ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВО САНКТ – ПЕТЕРБУРГА КОМИТЕТ ПО ОБРАЗОВАНИЮ

Государственное бюджетное общеобразовательное учреждение средняя общебразовательная школа № 490 Красногвардейского района г. Санкт – Петербурга

Адрес: пр. Новочеркасский, 50/3

Телефон/факс (812)444-43-42, e-mail: sc490krasnogvard@mail.ru

ПРОЕКТНО – ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЬСКАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ

**ТЕМА ПРОЕКТА**

**Чаепитие в Великобритании**

**(Tea Drinking in Britain)**

Руководитель проекта:

Семенюта Г.В.

Должность: учитель английского языка

Работу выполнили: Пунин Михаил,

Абиева Мадина,

Савченко Анастасия

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**Introduction**

Tea drinking is a pastime closely associated with the English. The traditional Chinese drink has conquered Great Britain and become an important part not only of the food of the nation, but also its culture. We are interested in when the English began to drink tea, why it is so popular, how it has influenced on British life and culture.

The aims of our project are

* to study the history and customs of tea drinking in Britain;
* to understand the reasons of popularity of the drink;
* to study the tea drinking influence on British lifestyle, language and culture;
* to compare British and Russian traditions of tea drinking.

**The History of Tea in England**

Tea was brought to Europe by Portuguese in the 16th century. In England tea

appeared only in the middle of the 17th century. But England has become the

tastemaker in tea fashion and the guardian of tea traditions. England dictated the

fashion for this drink in the world.

The first known advertisement announcing the sale of tea was in a copy of the

newspaper Mercurious Politicees from 1658. It reads: “That excellent China drink

called by the Chineans tsha, allias (то есть) tea, is sold at the Sultaness Head, a

Cophee-house…”

**Tea in the English Literature**

English literature stands witness to the role of tea in British life. LewisCarrol made

the Mad Hatter’s tea party the central part of his famous novel.When Peter Pan

asks the children what they want more, they reply, “First tea, please.” The main

characters of “The Chronicles of Narnia”enjoyed tea in a cold winter day.

**Tea Drinking in the 17 th Century**

The word "tea" comes in the English and Russian languages, as well as in other ones, from the Chinese, but from different dialects.

At first tea was used for medical purposes and sold by chemists. Some brand names have a medical imprint such as “Typhoo”, which is the Chinese word for doctor.

But soon it became obvious that the main advantageous of tea lay in the area of

social relations. But soon tea became a social drink, to a significant extent taking

his role away from alcoholic drink.

The first public places served tea became coffee houses. In 1683 there were about

2,000 coffee houses in London.

At the end of the 18-th century, they gained the reputation of being dirty, lower class places and were being replaced by teashops.

Teashops or tearooms were places for relaxing, and enjoying afternoon tea. They originated as places where women could go.

The so - called tea gardens appeared at the beginning of the 18th century and had great popularity. Tea gardens hold musical events and literary evenings. The whole family could go there. They closed in the 19 th century.

**Tea Prices and Taxation on Tea**

The length (from18 to 24 months) and difficulty of transporting tea to England, the large tax on it caused high price of it. Smugglers brought up to half of the tea drunk.

Despite (несмотря на) the fact that this drink was expensive, it was drunk everywhere. In 1784 the French writer La Rouchefoucauld wrote: “…the humblest peasant has his tea twice a day just like the rich man. The total consumption is immense”

The producers of “false” tea that was made from plants grown in England enjoyed great success.

Another way of ensuring the English need for tea was to dry and sold again already used tea from tea shops. In the 19th century there were 10 factories reprocessing tea in London.

In 1784 the government passed the act lowering the tax on tea. Tea became much cheaper. This stopped tea smuggling and false tea production.

**Tea in the British History**

In 1773 the British West Indian Company that wanted to monopolize all American tea trade brought tea to Boston. A group of Americans dressed as Indians threw the cargo of tea into the water. A big crowd of colonists gathered to cheer them. This event known as the Boston tea party was the beginning of American War for Independence.

Some historians suggest that tea played a role in industrial revolution. Drinking sweet afternoon tea made it possible to increase working hours at factories. Drinking tea required boiling one’s water thereby killing water-born deceases like cholera.

**Tea Revolution**

A sort of tea revolution, occurred in the 19th century. In 1823 a wild tea bush was discovered in the India. Having studied the secrets of Chinese tea production and having smuggled some Chinese specialists the English started cultivating their own tea in India and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). It was much cheaper than Chinese tea. The crops were immense. In 1860-s Chinese monopoly on tea came to an end. From that time on, tea has become a drink for the masses in Europe.

**Tea Clippers**

In 1840s fast sailing ships, clippers, were launched. A clipper needed 4 months to cover the distance from China to England. The famous races between the clippers went down in the history books. Merchants paid a bonus to the crew of a clipper that arrived first.

The clipper “Cutty Sark” found peace in Greenwich, London where she was turned into the museum of tea trade.

The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 put an end to the clipper transport of tea. After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, there was no need in clippers anymore.

**Tea Customs in the18 th Century**

By tradition, the British national drink is tea. The 18th century developed and fixed

traditions of tea drinking in Britain. The main tea quality was considered to be

refreshing and revival effect.

There was morning tea, afternoon tea or five o’clock tea, tea for two. In some poor

familieshigh tea was often the main evening meal. The habit of drinking five o’clock

tea was widespread among the upper classes because it became necessary to have a

snack between lunch and dinner that was eaten late.

The English liked black tea sweet and added milk, sugar or honey to it. The Chinese

drank (and still drink) green tea. They started to produce black tea for Europe.

**The Question of Milk**

The habit of whitening tea became a common place in the 18th century. Whether to

put milk into the cup before or after tea is a matter of some debates. Some people

think that adding milk at different times alters the flavour of tea. The problem has

split public opinion.

The demand for tea cups and pots increased and the production of tea services was started at the Chelsea and Wedgwood porcelain manufactures in the 17th century.

**Tea as a Secret Weapon of the English**

During the World War II tea was called “the secret weapon” of the English.

When German propaganda was describing the horror of war, it referred of declining tea reserves.

“Tea coupons” were introduced in 1940 and withdrawn in 1956. Sailors and workers had extra rations. There was a marked increase in production, a reduction in complaints about tiredness.

**Tea Drinking Today**

Tea is drunk on its own, with or after meals, from breakfast to supper and from early in the morning to late at night.

The variety of dishes eaten with tea is impressive: scones usually topped with strawberry jam, cakes, sandwiches.

Over the last few years, tea shops and tea rooms have been appearing across Britain with high speed. A tea room is a room or restaurant where beverages and light meals are served. There are yearly publications listing the 100 best tea rooms. Tea can be enjoyed in many different flavours and ways.

 The magnificent and expensive London hotels, which an average person is likely to see in films, serve afternoon tea. In some hotels you must order a table in advance and dress formally. Most of people who come there are tourists or the English in order to celebrate some special occasions.

There are also so-called cream teas for tourists. Cream tea involve hot rolls, cream prepared in a special way so that it can be spread on bread and jam.

Recently coffee, fruit and herbal teas are becoming more and more popular. In 2011 the British drank as much coffee as tea.

In countries with hot climate such as Arab countries people drink more tea than in the UK. But the English retain their feelings towards this drink. It is still very popular. The British drink tea multiple times a day. They continue to underline their reputations as the international arbiters on trends in tea.

**British and Russian Traditions of Tea Drinking**

T[ea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tea) has a rich and varied history in [Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russia). Today it is one of the most popular beverages in the country and is closely associated with traditional [Russian culture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_culture).

Britain and Russia are tea-drinking countries. Let us compare tea customs in both countries.

Tea in Russia was introduced in 1638, when a [Mongolian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongolia" \o "Mongolia) ruler donated to [Tsar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsar" \o "Tsar) [Michael.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_of_Russia" \o "Michael of Russia) By the end of the 18th century, Russia was importing 3 million pounds by camel caravans from the north China. The price was low so that lower class Russians could afford the beverage.

So in Russia tea became a widespread drink 100 years later than in Britain.

The word "tea" comes in the English and Russian languages, as well as in others, from the Chinese, but from different dialects.

In northern China it was called “chai’, while the Dutch merchant who brought it to England adopted the southern version of “tay” or “tea”.

As in Britain, black tea is more common in Russia than green. Russians also like sweet tea but only few add milk to it. In both countries tea is not only the beverage, but of a light meal. British and Russian cuisines can boast a variety of bakery products and jams served with tea.

Traditional forms of Russian tea ware include tea device called a [samovar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samovar) and tea [glass holders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glass_holder) that have become symbols of hospitality and comfort. Now you can see them at museums or private art and crafts collections. –

In the UK tea is consumed both at home and outside the home, often in cafés or [tea rooms](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tearoom_(UK_and_US)" \o "Tearoom (UK and US)). Russians drink tea at home more often.

Russian people drink tea is from early morning until late night especially at the end of meals served with dessert as British do. However, the average tea consumption per capita in Russia is less than in Britain because Russians do not drink tea as often as British do.

Nowadays this refreshing oriental beverage is extremely popular in both countries. and it would be hard for Russians and British to imagine life without tea. British and Russian tea traditions have a lot of common.

**Conclusion**

1. Before tea became Britain’s number one drink, it was served in coffee houses in London in 1650s.
2. At first tea was mainly consumed by the rich because it was extremely expensive.
3. Introduced at court in 1662 by Charles the Second’s Portuguese queen (the Portuguese started drinking tea100 years earlier than the English) tea-drinking spread throughout

the country. Between 1720 and1750 the imports of tea to Britain quadrupled.

1. The demand for tea cups and pots increased and the production of tea services was started at the Chelsea porcelain manufacture in the 17th century.
2. In 1860s Chinese monopoly on tea came to an end. The British started to grow

it in India and Ceylon. From 1884 the price of tea dropped and remained low throughout 20th century.

1. Tea now was available for people of all classes. London became the centre of tea trade.
2. In Britain tea is drunk by everybody and everywhere. The British drink tea multiple times a day.
3. It can be enjoyed in many different flavours and ways. The British prefer it black with milk added sugar or honey to it. Rolls, pies, biscuits and sandwiches are served with tea.
4. Tea-drinking is an important social action, it influenced on English history, language and culture.
5. Coffee, fruit and herbal tea is becoming more and more popular.
6. British and Russian tea drinking traditions have a lot of common but The Russians prefer tea without milk.
7. A lot of idioms with the word “tea” stand witness to the role of this drink in British life and culture.
8. The British retain their feelings towards this drink. They continue to underline their reputations as the international arbiters on trends in tea.

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Appendix: English Proverbs and Idioms with the Word “Tea”



