Text 3

Tulips

Traditionally people believe tulips come from Holland. However, it would be more accurate to say that early botanists (people who study plants) came from the great Turkish Empire, and were growing tulips as early as 1,000 AD.

The Tale of the Tulip

There is a famous Turkish legend about a handsome prince named Farhad, who was stricken with love for a fair maid, Shirin. One day he heard that she had been killed, and in his grief, he climbed onto his favourite horse and galloped over the edge of a cliff to his death. It is said that from each droplet of his blood, a scarlet tulip sprang up, making the flower an historic symbol of perfect love. During the glory of the Ottoman Empire, the Sultans celebrated the tulip, and wore jewellery and ornaments of tulips to represent wealth and power. Today, the tulip is still the national flower of Turkey.

During the 1500's Europeans became plant explorers. In 1593 a botanist called Carolus Clusius met the ambassador to the Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, who gave him some precious tulip bulbs. Clusius brought them back to Holland to cultivate and planted them in his garden. By 1624 they were highly prized by the rich and some bulbs were stolen from Clusius' garden, as they could be sold for up to £1,000 (in today's money). This was the beginning of 'Tulipomania' in Holland.

21. Who were growing tulips in the Turkish Empire in 1,000 AD?

a. late botanists
b. early botanists
c. yearly botanists

22. What is the tulip an historic symbol of?

a. perfect love
b. prefect love
c. perfect leaves

23. In what year did Carolus meet the ambassador?

a. 1500
b. 1624
c. 1593

24. In 1624 where were the bulbs stolen from?

a. The local park
b. A garden
c. A forest

25. What synonym can be used for the word 'stolen' in the last paragraph?

a. robbed
b. ribbed
c. given