

# Famous Things

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**Beer**

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## Beer

### PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Do you know how beer is made?
2. When do you think people first started making beer?
3. What gives beer its special flavor?
4. Do you know what a brewery is?
5. Is beer a popular drink for both men and women in your country?



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Beer is an alcoholic drink made from grain, hops, water, and yeast.

First, grain such as barley or millet is malted. This means it is allowed to grow into seedlings before it is dried and crushed. Other cereal grains like corn or wheat are then added, along with hot water, which turns the mixture into a mash. The liquid that runs off from the mash is put into a large container and boiled with dried hop flowers. Hops give beer its special flavor. Other flavors can be added. When the liquid cools, yeast is added and the brew is left to ferment. This is when the alcoholic content of beer forms.

The main ingredient of beer made in North America and Europe is barley. Millet or corn is often used in Africa, and the Japanese make beer from rice.

People have been making and drinking beer for almost 6,000 years. The Sumerians, who lived in what is now Iraq, left the earliest written records about brewing beer. Later civilizations, including the ancient Egyptians, grew special types of grain to make beer. Ancient people drank beer for its alcoholic content and because it helped to keep them healthier and kept them from going hungry.

In Britain, monks were brewing beer by 543 A.D. In the 1400s, women brewed beer as one of their household duties. Some of them made such good beer that other people bought it from them. By the 1700s, large breweries were making and selling beer.

People drank beer because there was not much else to drink. Clean drinking water was hard to find, especially in big cities like London, until sewage systems were built. In the meantime, men, women, and children drank beer at every meal, including breakfast.

Today, beer is still brewed and enjoyed in every part of the world.

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## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.**

1. People have been making beer for about 600 years. \_\_\_\_\_
2. North America and Europe use the same main ingredient in their beer. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The first written records about beer making came from the ancient Egyptians. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Women used to make beer as one of their household duties. \_\_\_\_\_
5. In the past, it was common for children to drink beer. \_\_\_\_\_

**B. The Process of Making Beer – Put the following statements in the correct order.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ When the liquid cools, yeast is added.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Grain grows into seedlings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The brew is left to ferment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The liquid that runs off the mash is put into a large container.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The seedlings are dried and crushed.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The alcohol content of beer forms.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The liquid is boiled with dried hop flowers.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other cereal grains and water are added which turns the mixture into a mash.

**C. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.**

1. What gives beer its special flavor? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How does Japanese beer differ from North American beer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did ancient people drink beer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. When did large breweries start making beer? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did many people drink beer with every meal in the 18th century? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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## VOCABULARY REVIEW

### A. Choose the word(s) with the closest meaning to the underlined words in the following sentences.

- Hops gives beer its special flavor.  
a) jumping                      b) type of plant                      c) mash
- When hot water is added to the grains, the mixture turns into a mash.  
a) a soft substance              b) beer                      c) crush
- When yeast is added, the brew is left to ferment.  
a) get cold                      b) have a chemical change      c) boil
- Ancient people drank beer to stay healthy and keep from going hungry.  
a) young                      b) rich                      c) from long ago
- In order to make beer, a grain such as barley is first malted.  
a) bought                      b) allowed to grow into seedlings      c) boiled

### B. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| _____ 1. seedling   | a) responsibility; work one is supposed to do                         |
| _____ 2. yeast      | b) press into smaller pieces or powder                                |
| _____ 3. ingredient | c) a member of a religious community                                  |
| _____ 4. monk       | d) a young plant  |
| _____ 5. brewery    | e) a substance like water; not a solid or gas                         |
| _____ 6. sewage     | f) something used to hold things                                      |
| _____ 7. duty       | g) a place where beer is made   |
| _____ 8. container  | h) a substance used in cooking or baking that causes chemical changes |
| _____ 9. crush      | i) waste material carried off through pipes                           |
| _____ 10. liquid    | j) part of a mixture  |

