



Bow porcelain © Museum of London.

Newham heritage fact: Bow porcelain

This is a photograph of a piece of Bow Porcelain at the Museum of London Docklands.

Tea drinking became fashionable in the UK in the 1700s and the New Canton factory was set up in Bow in the 1740s. It was named after the port of Canton in China and many of its designs were based on Chinese cups and mugs with blue and white decoration. They added bone ash to the porcelain which made it stronger so it could be used for many products and it was very successful.

The factory moved to West Ham in 1767 but its products are still known as Bow Porcelain.

The middle classes were happy to have cups and mugs that looked like they were from China but were cheaper to buy!

Answer the following questions.

1. What is this a photograph of?
2. When did tea drinking become fashionable in the UK?
3. In which country is Canton?

True or False.

4. Bow Porcelain often had blue and yellow decoration.

True

False

5. The factory moved to West Ham in 1767.

True

False

Finish the sentence.

I like to drink my tea or coffee out of

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Discuss with a partner.

What did the mug you used as a child look like?