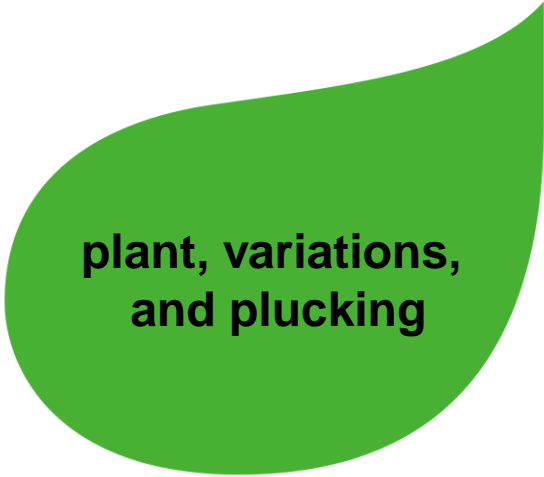




A green leaf-shaped graphic with a rounded bottom and a pointed top, containing the text "brief history of tea".

brief history of tea

A green leaf-shaped graphic with a rounded bottom and a pointed top, containing the text "plant, variations, and plucking".

**plant, variations,
and plucking**

A green leaf-shaped graphic with a rounded bottom and a pointed top, containing the text "processing and manufacturing".

**processing
and manufacturing**

brief history of tea



Shen Nung was shading himself under a tea tree and a leaf dropped into his boiling water. Liked it, and noticed beneficial properties – felt very alert, focus, energized.

First started to be traded out of China with the Dutch and Portuguese.

At first, associated with royalty and the wealthy since very expensive due to high taxes implanted by the government. Was then a sought-after herb with medicinal benefits.

Afternoon tea tradition began as dinner moved later in the evening and people wanted something to fill the gap. Was mainly social and refreshment, rarely bites.

First Opium war. Tea was paid for with silver and British opium. Found tea in Assam, and tea gardens were set up here by the East India trading company.

Tax drop led to tea becoming 'the drink of the nation'.

Thomas Sullivan, a US tea merchant, started to send tea samples to his customers in small silk bags. Some started to put the entire bag into the pot, rather than emptying out the contents. The tea bag was born by accident.

First paper tea bags, however tea bags didn't really catch on until 1970's

plant, variations, and plucking

1 same plant camellia sinensis

Two main types of the plant

- 🍃 Camellia Sinensis Sinensis: high elevation, slopes, more complex, delicate teas
- 🍃 Camellia Sinensis Assamica: lowland, humid, hot climates, bigger leaf & stronger teas



processing and manufacturing

Two main processing methods

Orthodox for whole-leaf quality tea

As a final stage, the tea leaves are shaped in different ways. This style of processing further enhances the taste of the tea and so results in the high quality loose tea.

CTC (Crush, Tear, and Curl) for dust in tea bags

Instead of the leaves being rolled, they are passed through a series of cylindrical rollers that break the tea leaves. Tea being then a powder, it quickly infuses and so is well suited for teabags.

