

A short history of • coffee •



No one knows when the first cup of coffee was drunk. Some people say it was made (make) in the 9th century by a young man in Ethiopia who looked after goats.

He ¹_____ (try) the beans of a coffee plant but they tasted bitter, so he ²_____ (throw) them on a fire. But when the beans ³_____ (roast) in the fire, the young man noticed a wonderful smell. He ⁴_____ (take) the beans from the fire and boiled them with water. In this way, the first cup of coffee ⁵_____ (produce).

In fact, the first evidence for coffee comes from the 1400s. Plants ⁶_____ (grow) in Yemen and ground coffee ⁷_____ (export) to other Arab countries.

People ⁸_____ (love) the drink and in the 1500s 'coffee houses', or cafés, ⁹_____ (open) across the Arab world. They were places where coffee ¹⁰_____ (drink), chess ¹¹_____ (play) and people ¹²_____ (chat).

At the end of the 1500s coffee ¹³_____ (sell) in Europe for the first time. In the next hundred years, coffee plants ¹⁴_____ (transport) all over the world by the Dutch, the French and the British. Coffee ¹⁵_____ (become) one of the most important products for many countries.