

3a Read the passage quickly and match each paragraph with its main idea.

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| Paragraph 1 | Lu Yu and his book <i>Cha Jing</i> |
| Paragraph 2 | How tea spread to other countries |
| Paragraph 3 | How tea was invented by accident |

An Accidental Invention

Did you know that tea, the most popular drink in the world (after water), was invented by accident? Many people believe that tea was first drunk about 5,000 years ago. It is said that a Chinese ruler called Shen Nong was the first to discover tea as a drink. One day Shen Nong was boiling drinking water over an open fire. Some leaves from a tea plant fell into the water and remained there for some time. It produced a nice smell so he tasted the brown water. It was quite delicious, and so, one of the world's favorite drinks was invented.



A few thousand years later, Lu Yu, "the sage of tea", mentioned Shen Nong in his book *Cha Jing*. The book describes how tea plants were grown and used to make tea. It also discusses where the finest tea leaves were produced and what kinds of water were used.

It is believed that tea was brought to Korea and Japan during the 6th and 7th centuries. In England, tea didn't appear until around 1660, but in less than 100 years, it had become the national drink. The tea trade from China to Western countries took place in the 19th century. This helped to spread the popularity of tea and the tea plant to more places around the world. Even though many people now know about tea culture, the Chinese are without doubt the ones who best understand the nature of tea.

3b Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. When was tea first drunk?
2. How was tea invented?
3. Who is called "the sage of tea"?
4. What is *Cha Jing* about?
5. When was tea brought to other countries?

3c Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in the box.

invent
drink
bring
produce
trade

1. One of the world's favorite drinks was _____ by accident.
2. Tea was first _____ by Shen Nong about 5,000 years ago.
3. A nice smell was _____ when the tea leaves dropped into the hot water.
4. Tea was _____ to Korea and Japan during the 6th and 7th centuries.
5. Tea is now _____ between many different countries.