

Important Plants

Instructions: You are going to read a short text about one of the most important plants in history: tobacco or sugar! Read the list of words in the table below. Which do you think go with tobacco? Which go with sugar? Which could go with both?

Nouns	Addicts	Soil	Plantation	Slaves	Lung Cancer	Luxury	Exports
Verbs	Chain-smoking	Inhale	Ban	Sweeten	Refine	Chew	Harvest

Now read the text below and **highlight** 3 facts you found interesting.

Tobacco: For thousands of years tobacco was used by the American Indians. In the 16th century it was brought to Europe. This early tobacco was mixed with soil and was rather dirty. It was chewed or smoked in pipes only by men. Women thought it was smelly and disgusting. Tobacco was first grown commercially in the United States in the 17th century on large plantations and harvested by slaves. In the 18th century new technology refined tobacco and the first cigarettes were produced. By the 1880s huge factories were producing cigarettes which were easy to smoke. Chain-smoking and inhaling became possible and by the middle of the twentieth century tobacco addicts, both men and women, were dying of lung cancer in great numbers. Nowadays cigarette smoking is banned in many public places, especially in the United States. But until 1820 tobacco was the main export of the United States, and still today the tobacco industry makes over 4.2 billion dollars a year

Now discuss these questions. You do not need to write. Only talk.

- Do you consume this product? If so, how much?
- What do people in your country think about it?
- Do you think this product can be consumed responsibly?
- Should the government do more to regulate the consumption of this product? Why or why not?