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## **7th GRADE: “The HISTORY About Food”**

**Key Message:** Choose Water Instead of Sugary Drinks

**Secondary Message:** General Dietary Guidelines Information

### **7th Grade | INFORMATIONAL TEXT ARTICLES**

- 1. Understanding the 2015 Dietary Guidelines**
- 2. Added Sugars and Your Health**

#### **Possible Question Stems**

Based on 7th Grade Common Core Standards:

- **Explicit Information (Reading Literature (RL) 7.1, Reading for Information (RI) 7.1):**
  - Which of the following inferences can be drawn from these two quotes...? (or from lines (xx) and lines (xx))...?
  - Why do you believe (evaluate)...? and choose two quotes from the text as evidence.
- **Theme / Idea (RL 7.2, RI 7.2)**
  - What was the author’s main point in paragraph x...?
  - Which of the following quotes from the passage is evidence of the central theme?
- **Word Use (RL 7.4, RI 7.4)**
  - What does the word/phrase \_\_\_\_\_ mean in this selection? (*i.e. What does the phrase added sugars mean?*)
  - Which of the following synonyms is closest to the meaning of the word \_\_\_\_\_ in line x...? (*i.e. What is the difference between sugars and added sugars?*)
- **Purpose (RL 7.6, RI 7.6)**
  - What is the author’s point of view or purpose...?
  - Which of the following are opposing this author's point of view...?
  - Based on the author’s information, what is your opinion on...?
- **Arguments / Claims (RI 7.8)**
  - Which of the following claims are not supported by the text...?
  - Which of the following evidence supporting the argument is most relevant...?

## Article 1: Understanding the 2015 Dietary Guidelines

This informational text article will explain the 2015 Dietary Guidelines and connect to the subject area of **History** by exploring the history behind the creation of the guidelines.

### Educational topics covered:

- The earliest version of the Dietary Guidelines - then known as Dietary Goals - was released in 1977 by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs.
- The Dietary Guidelines are released by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) every 5 years.
- The Dietary Guidelines are used by health professionals, nutrition education programs, and policy makers. MyPlate is based on the DGA and was developed to help consumers identify healthy eating patterns.
- While many of the recommendations in the Dietary Guidelines have remained consistent, they have also evolved in response to new scientific understandings and public health issues such as chronic dietary disease.
- Specific recommendations of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines include:
  - Follow a healthy eating pattern. Everything you eat and drink over time matters. The right mix can help you be healthier now and in the future.
  - Make half your grains whole grains.
  - Drink and eat less sodium, saturated fat, and added sugars.
  - Drink water instead of sugary drinks.
  - Follow MyPlate: choose foods and beverages from each food group.

### Subject area tie-in: History

- The history of the Dietary Guidelines
- The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines

## Article 2: Added Sugars and Your Health

This informational text article will help students understand that sugar is added to many common foods and beverages, and will connect to the subject area of **History** by exploring the history of sugary sports drinks, colas, and serving sizes.

### Educational topics covered:

- Sugar is added to many foods and beverages we eat and drink every day.
- Eating and drinking too much added sugar may lead to cavities. And the extra calories may make it hard to keep a healthy weight.
- Foods and drinks with lots of added sugar replace nutrients that you need to grow strong.
- Sugary beverages, like cola and sports drinks, are a major source of added sugars.
- We should limit our intake of added sugars to 10% of calories each day.

- A single can of cola often contains 10 teaspoons of added sugar, which is 40 grams of sugar. That's 8% of your daily calories in one drink!
- Drinking water instead of sugary drinks is a smart way to avoid added sugars.
- Sports drinks were originally created to help athletes replace nutrients lost through sweating, and are now consumed as part of daily lifestyles.
- Serving sizes have increased over time. 20 years ago, the standard soda size was 6.5 ounces and contained 85 calories. Today, the standard soda size is 20 ounces and contains 250 calories.

**Subject area tie-in: History**

- The history of sports drinks and colas, and serving sizes

**7th Grade | LESSON PLANS**

**Messages**

1. **Key:** Choose water instead of sugary drinks
2. **Secondary:** Dietary Guidelines Information and the 2015 version

**Lesson Outline**

**Transfer Objective**

*Students will be able to independently use their learning from these activities to:*  
Increasingly choose water over sugary beverages.

**Learning Objectives**

*Students will be able to:*

- Identify how much added sugar they should consume each day.
- Evaluate messages and marketing graphics on beverage labels.
- Communicate the benefits of drinking water.
- Understand and explain sugar's impact on our body, including oral health.

**Enduring Understandings**

- Water is the best beverage choice because it has zero calories or sugar, it is readily available, and is often free.
- Food and beverage manufacturers use marketing and design to sell their product. Reading the nutrition label and being conscious of claims meant to persuade you can help you make better choices.
- Drinking beverages with added sugar can lead to health problems (When sugars are added to foods and beverages to sweeten them, they add calories without contributing essential nutrients and, therefore, may contribute to excess calorie intake without contributing to diet quality. This may lead to risk of obesity, type 2 diabetes, and some types of cancer in adults).

## Essential Questions

- *How have beverages changed over time?*
- *How has beverage consumption changed over time?*
- *What influences my beverage choices?*
- *Why does what I drink matter?*

## Activities

- Read “Dietary Guidelines” and “Added Sugars and Your Health” informational text articles
  1. Answer comprehension questions
  2. Participate in class discussion
- Analyze different beverage labels (handout to be created)
  1. View and analyze Nutrition Facts panel.
  2. View and analyze a picture of the front of a bottle. Identify promoted and hidden messages and the marketing designs or features.
  3. Research and report the benefits of drinking water. Identify challenges and ways to overcome them.
- Track sugar consumption
  1. Use SuperTracker or a simpler handout to track individual sugar consumption during one day.
  2. Analyze the biggest sources of added sugar and propose ways to reduce consumption.
- Water Wednesday Celebrations
  1. Challenge the school community to replace as many sugary beverages as they can with water every Wednesday.
  2. Celebrate water by sharing fun water facts through posters or PA system announcements.

## Standards

Science - Water and Our Bodies

History/Social Studies - History of Beverage Industry and Government Interventions

## Challenge and Investigation (handout to be created)

Students will choose one of their favorite beverages to investigate. They will use the interactive application to enter information and learn more about the contents of their beverage. After recording information about their data, they will examine the front of the bottle to identify promotional messaging, marketing designs or slogans, and messages about the beverage’s contents that are not advertised. On the handout, they will sketch a new label for their beverage with new messages and/or designs for the front of the bottle that more accurately represent what is inside.

## Interactive Application Tie-in

The interactive application will be used as part of the investigation activity following the lesson activities, by analyzing beverage labels.

**Video Tie-in**

This video will help introduce the challenge and investigation, by communicating the importance of understanding what's inside a beverage and why students should choose water instead of sugary drinks. Kids will learn to differentiate the distracting marketing claims from real nutrition information.

7th Grade | ANIMATED VIDEO • CHOICE A

## The Red Carpet

Reference for animation/illustration style: <https://vimeo.com/147354697>



**CONCEPT:** Behind the glamour of food marketing and packaging, lies a dirty secret.

**OPEN:** We start on a red carpet event, something 7th graders have seen, like the Kids Choice Awards.

Our host for the Awards is an animated bottle of water. The bottle of water is our host for the evening, and our advocate. Our host's job is to "interview" all the drink celebrities—like famous bottles of cola, juices and energy drinks— who are coming down the red carpet one by one, as they arrive for the big night.

But things go bad for the famous beverages once our Host starts asking deep questions. One by one, as bottles go by, our Host will ask "So...what are you wearing?" And we can zoom in on bottle after bottle as they wear typical marketing labels, like: "All Natural" or "Now With More Flavor!" or "Great Tasting!" Our host will educate the audience, as all labels get dismissed as empty claims.

Our host will then ask an energy bottle, another cola bottle, another cola bottle: "Excuse me! We love to know everything that makes you into a Sugary Drink, may we read your label?" And as the bottles get turned around and we see things like "40g of sugar," "Artificial Color" and "High Fructose Corn Syrup." Sound effects will include reactions from the crowd.

Our host can ask one of the bottles, "How are you feeling?" And the sugary beverage can answer: "I am tired, actually. The more sugar I drink, the more I crash." Other bottles—colas, iced teas, energy drinks, even fruit juices— can be interviewed in the same fashion, with other answers can be to the effect of: "I was feeling energetic, but not anymore."

We can also cut to two fans in the grandstands, and they comment: "Gee, that soda bottle looks so much more energetic in commercials..."

Then we can cut back to the water bottle, as one of the sweet drinks turns the table on the water and asks: "So, what are you wearing." The water bottle replies: "As always, no labels on me. Totally natural."

We will make sure to end the video reinforcing that the bottle of water is the star; water will be the hero of the spot, as that is the best alternative to sugary drinks.

Students will learn about the importance of choosing water instead of sugary drinks by using an Interactive Calculator. Students will “pour” a drink into an Analyzer, and then enter several pieces of information from the nutritional label into a calculator (i.e., grams of sugar, calories, calories from sugar, serving size, number of servings, etc.). The result will be a personalized graphic with data points (i.e., total amount of added sugar, health information), that they can print out and aim to improve upon.