

FIFTH GRADE READING

NOTE TO TEACHERS/PARENTS: Learning standard addressed in each question is included after the answer.

Read the following article about an old vase found when cleaning a house. Then answer questions 1-11. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been revised in places to better suit the reading level.

Family's old vase fetches pot o'gold

Published in the Pioneer Press

¹LONDON — A Chinese vase that sat, little-noticed, in a suburban London home has become one of the most expensive artworks ever sold, **evidence** that China's sizzling art market shows no signs of cooling down. The 18th-century porcelain vase was sold by a family clearing out a relative's house and went to a Chinese buyer for \$83 million. It's more than 40 times the pre-sale estimate and a record for a Chinese work of art. Thursday's result was an extremely pleasant shock. "How do you anticipate the Chinese market?" Mr. Bainbridge said today. "It's totally on fire."

²Mr. Bainbridge, the auctioneer, said the outcome was "a fairy tale" for the family who owned the vase. He said the sellers, who wish to remain anonymous, are the sister and nephew of a woman clearing out her "very modest home" in the London. The vase had been in the family at least since the 1930s, though they don't know how it was **acquired**. Many Chinese artifacts surfaced in Britain in the 19th century after being looted from Beijing's Summer Palace when it was sacked by British and French troops at the end of the Second Opium War in 1860. The vase was spotted as special by the auction house's specialist valuer and given an estimate of up to 1.2 million pounds.

³On Thursday Bainbridge's suburban sale room was "full to bursting," and there was excitement in the air. "There was a silence that wrapped itself around the sale as the figure grew slowly but surely up to the sky," Bainbridge said. "I'm an auctioneer, so at that point I'm just doing the professional job I'm paid to do. Once the hammer's down you do take stock slightly and think, 'Oh, wow, that's really rather a lot of money.'"

The vase was bought by a Chinese bidder on behalf of an undisclosed buyer. It is the most expensive Chinese artwork ever sold, beating a Song Dynasty scroll that sold for almost \$64 million in Beijing in June. Experts say it is an exceptional piece, made for the personal enjoyment of Qing dynasty Emperor Qianlong, at a time when Chinese porcelain-making had reached a zenith. The 16-inch vase in imperial yellow features a delicate double-walled construction and is adorned with medallions depicting leaping goldfish. The price makes this work by anonymous artisans the 11th most expensive artwork ever sold at auction. It's right up there alongside the Picasso's, which is unheard-of for a piece of porcelain. More record prices are sure to follow. Prices for Chinese art and antiquities are buoyant.

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⁴China's booming economy means new collectors are joining the market all the time, and wealthy buyers are keen to bring back treasures from their heritage. Things are going east these days. That's where the future is, and that's where the big collectors are going to be over the next 20 years.

ARTICLE QUESTIONS

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- 1. What is this article mainly about?**
 - A. It's about a Picasso painting.
 - B. It tells about the dynasties of China's art.
 - C. A vase that is one of the most expensive artworks ever sold.
 - D. It's about auctions and how they work.

- 2. The vase was made in what century?**
 - A. 18th century
 - B. 16th century
 - C. 11th century
 - D. 19th century

- 3. Who bought the vase at auction?**
 - A. The auction house's specialist valuer bought the vase.
 - B. The sister and nephew of a woman bought the vase.
 - C. Bainbridge, the auctioneer, bought the vase.
 - D. A Chinese bidder of an undisclosed buyer bought the vase.

- 4. The selling price of the Chinese vase was**
 - A. little noticed throughout the art world.
 - B. a pleasant surprise to the auctioneer and sellers.
 - C. expected to drive down the price of future Chinese art.
 - D. not as much as was eagerly anticipated.

- 5. What material was the vase made from?**
 - A. clay
 - B. ivory
 - C. porcelain
 - D. metal

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6. In this article, the word evidence means
- A. proof
 - B. fact about
 - C. truth about
 - D. all of the above
7. What is NOT true about the vase?
- A. It was made long ago
 - B. It is very valuable.
 - C. Emperor Qianlong did not like the vase.
 - D. It is a delicate vase.
8. In this article, the word acquired means
- A. get something
 - B. sold something
 - C. made something
 - D. stored something
9. Emperor Quinlong lived during which of the Chinese dynasties?
- A. the Ming dynasty
 - B. the Qing dynasty
 - C. the Jin dynasty
 - D. the Song dynasty
10. What was depicted on the vase?
- A. flying dragons
 - B. fluttering butterflies
 - C. giant pandas
 - D. leaping goldfish
11. All of the following are true EXCEPT
- A. The vase is the 11th most expensive artwork ever sold at auction.
 - B. Wealthy buyers are keen to bring back treasures reflecting their heritage.
 - C. In the future big collectors are going to be in the west.
 - D. The vase is the most expensive Chinese artwork ever sold.

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Read the following article that tells how to make homemade soda. Then answer the 10 questions. Questions will ask you about information in the article. This article has been edited to meet the test specifications.

Add some sparkle to your party by serving homemade sodas

By Jennifer Graue

¹Once upon a time, not so terribly long ago, sodas used to be something special. They were the ultimate treat on a hot summer day. They were in tall, slender, glass bottles. They were iced down in a galvanized tub. But for the past few decades, chilled cans and plastic bottles have been available. They are filled with a sugary, fizz from corn syrup. You can find them just about anywhere, any time of day. What was once the thrill of soda sipping has fallen a little flat, until now.

²Homemade sodas are making the sparkling beverage exciting again. It's hardly a surprise that soft drinks have joined the trendy DIY revolution. Do it yourself, and you control the ingredients and sugar content. You reduce the environmental impact of those cans and bottles. And the flavor possibilities are limitless. Who could resist such flavors as raspberry and lime, grapefruit and rhubarb and cherry and basil?

³Making your own sodas at home isn't as far fetched or high tech as it sounds. Over two hundred years ago, people often made their own root beers, ciders and other beverages. They made them at home, wrote Andy Schloss, author of "Homemade Sodas."

⁴In the early 1800s, scientists figured out how to carbonate water. And thus the soda fountain was born. Within a few years, people were adding fruit-flavored syrups to the carbonated fizz. Later, soda makers began creating their own secret recipes. Along with the secret recipes and the advances in bottling and capping, soda making turned into a large industrial process. There was a feeling of mystery about how soda was made. This led many people to believe that making carbonated drinks is difficult.

⁵One woman said she had never worked at a restaurant that made its own sodas. Now, she makes lemon lime, ginger and other fancy sodas. She never thought it would be easy to make sodas. It really is simple to do. In fact, it's so simple, the author said, it's a great project to do with kids. You can show them how things are made.

⁶Why would anyone choose to **ingest** artificial flavors, when all a real fruit soda needs is a homemade fruit syrup? You blend and then boil fruit or juice with sugar or honey. Then you add fizzy water. If you want to **concoct** your own flavor combinations, Schloss says, add an element of tartness to the mix.

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⁷“Tartness has a lot to do with sodas being refreshing,” he says. Schloss adds a lime syrup to his raspberry rickey, for example, and fresh lemon to his cherry and basil drink. Citrus is a natural in sodas, but ginger also mixes well with many ingredients. In some recipes, Schloss includes vinegar, a popular 19th-century addition that’s becoming trendy again.

⁸Deciding how to carbonate the syrups is probably the most difficult thing about making sodas at home. The easiest method, of course, is to buy seltzer or soda water at the store and simply mix it with the syrup. Other options are soda siphons or other soda systems that can be purchased at kitchen stores or online. The drawback to these is you have to buy replacement carbonation cartridges. The cartridges do not cost a lot, but they are sometimes hard to find.

⁹For those bitten hard by the soda-making bug, Schloss’ book also includes recipes for brewing root beers and colas. This is a more involved process involving fermentation. It’s one that works best, he says, with more complex flavors, rather than the simple, clean flavors of fruit. But whichever method you use, make sure you serve it well-iced. Homemade sodas are something special.

RASPBERRY LIME RICKEY

Recipe adapted from “Homemade Sodas” by Andrew Schloss (Storey Publishing).

Makes 3 or more servings.

1 cup raspberries

1/4 cup freshly squeezed lime juice

1 cup sugar

Seltzer, chilled

Lime wedges, to garnish

To make raspberry syrup: Mash raspberries in small saucepan with vegetable masher. Stir in lime juice and sugar until combined. Warm over low heat, stirring often, until sugar dissolves and raspberries have released all their liquid. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat. Cool to room temperature. Strain. (Note: Syrup is best used immediately but can be stored in refrigerator for up to 2 days.)

To make soda: Combine syrup and seltzer to taste. Garnish each serving with lime wedge.

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ARTICLE QUESTIONS

Add some sparkle to your party by serving homemade sodas

12. What does the author say is one of the most difficult things about making soda at home?

- A. Carbonating the syrups
- B. Adding an element of tartness
- C. Finding glass bottles
- D. Finding fresh fruit

13. What were some of the first homemade beverages made?

- A. Raspberry and Lime
- B. Root Beer and Cider
- C. Cherry and Basil
- D. Lemon Grass

14. How does making homemade soda impact the environment?

- A. There is less air pollution.
- B. There is less water pollution.
- C. There are fewer factories making soda.
- D. There are less plastic bottles and cans to recycle.

15. In this article, the word concoct means:

- A. Invent
- B. Recycle
- C. Sell
- D. Drink

16. What happened in the early 1800s?

- A. Scientists learned how to bottle soda.
- B. Scientists made plastic bottles.
- C. Scientists learned how to carbonate water.
- D. Scientists added ginger and sugar to water.

17. What addition to homemade sodas is becoming trendy again?

- A. Sugar
- B. Honey
- C. Artificial Flavors
- D. Vinegar

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18. According to the author, how is homemade soda best served?

- A. In a bottle
- B. In a can
- C. Well-iced
- D. Warm

19. In this article, the word ingest means:

- A. Throw out
- B. Drink
- C. Cook
- D. Boil

20. Which of the following ingredients is not needed to make a Raspberry Lime Rickey?

- A. Ginger
- B. Raspberries
- C. Lime juice
- D. Sugar

21. Why are root beers and colas harder to make at home?

- A. It's hard to cap the bottles.
- B. The ingredients are hard to find.
- C. They need to ferment.
- D. The ingredients are very expensive.

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ANSWERS

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1. C (main idea)
2. A (literal comprehension)
3. D (literal comprehension)
4. B (inferential)
5. C (literal comprehension)
6. D (vocabulary/inferential)
7. C (inferential)
8. A (vocabulary/inferential)
9. B (literal comprehension)
10. D (literal comprehension)
11. C (literal comprehension)

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12. A (literal)
13. B (literal)
14. D (inferential)
15. A (vocabulary)
16. C (literal)
17. D (literal)
18. C (literal)
19. B (vocabulary)
20. A (literal)
21. C (literal)