



Raisins

Raisins are dried grapes that have been eaten for thousands of years. Nearly 3,500 years ago, the first raisins were discovered as grapes that were drying in the sun on a vine. In medieval Europe, raisins were used as sweeteners, medicine, and even as a form of money!

In America, raisins were first grown after an 1873 heat wave in California destroyed its valuable grape crop, leaving only dried, wrinkly, but tasty grapes on the vines. Soon, farmers began developing seedless grapes in California that were thin-skinned and sweet. These grapes would be purposely dried in the sun and became the popular dark raisin we eat and enjoy today. Later, a golden variety of raisin was made by treating grapes with a chemical called sulfur dioxide and using special methods to dry them.

Today, central California remains the center of the world's raisin industry, producing nearly 95 percent of the world's raisins. Its green valleys, sunny climate, and hot temperatures provide the perfect conditions for grapes that are dried into raisins.

1.) Which of the following were raisins NOT used as? _____.

- A. sweetener
- B. medicine
- C. money
- D. weapons

2.) Raisins....

- A. were discovered recently.
- B. were discovered a long time ago.
- C. are made by dropping grapes in water.
- D. have never been grown in America.

3.) What would be the best title for this passage?

- A.) A History of Raisins
- B. The Many Different Kinds of Raisins
- C. The Discovery of the Golden Raisin
- D. Healthy Snacks

4.) What question is answered in the INTRODUCTORY paragraph?

- A. What kinds of raisins do people eat?
- B. How are golden raisins made?
- C. What happened in 1873?
- D. What were raisins once used as?

5.) What is NOT true about raisins?

- A. They are dried in the sun.
- B. They are grown in California.
- C. There are dark and golden versions of raisins.
- D. They are made from grapes with seeds.

6.) Golden raisins were discovered _____.

- A. before dark raisins.
- B. at the same time as dark raisins.
- C. after dark raisins.
- D. The passage doesn't say.

7.) Which of the following has the same meaning as the word "variety" in the sentence below?

Later, a golden variety of raisin was made by treating grapes with a chemical called sulfur dioxide and using special methods to dry them.

- A. fruit
- B. type of
- C. opposite of
- D. sale

8.) Which questions is not answered in the passage?

- A. When did farmers start growing raisins in America?
- B. Why are grapes healthy for you?
- C. How are golden raisins produced?
- D. Why did American farmers start producing raisins?