

Discussion – Drinking Tea



Ref: 11123272 Mary Evans Picture Library

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Introduction

Always a popular topic – having a cup of tea! Not everyone gets as dressed up as this nowadays to go to a café. But for the ‘café and going out shopping days’ of your residents, they always would have. And they usually wore a hat too, even to meet a friend for a cup of tea at the Lyons Corner House. Enjoy chatting about the lady in the picture – where she might be, who she is with, why she is dressed so smartly, is this during or after tea rationing, and any other general conversation that the image prompts.

Resources

Use the large image of the lady drinking tea on the previous page. Make enough copies for one each and pass them around.

Environment and Timing

Always use a quiet room, with the television turned off, not just turned down, as moving images are very distracting.

Allow about 20 minutes for this discussion, depending on levels of interest and concentration.

Questions To Ask

Do you remember tea rationing? *[From July 1940 – October 1952 an allowance of 2 oz tea, enough to make three cups a day. “News of the end of tea rationing means Britons will soon be able to enjoy unlimited ‘cuppas’ for the first time in 12 years.”]*

Do you agree with George Orwell – do people like stronger cups of tea as they grow older? Which types of tea do you like? Which brands of tea can you remember? Which brand of tea did you buy, and why?

How do you like your tea? How would you make a really good cup of tea?

Do you prefer loose-leaf tea or tea bags?

How do you deal with tea leaves?

If you are making a pot of tea, what do you call it? *[eg brew, mash, mast, wet, steep, infuse]*

Do you warm the pot first?

Do you prefer tea in a cup or in a mug? Why is that? Do you like milk in your tea? Do you add milk first or last? How strong do you like your tea?

Do you like sugar in your tea? Why, or why not?

What do you like with your tea? *[eg biscuits, cake, buns, bread or toast etc]*