The Tropical Ice Trade

C1 Advanced · Food · about 2 min of audio

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Name _____ Date _____

Part 1 — Fill the gaps while you listen

1. Before _____ entered kitchens, a New England pond briefly became the unlikely engine of a tropical trade.
2. In eighteen hundred and six, merchant Frederic Tudor sent a cargo of harvested ice from _____ to Martinique.
3. The venture sounded absurd because warm weather buyers had no _____ way to store a substance that was already vanishing.
4. On the voyage, blocks were packed _____ with sawdust, whose humble fibers trapped air and slowed melting.
5. The _____ was not a laboratory invention but a practical by-product of local sawmills, repurposed with remarkable effect.
6. When the ship reached port, enough ice remained to _____ that cold itself could be transported as merchandise.
7. Tudor's early customers included households and drink sellers, who discovered that chilled _____ could command a premium.
8. Yet demand had to be taught, since many _____ regarded ice as a curiosity rather than a useful purchase.
9. Repeated shipments gradually linked winter ponds, sawmills, ships, and distant kitchens in a supply chain no one had _____ imagined.
10. The trade later extended to India, where long voyages made _____, timing, and dependable harvesting matters of commercial survival.
11. What crossed the ocean was not merely frozen water, but a new _____ that climate might be negotiated.

Part 2 — Write every sentence you hear

1. _____

_____

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

Answer key

Part 1 — the missing words

1. refrigeration 2. Massachusetts 3. established 4. tightly 5. insulation 6. demonstrate 7. refreshments 8. residents 9. previously 10. insulation 11. expectation

Part 2 — the full transcript

1. Before refrigeration entered kitchens, a New England pond briefly became the unlikely engine of a tropical trade.
2. In eighteen hundred and six, merchant Frederic Tudor sent a cargo of harvested ice from Massachusetts to Martinique.
3. The venture sounded absurd because warm weather buyers had no established way to store a substance that was already vanishing.
4. On the voyage, blocks were packed tightly with sawdust, whose humble fibers trapped air and slowed melting.
5. The insulation was not a laboratory invention but a practical by-product of local sawmills, repurposed with remarkable effect.
6. When the ship reached port, enough ice remained to demonstrate that cold itself could be transported as merchandise.
7. Tudor's early customers included households and drink sellers, who discovered that chilled refreshments could command a premium.
8. Yet demand had to be taught, since many residents regarded ice as a curiosity rather than a useful purchase.
9. Repeated shipments gradually linked winter ponds, sawmills, ships, and distant kitchens in a supply chain no one had previously imagined.
10. The trade later extended to India, where long voyages made insulation, timing, and dependable harvesting matters of commercial survival.
11. What crossed the ocean was not merely frozen water, but a new expectation that climate might be negotiated.

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