Name: _____ Date: _____

One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Circle group

Black tea, green tea and oolong tea look and taste different. One is dark and strong. Another is pale and grassy. You might guess that each one grows on its own plant. But they all come from the leaves of the same plant. It is a shrub with shiny green leaves.

The leaves are treated in different ways after they are picked. Tea pickers often take only the tip of each branch. They take the bud and the youngest leaves. Then the leaves are left to wither. That means they lose some water and go limp.

For black tea, the next step is to roll or bruise the leaves. This breaks them open. The juices inside meet the air. The air changes the leaves, and they turn dark brown. The change also makes the flavor deeper and stronger. Then the leaves are dried with hot air.

Green tea is made another way. Soon after picking, the leaves are heated in a hot pan or with steam. The heat stops the leaves from changing color. They stay green. They keep a fresh, light taste. Oolong tea is in the middle. Its leaves change only part of the way.

Some drinks called tea, such as mint or chamomile tea, do not come from this plant. They are made from other leaves and flowers.

Questions

1. Do black tea and green tea come from different plants?

_____

_____

2. Which part of the branch do pickers often take?

_____

_____

3. What happens to black tea leaves when they are rolled or bruised?

_____

_____

4. How are green tea leaves treated after picking?

_____

_____

5. Why do green tea leaves stay green?

_____

_____

6. Why might oolong tea taste different from black and green tea?

_____

_____

Words to know

shrub: a woody plant that is smaller than a tree
wither: to lose water and become limp
bruise: to crush or press something so that it is damaged
oolong: a kind of tea that sits between green and black tea
chamomile: a small daisy-like flower used to make a gentle herbal drink

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Triangle group

Black tea, green tea and oolong tea look and taste very different. One is dark and strong, and another is pale and grassy. You might guess that each one grows on its own kind of plant. In fact, they all come from the leaves of the same plant, a shrub with shiny green leaves.

The difference comes from what happens to the leaves after they are picked. Tea pickers often take only the tip of each branch, the bud and the youngest leaves. Then the leaves are left to wither, which means they lose some of their water and go limp.

For black tea, the next step is to roll or bruise the leaves. This breaks open their cells so that the juices inside meet the air. The air changes the leaves, and they turn dark brown. The change also builds deeper, stronger flavors. Once the leaves are dark enough, they are dried with hot air.

Green tea is handled another way. Soon after picking, the leaves are heated, either in a hot pan or with steam. The heat stops the leaves from changing color, so they stay green and keep a fresh, light taste. Oolong tea sits in the middle, because its leaves are allowed to change only part of the way.

Some drinks sold as tea, such as mint or chamomile tea, are not made from this plant at all. They are made from other leaves and flowers.

Questions

1. Do black tea and green tea come from different plants?

_____

_____

2. Which part of the branch do tea pickers often take?

_____

_____

3. What happens to black tea leaves when they are rolled or bruised?

_____

_____

4. How are green tea leaves handled after picking?

_____

_____

5. Why do green tea leaves stay green?

_____

_____

6. Why might oolong tea taste different from both black and green tea?

_____

_____

Words to know

shrub: a woody plant that is smaller than a tree
wither: to lose water and become limp
bruise: to crush or press something so that it is damaged
oolong: a kind of tea that sits between green and black tea
chamomile: a small daisy-like flower used to make a gentle herbal drink

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Square group

Black tea, green tea and oolong tea differ remarkably in both appearance and flavor. One is dark and robust, while another is pale and grassy. It would be natural to assume that each variety grows on its own distinct plant. In reality, they all come from the leaves of a single species, a shrub with glossy green leaves.

The differences arise from how the leaves are handled after they are picked. Tea pickers frequently gather only the tip of each branch, meaning the bud and the youngest leaves. Those leaves are then left to wither, which means they lose a portion of their moisture and become limp.

To make black tea, the next step is to roll or bruise the leaves. This ruptures their cells so that the juices inside are exposed to the air. The air transforms the leaves, turning them dark brown and developing deeper, more intense flavors. Once the leaves have darkened sufficiently, they are dried with hot air.

Green tea is prepared quite differently. Shortly after picking, the leaves are heated, either in a hot pan or with steam. The heat halts the changes that would otherwise darken them, so the leaves remain green and keep a fresh, delicate taste. Oolong tea occupies the middle ground, because its leaves are permitted to change only part of the way.

Certain beverages sold as tea, such as mint or chamomile tea, are not made from this plant at all. They are brewed from other leaves and flowers.

Questions

1. Do black tea and green tea come from separate plants?

_____

_____

2. Which part of each branch do tea pickers frequently gather?

_____

_____

3. What happens to black tea leaves when they are rolled or bruised?

_____

_____

4. How are green tea leaves handled shortly after picking?

_____

_____

5. Why do green tea leaves remain green?

_____

_____

6. Why might oolong tea taste different from both black and green tea?

_____

_____

Words to know

shrub: a woody plant that is smaller than a tree
wither: to lose water and become limp
bruise: to crush or press something so that it is damaged
oolong: a kind of tea that sits between green and black tea
chamomile: a small daisy-like flower used to make a gentle herbal drink

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Easier · 221 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.8

1. No, they come from the same plant.
2. The bud and the youngest leaves.
3. Their juices meet the air and the leaves turn dark brown.
4. They are heated in a hot pan or with steam.
5. The heat stops them from changing color.
6. Its leaves change only part of the way.

Triangle: One Tea Plant, Many Teas

This passage · 240 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.7

1. No, they come from the leaves of the same plant.
2. The bud and the youngest leaves at the tip.
3. Their juices meet the air and the leaves turn dark brown.
4. They are heated soon after picking, in a hot pan or with steam.
5. The heat stops them from changing color.
6. Its leaves are allowed to change only part of the way.

Square: One Tea Plant, Many Teas

Harder · 249 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.3

1. No, they both come from the leaves of a single plant species.
2. The bud and the youngest leaves at the tip.
3. Their juices are exposed to the air and the leaves turn dark brown.
4. They are heated in a hot pan or with steam.
5. The heat halts the changes that would otherwise darken them.
6. Its leaves are permitted to change only part of the way.