

Study Questions

The questions provided for this book are meant to get you thinking about history.

Answers must be typed, in complete sentences and submitted to [turnitin.com](https://www.turnitin.com).

Introduction—"Vital Fluids"

1. What is the author's main thesis (argument) in setting up his book?
2. Why/how are these fluids "vital"?

"Beer in Mesopotamia and Egypt" (Chapters 1 and 2):

1. How is the discovery of beer linked to the growth of the first "civilizations"?
2. What does this history of beer in the ancient world tell us about early civilizations?
3. What sources does the author use to gather information on the use of beer?
4. What were some of the uses of beer by ancient cultures? Nourishment? Ritual? Religious?
5. How did beer "civilize" man, according to Standage?

"Wine in Greece and Rome" (Chapters 3 and 4):

1. How did the use of wine differ from that of beer in ancient Greece and Rome?
2. How was wine used by the Greeks?
3. How and why did wine develop into a form of a status symbol in Greece?
4. How was wine consumed? What does this tell us about ancient Greek culture?
5. How did the use of wine in Roman culture differ from that of ancient Greece?
6. What is the relationship between wine and empire, medicine, and religion?

"Spirits in the Colonial Period" (Chapters 5 and 6):

1. What is the origin of distilled spirits?
2. What is the connection between spirits and colonization?
3. How was the production of spirits connected to slavery?
4. What role did spirits play on the high seas?
5. Why were spirits an important staple in Colonial America?
6. How did Rum play a role in the American Revolution?

"Coffee in the Age of Reason" (Chapters 7 and 8):

1. Where and how did coffee originate?
2. Explain the importance of coffeehouses.
3. How did coffee influence this new age of scientific learning and rational thought in Europe?
4. How was the use of coffee in society different from previous beverages?
5. How was the Scientific Revolution and Enlightenment a sharp break from the past?

"Tea and the British Empire" (Chapters 9 and 10):

1. When did tea first become a mainstream drink in Asia? In Europe?
2. How did the consumption of tea in Europe differ from how it was consumed in China and Japan?
3. If tea arrived in Europe around the same time as coffee, why did it not find the immediate success that coffee had?
4. How did tea transform English society? Who were its main consumers and what were some of the new rituals that surrounded tea?
5. How was tea an integral part of the Industrial Revolution?
6. What was the connection between tea and politics?
7. How was tea connected to the opium trade and the Opium War of 1839- 1842?
8. What role did the tea trade and production play in the British rule over India?

"Coca-Cola and the Rise of America" (Chapters 11 and 12):

1. What was the origin of Coca-Cola?
2. How was the beverage used medically? What were the additives?
3. What was the relationship between Coca-Cola and World War II?
4. How was Coca-Cola thought of by the communists during the Cold War?
5. What is meant by "globalization in a bottle?"

Epilogue—"Back to the Source"

1. Do you agree or disagree with Standage's argument in the epilogue?
2. Will water be the most influential beverage in shaping the global situation of the next 100+ years? Why or why not?