A Pouch Before Its Time

B2 Upper-intermediate · Food · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. In the _____ origin story, New York tea merchant Thomas Sullivan mailed samples in silk bags.
2. Customers _____ steeped the unopened packets, mistaking their wrapping for a brewing device.
3. A Wisconsin patent _____ the familiar account by recording an earlier design for a tea holder.
4. In nineteen oh one, _____ inventors Roberta Lawson and Mary McLaren applied for a tea leaf holder.
5. Granted in _____ hundred three, the patent's drawing shows a fabric pouch that kept leaves inside the cup.
6. Its earlier date makes the _____ origin story doubtful, though the patent cannot prove direct influence.
7. After _____ began ordering tea this way, merchants adapted silk sample pouches for ordinary retail sales.
8. Finer tea particles release color and tannins faster, making the cup stronger and sometimes more _____.
9. The bag offered speed, but sometimes _____ the slower, gentler infusion of whole leaves.
10. Its real _____ was a repeatable single cup, ready wherever hot water could be found.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. familiar 2. supposedly 3. complicates 4. Milwaukee 5. nineteen 6. accidental 7. customers 8. astringent 9. sacrificed 10. innovation

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. In the familiar origin story, New York tea merchant Thomas Sullivan mailed samples in silk bags.
2. Customers supposedly steeped the unopened packets, mistaking their wrapping for a brewing device.
3. A Wisconsin patent complicates the familiar account by recording an earlier design for a tea holder.
4. In nineteen oh one, Milwaukee inventors Roberta Lawson and Mary McLaren applied for a tea leaf holder.
5. Granted in nineteen hundred three, the patent's drawing shows a fabric pouch that kept leaves inside the cup.
6. Its earlier date makes the accidental origin story doubtful, though the patent cannot prove direct influence.
7. After customers began ordering tea this way, merchants adapted silk sample pouches for ordinary retail sales.
8. Finer tea particles release color and tannins faster, making the cup stronger and sometimes more astringent.
9. The bag offered speed, but sometimes sacrificed the slower, gentler infusion of whole leaves.
10. Its real innovation was a repeatable single cup, ready wherever hot water could be found.

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