early Dutch and English colonists introduced tea to the New World, but it was an enterprising young Scotsman, named Sir Thomas J. Lipton, who truly popularized the beverage in America in 1890. Lipton had already established a successful tea business throughout England based on a commitment to sell only the freshest, highest quality blend of tea leaves.

To ensure a supply of tea, Lipton bought his own tea estates in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and transported the tea to America in clipper ships. It was Lipton who was the first to package tea in small, convenient tins to keep it fresh, preserve the flavor and guarantee that customers received the correct amount of tea. Lipton's enterprising and innovative spirit earned him the title of „Sir Tea” throughout the world.

By the turn of the century, tea was indeed a beverage for the masses on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1904 in New York, a tea and a coffee merchant named Thomas Sullivan decided to package loose tea in small hand-sewn silk bags as an inexpensive and convenient way to distribute tea samples to his customers. To his surprise, his customers made tea in the tea bags rather than removing the contents, thus giving birth to the tea bag. The Thomas J. Lipton company further improved upon this invention with the introduction of the Tea Bag in 1952. With four brewing sides, rather than two, boiling water reaches the tea more easily.

Later that year at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Richard Blechynden, a merchant of Indian tea, poured his tea over ice and the cool, beverage was a sensation. And the love affair with iced tea continues... Today, Americans drink 136 million cups of tea each day, and 80 percent of it is served over ice.

### Első feladat

Olvassa el a „Lipton Tea’s History” c. szöveget és válaszoljon maximum 4 szóban a következő kérdésekre a példa (0) alapján.

Questions	Answers
<b>0. Who discovered tea?</b>	<b>Shen-Nung, Chinese Emperor</b>
1. Where was he boiling water?	
2. How did the leaves get into his kettle?	
3. Where do we know this story from?	
4. Where did tea drinking spread to?	
5. Who brought tea to Europe?	
6. Who were drinking it first in England?	
7. When could everybody enjoy drinking tea daily?	
8. Where did Dutch and English colonists introduce tea?	
9. Why did Sir Lipton buy tea plantations in Ceylon?	
10. How did Sir Lipton keep tea fresh?	
11. What name did Sir Lipton get from his customers?	

### Második feladat

Olvassa el a szöveget újból és párosítsa össze az eseményeket a dátumokkal a megadott példa (0) szerint.

Years	Events
<b>0. 2737 B.C.</b>	<b>Shen-Nung discovered tea</b>
12. 1600 (A.D.)	
13. 1890	
14.	T. Sullivan made small silk tea bags
15.	Ice tea beverage was introduced