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Aii Language Center

A Mengly J. Quach Education School

Name: _____

Quiz

Points: _____

Reading Explorer 3, Third Edition

Unit 7A

Read the passage and choose the correct answer for each question.

Coffee's Backstory

A Morning commuters carrying cups of steaming coffee are a familiar sight throughout the world, but how did this stimulating drink get started and what lies behind your visit to the local coffee shop?

B Although coffee is now grown in warm regions all over the world, it was first cultivated in the countries that are now Ethiopia and Yemen, on either side of the Red Sea. No doubt people who sampled the wild plant noticed that it had stimulating qualities, but there is no actual record of when it was first harvested as a food. One legend says that a goat herder noticed that his flock got excited when they ate the berries, but perhaps this is just a story. Another supposed origin of coffee is associated with a healer in Yemen named Omar. It seems that Omar had been kicked out of his community and was living on the land. He cooked up some coffee beans in water and drank the liquid. It made him feel good, so he shared it with the community and they took him back along with his new discovery.

C The first documented reference to coffee occurs in the 1400s in Mocha, a place in Yemen that gave its name to a type of coffee. Within a century, the new drink had spread to other parts of the Middle East, Turkey, and North Africa. From there it spread to Italy where the first coffeehouse started in Rome in 1645. After that, not only did coffee's popularity spread through the rest of Europe, it also extended to colonial areas as well. For example, the Dutch started growing coffee in Indonesia (the source of coffee's nickname —javal), the French introduced it to the Caribbean, and it was first grown in Brazil in 1727.

D There are two main types of coffee plants, Arabica and Robusta. About 70 percent of the world's coffee is the former variety although Robusta is cheaper to produce. Coffee plants prefer temperatures of around 20° degrees Celsius and ample sunshine. Coffee grows on trees and the Arabica berries take six to eight months to ripen while Robusta berries require nine to eleven months. When the berries are ripe, they turn red and are picked. Seeds—familiar coffee beans—are extracted from the berries and dried before they are processed. The dried beans are roasted and finally ground

into a powder to be brewed with water to produce the well-known drink. In most cases, dried coffee beans are exported before they are roasted.

E Today, coffee is grown as a cash crop in many parts of the world, especially Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. For 12 countries, it is the main agricultural export. In fact, it is second only to oil in its value as an export. Coffee is the basis of the economy for 25 million people. However, growing coffee is not without its problems in terms of agricultural pests, environmental impact, and social implications.

F There are over 900 types of insects that attack all parts of the coffee plant. One particular kind of beetle destroys about half of all the coffee berries that mature! In addition, Arabica coffee plants are susceptible to coffee leaf rust that can spread rapidly. The heavy use of insecticides has been very bad for the environment, so now coffee growers try other, less harmful methods to protect their crops.

G In the past, farmers with small amounts of land planted coffee between other crops— called interplanting—or under trees. In that way, shade-grown coffee was raised with fruit trees that provided a habitat for birds and other animals. However, once farmers started large-scale production, they realized that growing only coffee trees in the sun produced a crop more quickly. In order to do this, they had to use chemical fertilizers and more insecticides, both of which are bad for the environment.

H There is a movement toward sustainable methods of growing coffee that include a return to shade-grown crops. Among the other advantages, shade-grown coffee requires less water for irrigation, a factor in some coffee-producing countries where water is scarce. Harvesting coffee can be labor-intensive, but in many developing countries, the people who actually grow the coffee make very little money from the high prices people pay in developed countries. There is a movement called —fair trade that seeks to give coffee producers a greater share of the profits in return for using growing methods that are environmentally sustainable.

I So, the next time you buy a cup of your favorite coffee, think about the long journey and process it went through to get to your favorite coffeehouse. Try to learn where it was grown and whether the company believes in fair trade so that coffee is a sustainable type of agriculture.

Questions

1. What is the writer's opinion about the origins of coffee in paragraph B?

- a. Goats in Ethiopia discovered coffee.
- b. Both the goat herder and Omar discovered coffee at the same time.
- c. The origins of coffee and who discovered it is uncertain.
- d. It is certain that Omar discovered coffee.

2. Which of these happened last?

- a. Coffee was grown in Yemen.
- b. Coffee became popular in Turkey.
- c. The world's first coffeehouse opened in Italy.
- d. The Dutch started to grow coffee in Indonesia.

3. In the second sentence of paragraph D, what does the word *former* refer to?

- a. Arabica
- b. Robusta
- c. red coffee berries
- d. dried coffee beans

4. What is the most likely reason that Arabica coffee is more expensive to produce than Robusta coffee?

- a. Arabica berries ripen faster than Robusta berries.
- b. Arabica coffee plants are more likely to be damaged by coffee leaf rust.
- c. You can interplant Arabica coffee plants with other crops like fruit trees.
- d. About 25 million people grow mostly Robusta coffee.

5. What is the advantage of buying fair trade coffee?

- a. More of the profit will go back to the people who grow and pick the coffee beans.
- b. Growers will plant trees in the sun to produce the coffee more quickly.
- c. Insecticides will destroy some of the 900 insects that attack the coffee plants.
- d. Consumers will be able to buy some kinds of coffee at lower prices.

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