

Read the article and answer the questions below.

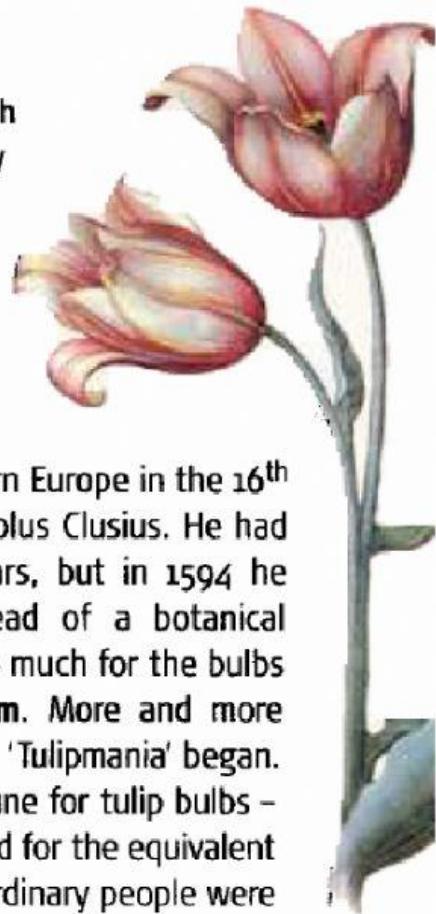
# The history of flowers

## TULIPS

Tulips were originally wild flowers <sup>1</sup>which grew in the valleys in Central Asia. <sup>2</sup>They were first cultivated in Turkey in the <sup>11<sup>th</sup></sup> century, <sup>3</sup>where they were highly valued for their beauty. They became the symbol of the Ottoman Empire and can be found in many works of art from <sup>4</sup>that period.

Tulips were first cultivated in Western Europe in the <sup>16<sup>th</sup></sup> century by a Dutch botanist called Carolus Clusius. He had been living in Germany for some years, but in 1594 he returned to Holland and became head of a botanical garden <sup>5</sup>there. However, he charged so much for the bulbs that thieves broke in and stole <sup>6</sup>them. More and more people wanted to buy tulips and in 1634 'Tulipmania' began. <sup>7</sup>At that time people would pay a fortune for tulip bulbs – in one instance three of <sup>8</sup>them were sold for the equivalent of £75,000 at today's prices. By 1636 ordinary people were selling their homes to become tulip growers. However, the more people <sup>9</sup>did so, the less valuable the flowers became. In 1637 Tulipmania ended and most traders lost everything.

Holland now produces three billion tulip bulbs each year in hundreds of different colours, but they still can't grow a truly black tulip. To produce a black <sup>10</sup>one is the dream of tulip growers everywhere.





## ROSES

According to fossil records, roses are over 35 million years old and <sup>11</sup>they were first cultivated in China about 5,000 years ago. A Chinese emperor in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC apparently had over 600 books on roses in <sup>12</sup>his library, and oil was extracted from <sup>13</sup>those grown in his gardens. However, only the highest members of society were allowed to use <sup>14</sup>it. If anyone else was found with even a small amount, they were sentenced to death. Roses were also popular with the Romans, <sup>15</sup>who used their petals as medicine, a source of perfume and as confetti at weddings.

Cultivated roses were only introduced to Western Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Napoleon's wife, Josephine, started a botanical garden near Paris, <sup>16</sup>where she collected all the known varieties of rose and encouraged the breeding of new ones. This led to the flowers becoming increasingly popular, and in Britain <sup>17</sup>at that time roses became so valuable that <sup>18</sup>they were often used as currency in local markets.

All roses in Europe used to be pink or white until the first red <sup>19</sup>ones arrived from China 200 years ago. <sup>20</sup>These now symbolise love and are the world's most common cut flower.

1. Where and when were these flowers first cultivated?
2. When did the flowers reach Western Europe?
3. How was a botanical garden important in the flowers history?
4. When and where were these flowers very valuable?
5. What does the article say about the colours of these flowers?