

The World's Most Popular Drink

People all over the world drink coffee. It is the world's most popular drink. The French call it cafe, the Germans Kaffee, the Japanese koochi, the Turkish kahve. But the people of Sweden drink the most coffee-more than five cups a day. Over half of American adults drink it every day, but not as much as in Sweden. Too much coffee is bad for your health.

We don't know who really discovered coffee. There is one story about a man who discovered coffee in Ethiopia, a country in Africa, around the year 700. The man's name was Kaldi, and he took care of goats. One day, he watched them while they were eating some plants. Soon after they ate the plants, the goats became very excited, and they did not sleep that night. Kaldi tried the plants himself, and he became very excited, too. Other people tried the plants.



They decided to boil the plants and then drink the liquid. They, too, couldn't sleep well at night. This drink became popular and went from Ethiopia to Arabia. By 1200, it was a popular drink in the Arab world. The word coffee comes from the Arabic word qahwah. Coffee then traveled from Arabia to Turkey, Europe, and the rest of the world.

Coffee has been very popular in history. Many famous people loved coffee. The French writer Voltaire needed 72 cups every day. In 1735, the German musician Johann Sebastian Bach wrote music about coffee. Another German musician, Beethoven, counted 60 beans for each cup of coffee he made. That was strong!

There are coffee shops and coffee bars all over North America today. They serve all kinds of coffee in different sizes and flavors. Many coffee shops also give customers free Wi-Fi. In fact, it is not unusual for students to go into a coffee shop, buy one cup of coffee, and then sit for hours with their laptops writing their papers and surfing the Web.



VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Complete these sentences with the words in the box.

beans
boil

discovered
excited

liquid too
plants took care of

1. A young man named Kaldi _____ coffee in Ethiopia.
2. Kaldi _____ goats.
3. Kaldi's goats ate _____.
4. When the goats ate the coffee plants, the goats became _____.
5. When people ate the plants, they became excited, _____.
6. Some people count how many _____ they want in their coffee.
7. People started to _____ the coffee plants in water.
8. Then they drank the _____.

