3000 BC

According to popular Chinese legend, the Emperor of China, Shennong, accidentally discovered that when some leaves fell into boiling water, a fragrant and restorative drink resulted.

600-517 BC

Laozi, the classical Chinese philosopher, described tea as "*the froth of the liquid jade*" and named it an indispensable ingredient to the elixir of life.

589-618

During the Sui Dynasty, tea was introduced to Japan by Buddhist monks.

900s

The earliest literary mention of coffee may be a 9th century reference to Bunchum in the works of the Persian physician al-Razi.

1500s

By the early 16th century, the beverage to become known as coffee, made from infusing ground roasted beans was well established in the Islamic world.

1583

Leonhard Rauwolf, a German physician, described coffee as:

"*A beverage as black as ink, useful against numerous illnesses, particularly those of the stomach. Its consumers take it in the morning, quite frankly, in a porcelain cup that is passed around and from which each one drinks a cupful. It is composed of water and the fruit from a bush called bunnu.*"

1587

Malaye Jaziri traced the history and legal controversies of coffee in a work entitled "*Undat al safwa fi hill al-qahwa*". Jaziri recorded that Sheikh Jamal-al-Din al-Dhabhani was the first to adopt the use of coffee in 1454 and that in the 15th century the Sufis of Yemen routinely used coffee to stay awake during prayers.

1600s

Chocolate was introduced to Europe by the Spaniards and became a popular beverage by the mid 1600s. The average cup (230 ml) of hot cocoa contains about 10 mg of caffeine.

A 100 g chocolate bar contains approximately 12 mg of caffeine.

1652

Through the efforts of the British East India Company, coffee became popular in Britain.

The first coffee houses in Britain were opened in London in 1652, at St Michael's Alley, Cornhill.

1657

Coffee was introduced in France in 1657.

Austria and Poland followed after the 1683 Battle of Vienna, when coffee was captured from supplies of the defeated Turks.

1660

The British government taxed coffee at 4 pence per gallon. The popularity of coffee leads to anti-coffee petitions such as:

"*What a curse it is that ordinary working men should sit the whole day in coffee houses simply to chatter about politics, while their unhappy children are wailing at home for lack of bread!*"

1660

Large scale importation of tea into Britain began in the 1660s with the marriage of King Charles II to the Portuguese princess Catherine of Braganza.

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to import the herb in large amounts from their trading posts in the south of China, especially Macau.

1773

Some attribute the popularity of coffee in America to the ‘Boston tea-party’ of 1773.

As a protest against oppression and excessive taxes, Bostonians boarded British ships and tipped their cargoes of tea overboard.

1812

After the War of 1812, during which Britain temporarily cut off access to tea imports, the American taste for coffee increased. Continued improvements in the production process and high demand during the Civil War led to the United States becoming the world's major coffee consuming nation.

1819

Caffeine was discovered by the German chemist, Friedrich Ferdinand Runge.

In 1827, Oudry isolated ‘theine’ from tea, but it was later shown that theine was the same as caffeine.

1885

The first Coca-Cola recipe was invented in Columbus, Georgia by John Pemberton.

Coca-Cola was sold in bottles for the first time in March 1894. Coca-Cola contains 34 mg of caffeine per 340 ml.

1890s

Pepsi was first made in the 1890s by pharmacist Caleb Bradham in North Carolina.

The brand was trademarked on June 16th, 1903.

1902

The structure of caffeine was determined near the end of the 19th century by Hermann Emil Fischer, who was also the first to achieve its total synthesis.

This formed part of the work for which Fischer was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1902.

1903

The first commercially successful decaffeination process was invented by Ludwig Roselius and Karl Wimmer.

Coffee beans were steam treated with a salt water solution and then benzene was used as a solvent to remove the caffeine.

1903

The first teabags were made from hand-sewn silk muslin bags and teabag patents of this sort exist dating as early as 1903. The first teabags appeared commercially around 1904.

Dry tea actually contains more caffeine by weight than coffee.

1912

Although the judge ruled in favour of Coca-Cola, two bills were introduced in America in 1912 to amend the Pure Food and Drug Act.

Caffeine was added to the list of “habit-forming” and “deleterious” substances which must be listed on a product’s label.

1982

Pepsi Free, the first major brand caffeine-free cola, was introduced in 1982 by PepsiCo.

A sugar-free variant, known as Diet Pepsi Free, was also introduced.

1983

Caffeine-Free Diet Coke was the first variant of Diet Coke, introduced in 1983.

Caffeine-Free (regular) Coca-Cola was introduced in 1984.

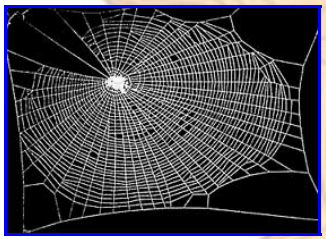
1987

The first can of Red Bull energy drink was sold in 1987 containing 80 mg of caffeine per 250 ml (two tablets of PRO PLUS ® contain 100 mg of caffeine).

In 2006, more than 3 billion cans of Red Bull were sold in over 130 countries.

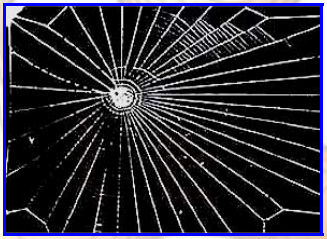
1995

Scientists study the effects of different drugs on spiders' abilities to spin webs:



No drugs

Mescaline



LSD

Caffeine

R. Noever, J. Cronise and R. A. Relwani. 1995. Using spider-web patterns to determine toxicity. NASA Tech Briefs 19(4):82

1997

Global consumption of caffeine was estimated at 120,000 tonnes per annum, making it one of the world's most popular psychoactive substances.

2005

Coffee was the world's seventh largest (legal) agricultural export by value.

2008

The 2008 IgNobel Prize (a parody of the Nobel Prizes) in Chemistry was awarded to Sheree Umpierre, Joseph Hill, and Deborah Anderson, for discovering that Coca-Cola acts an effective spermicide, and to C.Y. Hong, C.C. Shieh, P. Wu, and B.N. Chiang for proving it does not.