



# Bubble Tea — Taiwan's Sweetest Export to the World

Reading Worksheet — Level F | [tahricteaches.com](http://tahricteaches.com)

Bubble tea is one of Taiwan's most famous gifts to the world. It was first **invented** in the 1980s in the central Taiwanese city of Taichung. A small tea shop began adding soft, chewy tapioca pearls to cold milk tea, and **customers** were instantly in love. Today, this drink has spread far beyond its home island and has become an important part of modern Asian food **culture**.

There are several stories about who first **invented** bubble tea. Two famous shops, Chun Shui Tang and Hanlin Tea Room, both claim credit for the creation. What is certain is that the idea caught on remarkably quickly. Within a few years, the **trend** had **spread** across Taiwan and was soon crossing into Hong Kong, Singapore, and Japan. The drink became a daily habit for students, office workers, and families.

Today, bubble tea comes in **various** styles and **flavors**. Customers can choose from classic milk tea, brown sugar, fresh fruit teas, matcha, taro, jasmine, and dozens more. Each shop tries to create its own **unique** menu to attract young customers, and the toppings have multiplied too — popping boba, jelly cubes, pudding, and cheese foam. The chewy texture of the pearls, combined with sweet tea, gives bubble tea a sensory experience that no other drink can match.

Bubble tea is no longer just a local treat — it has become a truly **global** business. Major chains such as Gong Cha, CoCo, and Chatime have opened thousands of branches in cities across six continents. **Customers** in New York, London, Tokyo, and Bangkok now line up for the same drink that began as a humble experiment in a small Taichung shop. The simple **tradition** of mixing tea and tapioca has grown into a billion-dollar industry, and Taiwan has worked hard to protect bubble tea as part of its national identity.

The success of bubble tea shows how a small local idea can become a worldwide phenomenon. It also shows the power of food **culture** as a way to share Taiwan with the world. As new **flavors** are **invented** every year and the **trend** continues to grow, bubble tea remains one of the most exciting and recognizable drinks of our time. For many young people, drinking a cup of bubble tea is more than enjoying a sweet treat — it is taking part in a living **tradition** that links Taipei to the rest of the planet.

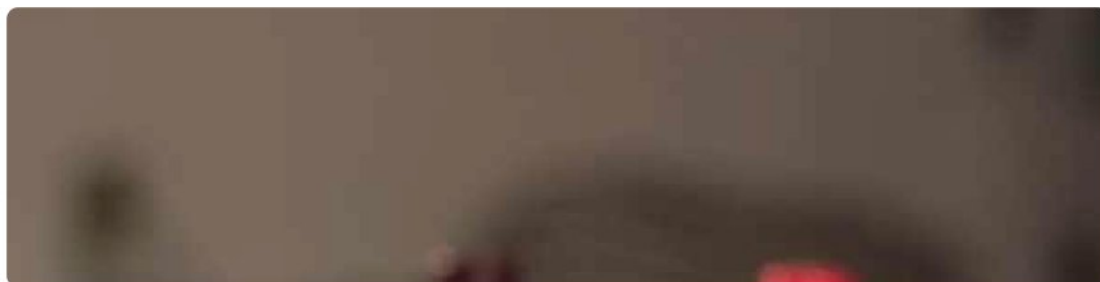
## A. Vocabulary

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1. invent \_\_\_\_\_

a. the particular taste of a food or drink

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|-------------------|---|
| 2. culture ____   | b. a person who buys goods or services from a shop or business        |
| 3. tradition ____ | c. of many different kinds; not all the same                          |
| 4. flavor ____    | d. being the only one of its kind; very special and different         |
| 5. global ____    | e. to create or design something completely new for the first time    |
| 6. customer ____  | f. the customs, ideas, food, and arts of a particular group of people |
| 7. trend ____     | g. a custom or practice that has been passed down for many years      |
| 8. unique ____    | h. relating to or covering the whole world                            |
| 9. spread ____    | i. a general direction in which something is developing or changing   |
| 10. various ____  | j. to move out and cover a wider area or reach more people            |



## B. True or False

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- Bubble tea was invented in Taiwan in the 1980s. \_\_\_\_
- Bubble tea was first created in the city of Taipei. \_\_\_\_
- Two different tea shops both claim to have invented bubble tea. \_\_\_\_
- The trend of bubble tea only stayed inside Taiwan for many years. \_\_\_\_
- Modern bubble tea comes in only one or two basic flavors. \_\_\_\_
- Each shop tries to create a unique menu to attract customers. \_\_\_\_
- Gong Cha, CoCo, and Chatime are major global bubble tea chains. \_\_\_\_
- Bubble tea has grown into a billion-dollar global industry. \_\_\_\_
- Taiwan sees bubble tea as part of its national identity and culture. \_\_\_\_



### C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** invented, culture, global, customers, various

1. A small Taichung shop \_\_\_\_\_ bubble tea in the 1980s by adding tapioca pearls to milk tea.
2. Modern bubble tea comes in \_\_\_\_\_ styles and flavors, from classic milk tea to fruit and matcha.
3. Each shop tries to design a menu that will attract new \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Bubble tea has grown from a local treat into a \_\_\_\_\_ business with shops on six continents.
5. Bubble tea is now an important part of modern Asian food \_\_\_\_\_ .

### D. Comprehension Questions

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1. Where and when was bubble tea first invented, and what made it special?
2. Why is it difficult to say exactly who invented bubble tea?
3. How did bubble tea change as it became popular in other countries?
4. What examples show that bubble tea is now a global business?
5. Why is bubble tea important to Taiwan beyond being just a drink?

### E. Discussion Questions

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1. Why do you think bubble tea became popular so quickly all over the world? What does it have that other drinks do not?
2. Some people say bubble tea is unhealthy because it has a lot of sugar. Should governments warn customers about it, or is that the customer's own choice?
3. If you were opening a bubble tea shop in another country, what unique flavor or topping would you create to stand out from the big chains?





# Answer Key

## Bubble Tea — Taiwan's Sweetest Export to the World

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**A. Vocabulary:** 1-e, 2-f, 3-g, 4-a, 5-h, 6-b, 7-i, 8-d, 9-j, 10-c

**B. True/False:** 1-T, 2-F, 3-T, 4-F, 5-F, 6-T, 7-T, 8-T, 9-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-invented, 2-various, 3-customers, 4-global, 5-culture

**D. Comprehension:**

1. Bubble tea was first invented in the 1980s in the central Taiwanese city of Taichung. A small tea shop began adding chewy tapioca pearls to cold milk tea, and customers loved the new combination of textures.
2. It is difficult to say exactly who invented bubble tea because two famous shops, Chun Shui Tang and Hanlin Tea Room, both claim credit for the creation.
3. As bubble tea became popular in other countries, it expanded into various flavors such as brown sugar, fruit teas, matcha, and taro, and new toppings like popping boba, jelly cubes, pudding, and cheese foam were added.
4. Major chains such as Gong Cha, CoCo, and Chatime have opened thousands of branches in cities across six continents, and customers in places like New York, London, Tokyo, and Bangkok line up daily — turning a Taichung experiment into a billion-dollar industry.
5. Beyond being a drink, bubble tea is part of Taiwan's national identity and a powerful way to share Taiwanese food culture with the world; the country actively protects and promotes it as a living tradition.