

# Salt

## Gap fill

Listen to the story and fill in the blanks.

We \_\_\_\_\_ salt every day. It keeps us alive and \_\_\_\_\_ the taste of food. Salt is cheap and plentiful. Long ago, things were different. Salt was so important, it \_\_\_\_\_ business, government and empires.

The history of salt goes back \_\_\_\_\_ of years. People in early societies \_\_\_\_\_ ocean water to get salt. That required great effort. Although difficult to produce, it was essential for \_\_\_\_\_. Salt mixed with meat or vegetables \_\_\_\_\_ food. That is how people were \_\_\_\_\_ to eat during the winter months when food was not always easy to find.

The historical importance of salt can be \_\_\_\_\_ by looking at three empires. During the Roman Empire, road \_\_\_\_\_ were constructed in order to simplify transport to and from \_\_\_\_\_ salt fields. Because of its high value, soldiers were paid with salt instead of money. When Rome wanted to start a war, they collected money by \_\_\_\_\_ salt taxes.

Two thousand years ago in China, \_\_\_\_\_ of all the tax money collected by the Tang dynasty came from the sale of salt. It also played an important role in the development of modern \_\_\_\_\_. Without saltpeter, a kind of salt, the Chinese might not have \_\_\_\_\_ gunpowder.

Salt also played an important role in India when it was \_\_\_\_\_ by the British. Salt taxes and bad laws in the 1930s made people \_\_\_\_\_ at the British Empire. In order to protect British companies, the government passed a law that said \_\_\_\_\_ people could not make or sell salt.

People like Gandhi \_\_\_\_\_. He led a salt \_\_\_\_\_ that attracted 100,000 followers. The salt march helped make Gandhi an important \_\_\_\_\_.

The next time you eat food with salt, think about how that small \_\_\_\_\_ has fed people, built empires and \_\_\_\_\_ social change.

## Synonym match

Match the words or phrases.

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. essential | a. improve       |
| 2. weapons   | b. armaments     |
| 3. enhance   | c. cause         |
| 4. trigger   | d. worth         |
| 5. value     | e. indispensable |

## True or false

Choose the correct answer.

1. Long ago, people used salt to survive in winter. T or F
2. Salt was used to build roads during the Roman Empire. T or F
3. Under British rule, Indian people could not have a salt store. T or F
4. One Indian salt protest had a million people. T or F
5. Salt was once used as a form of payment. T or F

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## Anagrams

Move letters. Make a new word.

FUCLEEDNN \_\_\_\_\_

TDNISAT \_\_\_\_\_

DAIVDILUNI \_\_\_\_\_

LSIIFPYM \_\_\_\_\_

EOECTLCLD \_\_\_\_\_

ITLFPLEUN \_\_\_\_\_

## ESL discussion questions

Talk about the story

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1. What kind of story is this?
  2. Describe how salt prompted social change.
  3. Give an example of how salt contributed to empire power.
  4. How would you summarize the story's main idea in one sentence?
  5. Do you like salty food? What's your favorite?
  6. Other than improving the taste of food, can you think of any other uses of salt?
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## Writing practice

Put the words in the correct order.

1. followers / that / He / 100000 / attracted / led / march / a / salt

2. early / to / in / ocean / salt / People / water / get / societies / boiled

3. keeps / us / and / of / enhances / food / It / alive / the / taste

4. salt / of / high / value / of / with / money / instead / soldiers / were / paid / Because / its

5. and / people / the / at / bad / angry / the / laws / in / 1930s / taxes / British / Empire / made / Salt

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