

Title: Proposal for Emoji: TEAPOT
Submitter: Ian Jacobi; Phillip Jacobi
Date: 2 March 2019

1. Identification.

- A. CLDR short name: teapot
- B. CLDR keywords: drink | tea | teapot | pot

2. Images.

The above images, created by the authors, are certified as having an appropriate license for use by the Unicode Consortium, having been placed into the public domain.

3. Sort location.

- A. Category: drink
- B. *after* U+1F375 TEACUP WITHOUT HANDLE.

4. Reference Emoji. drink — tumbler glass; food — melon is also used out of concern that the quoted phrase “tumbler glass” may not give representative search result counts.

5. Selection factors – Inclusion.

A. Compatibility. *Are these needed for compatibility with high-use emoji in popular existing systems, such as Snapchat, Twitter, or QQ?* **n/a**


B. Expected usage level

1. Frequency. *Is there a high expected frequency of use?*

For comparison, the term “tumbler glass” is used as a comparable emoji in the same category (drink). Data for “melon” is also provided out of concern that the quoted phrase “tumbler glass” may not provide representative query results.

The following results indicate that, generally speaking, “teapot” is considerably more popular than “tumbler glass” in search results, it is about half as popular as “melon”. However, “teapot” is generally as popular (if not more popular) than both in search *queries*, with a particularly strong predominance over “tumbler glass” in queries requesting a visual result, as can be seen in the Google Image and YouTube search trends.

Google Search (as of February 28, 2019)

Google 


[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 297,000 results (0.38 seconds)

Google 

[All](#) [Shopping](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)




About 17,900,000 results (0.40 seconds)

Google 

[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)




About 57,500,000 results (0.48 seconds)

Bing Search (as of February 28, 2019)




[All](#) [Shopping](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) | [My saves](#)

3,290,000 Results [Any time](#) ▾

[All](#) [Shopping](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) | [My saves](#)

4,410,000 Results [Any time](#) ▾

[All](#) [Images](#) [Videos](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) [Shopping](#) | [My saves](#)

29,900,000 Results [Any time](#) ▾

Youtube Search (as of February 28, 2019)

Google

[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [Videos](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 114 results (0.25 seconds)

Google

[All](#) [Shopping](#) [Images](#) [News](#) [Videos](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

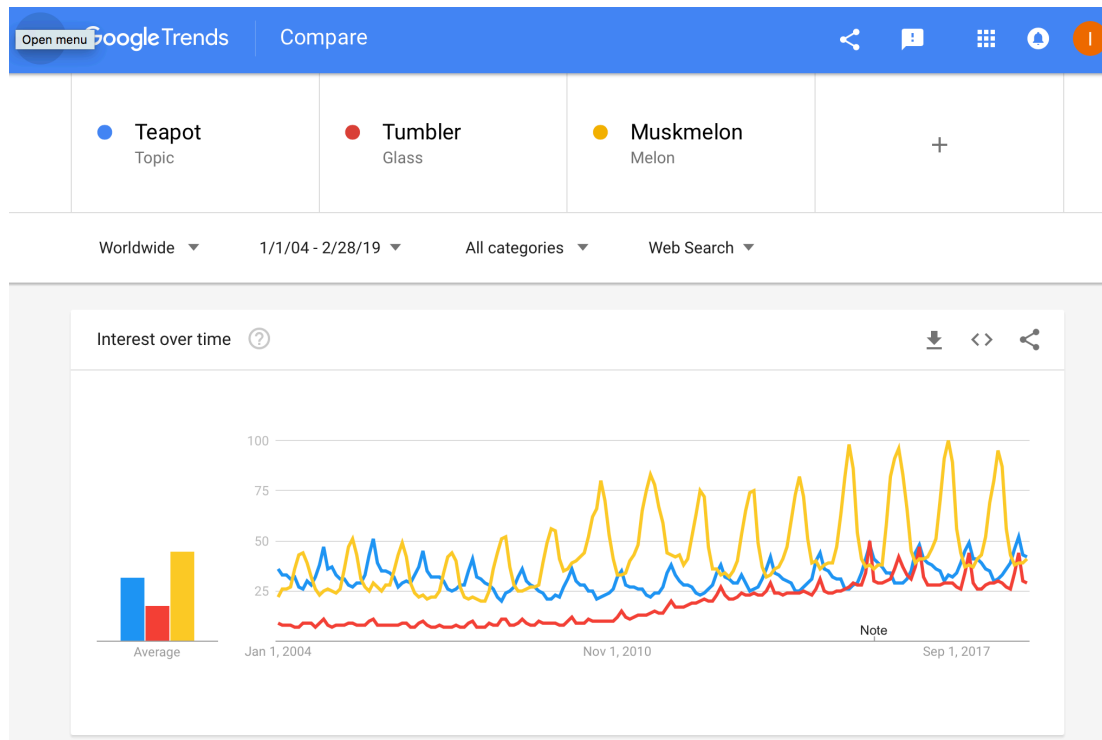
About 4,510 results (0.47 seconds)

Google

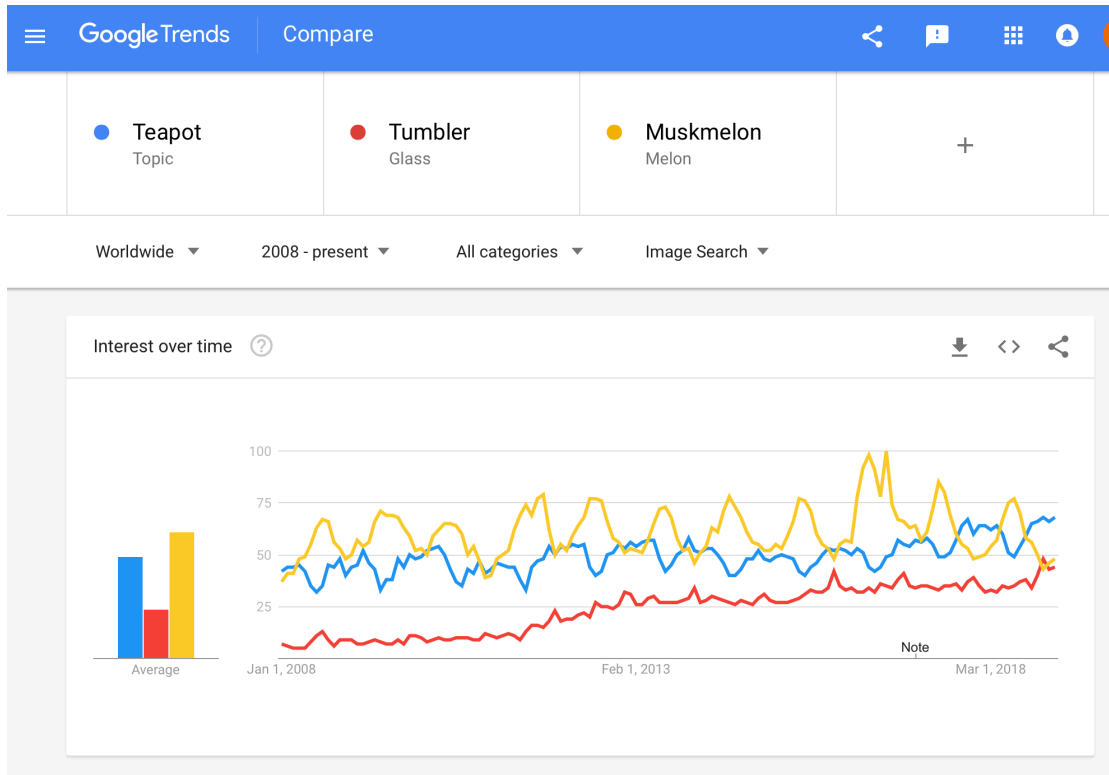
[All](#) [Images](#) [Shopping](#) [Maps](#) [News](#) [More](#) [Settings](#) [Tools](#)

About 132,000 results (0.62 seconds)

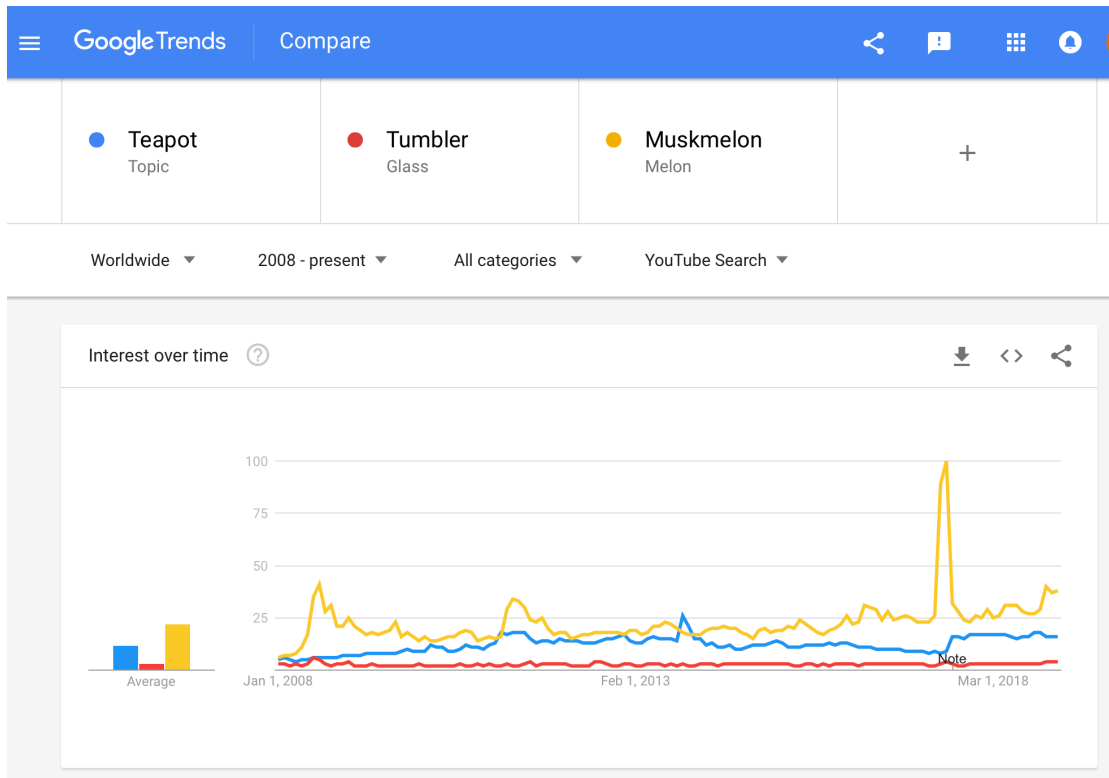
Google Trends (web search)



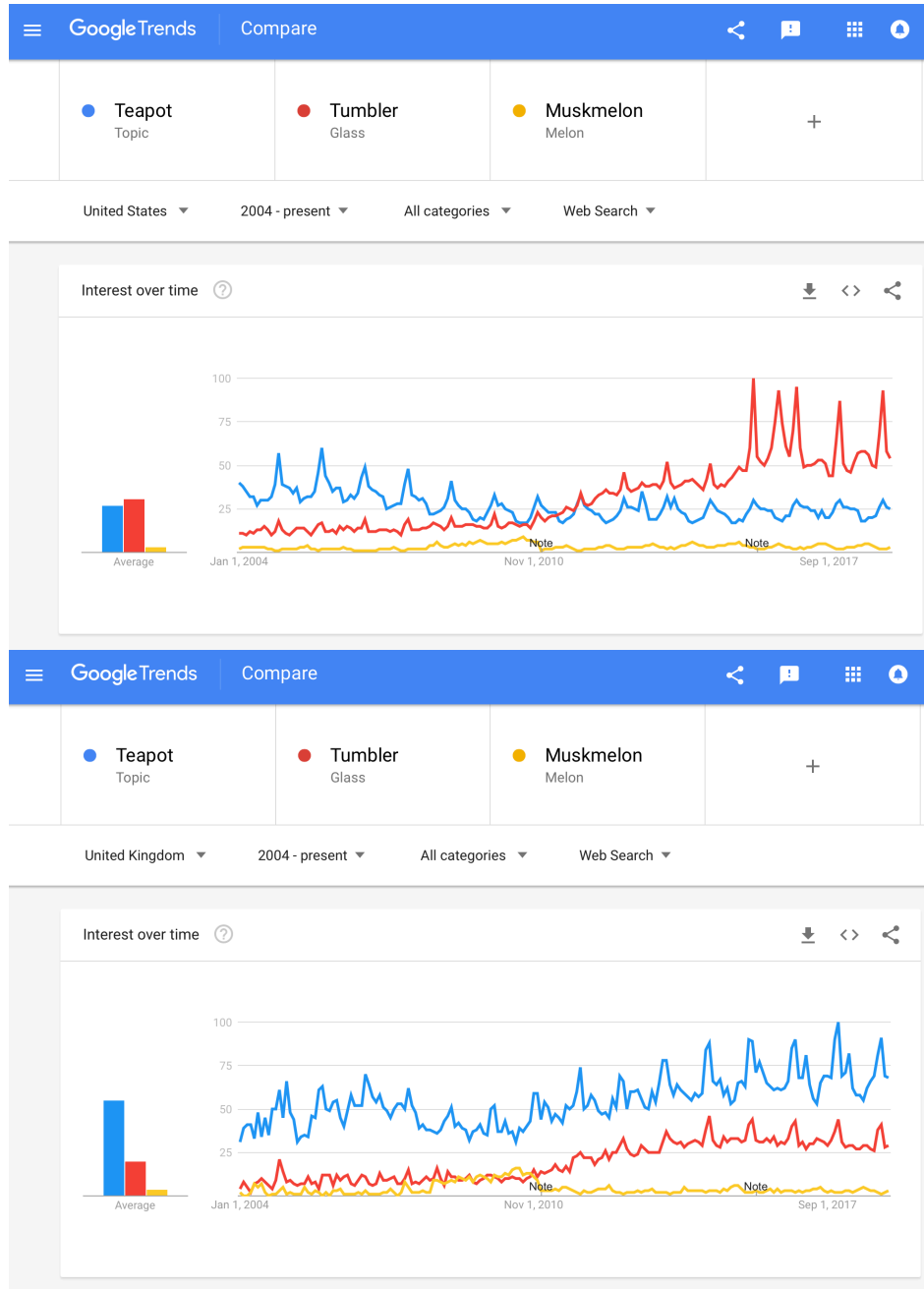
Google Trends (image search)



Google Trends (Youtube search)

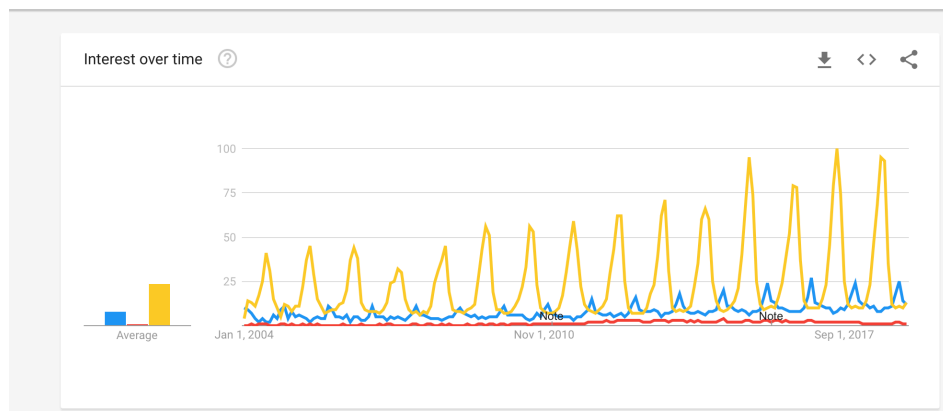
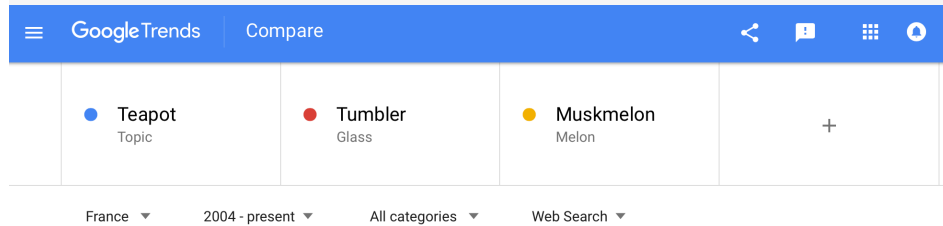
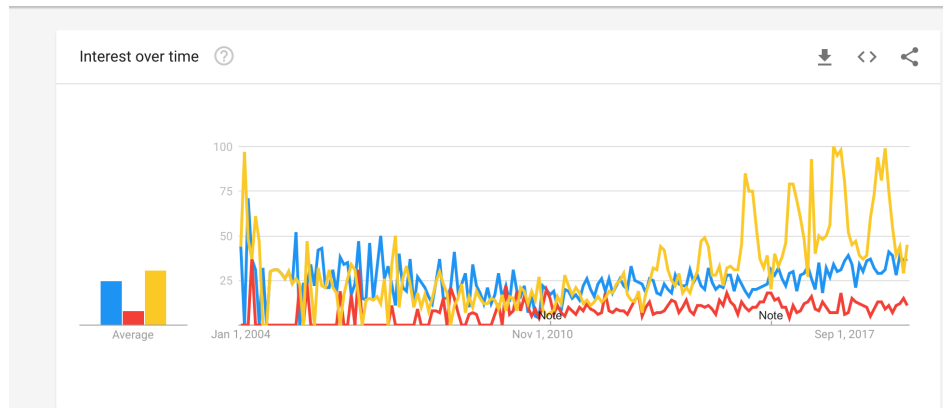
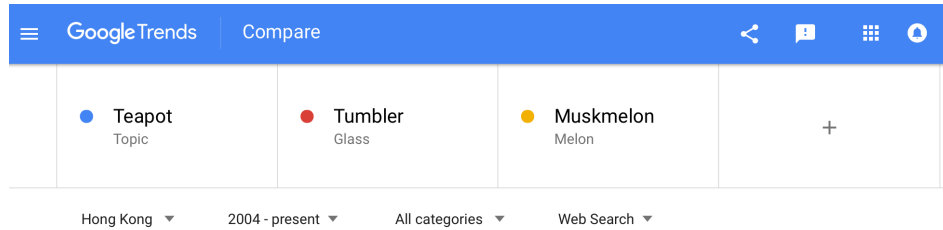


A strong regionality of the popularity of “teapot” can be observed by comparing the Google Trends pattern of “teapot” vs. “tumbler” in search queries in the United States (where there is no strong tea culture) to the United Kingdom and Australia (where there is a stronger tea culture).



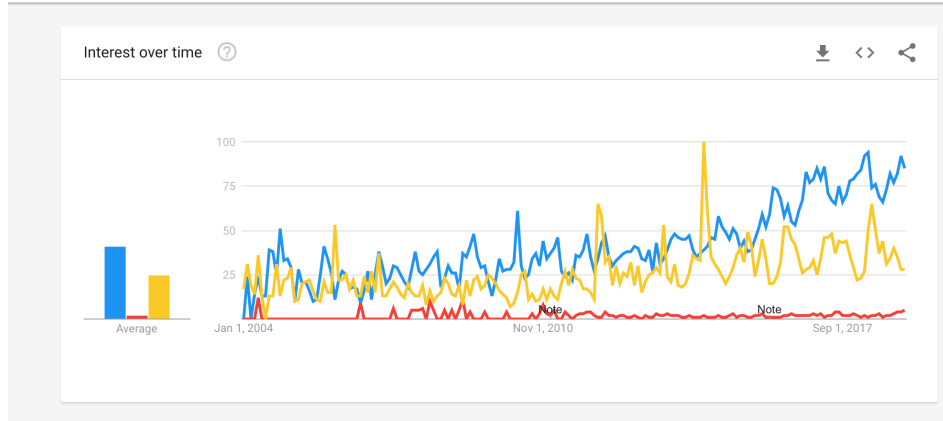
In the United States, the concept of “tumbler” passes that of “teapot” around 2012, such that “tumbler” becomes approximately twice as popular a search term by October 2018, while the United Kingdom and Australia show a similar growth of interest in “tumbler”, but “teapot” remains twice as popular by October 2018.

Muskmelon (suggested as a proxy topic for the term “melon”) is also highly regional, with non-English-speaking cultures such as Hong Kong and France (this page), and Taiwan and Japan (next page) favoring it heavily over both “teapot” and “tumbler,” perhaps due to the lack of ambiguity in the local words for “melon” (unlike in English). However, “teapot” remains more popular than “tumbler” in these areas as well.



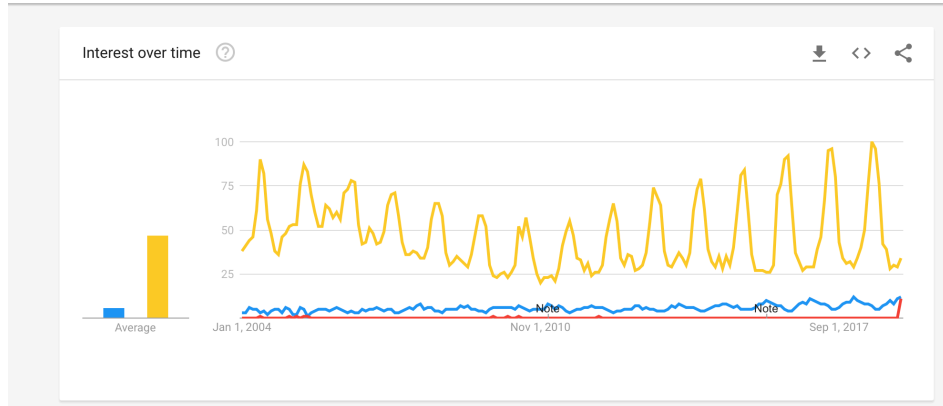
Teapot Topic, Tumbler Glass, Muskmelon Melon

Taiwan 2004 - present All categories Web Search



Teapot Topic, Tumbler Glass, Muskmelon Melon

Japan 2004 - present All categories Web Search



2. Multiple usages. *Does the candidate emoji have notable metaphorical references or symbolism?*

Yes. It is anticipated that TEAPOT will be used to refer to tea, tisanes (such as rooibos), and their preparation in general, especially in European cultures that are not as familiar with the form of teacup depicted in U+1F375 TEACUP WITHOUT HANDLE. For example, a teapot may be used to indicate directly that someone is preparing or drinking tea.

In addition, as “pot” is a homograph for the English slang term for marijuana, it is possible that a teapot emoji may be used as a discreet reference to it. U+1F341 MAPLE LEAF already sees some use in this role as an implicit reference to the shape of the marijuana leaf,¹ so it is not certain that TEAPOT will also see such use.

The teapot has also been used in a number of other niche contexts, including:

- *Russell's teapot* — an analogy offered by Bertrand Russell in an unpublished 1952 article regarding his belief in a god.² The analogy compares arguments in favor of the existence of a god to those about an effectively unobservable (and therefore un-disprovable) teapot orbiting the Sun between Earth and Mars. As such, TEAPOT may see modest use in secularist and philosophical circles.^{3, 4}
- *Starwatching* — The constellation of Sagittarius contains an asterism (a pattern of stars not otherwise grouped as a constellation) known as “The Teapot.”⁵
- *“tempest in a teapot”* — an American English idiom indicating an expression of anger that is out of proportion to a trivial cause.^{6, 7}

¹ CBC Radio, “Emoji evidence is causing confused faces in courtrooms,” *The Current*, last modified March 22, 2018, <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-march-22-2018-1.4586671/emoji-evidence-is-causing-confused-faces-in-courtrooms-1.4586702>.

² Bertrand Russell, “Is There a God? [1952],” *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, vol. 11: Last Philosophical Testament, 1943–68* (Routledge), 547–548, accessed November 24, 2018, <http://russell.mcmaster.ca/cpbr11p69.pdf>.

³ Randall Munroe, “Russell's Teapot,” *XKCD*, accessed March 1, 2019, <https://xkcd.com/1866/>.

⁴ Amorphia Apparel, “Russell's Teapot,” accessed March 1, 2019, <https://amorphia-apparel.com/teach/teapot-a-atheism-religion-burden-of-proof-bertrand-russell-shirt/#/>.

⁵ Lloyd Motz & Carol Nathanson, *The Constellations: An Enthusiast's Guide to the Night Sky* (New York: Doubleday, 1988), 256.

⁶ *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed., s.v. “Tea-pot.”

⁷ *The New Oxford American Dictionary*, 2nd ed., s.v. “Tempest.”

3. Use in sequences. *Can the candidate be used in sequences?*

Yes. Some tea drinkers may use TEAPOT followed by U+1F4A8 DASH SYMBOL to indicate that a kettle is boiling or that tea is ready for drinking, especially if the emoji is depicted with the spout to the right, as U+1F4A8 may be interpreted as the steam rising from the spout of a boiling tea kettle (see section 7, below, for more details).

In addition, in accordance with the American English idiom discussed above, TEAPOT may follow U+1F329 CLOUD WITH LIGHTNING or U+26C8 THUNDER CLOUD AND RAIN to indicate “tempest in a teapot”.

4. Breaking new ground. *Does the character represent something that is new and different?*

Yes. Unlike U+2615 HOT BEVERAGE and U+1F375 TEACUP WITHOUT HANDLE, TEAPOT proposes the vessel in which tea is brewed, not the vessel from which it is consumed (although early teapots *were* used in this manner).

More generally, no emoji in the drink category represents such a preparation vessel; with the notable exceptions of U+1F376 SAKE BOTTLE AND CUP, U+1F37E BOTTLE WITH POPPING CORK, and the recently-added U+1F9CA “ice cube”, most represent the vessel from which a drink is consumed.

Therefore, TEAPOT would be the first emoji in the drink category that, like U+1F373 COOKING or U+1F958 SHALLOW PAN OF FOOD, represents the process of *preparing* food and drink (in this case, tea and other tisanes).

C. Image distinctiveness. *Is there a clearly recognizable image of a physical object that could serve as a paradigm, one that would be distinct enough from other existing emoji?*

Yes. TEAPOT is itself a physical object that is distinct from other kinds of porcelain objects (most notably U+2615 HOT BEVERAGE, which is generally depicted as a ceramic cup, and therefore shares a similarly shaped handle). The teapot is visually distinctive, thanks to its armlike spout and the enclosure of its contents with a lid.

The teapot does look like the functionally related kettle, for which more information is provided at the end of the document. No representations of a kettle have been explicitly encoded in Unicode as of Unicode 11.0/Emoji 11.0, so it is not anticipated that this would impact the distinctiveness of TEAPOT at this time.

D. Completeness. *Does the proposed pictograph fill a gap in existing types of emoji?*

No. However, TEAPOT complements the existing drink emoji by providing an additional unambiguous symbol for tea (unlike U+2615 HOT BEVERAGE, which is explicitly ambiguous) that has broader cultural applicability than U+1F375 TEACUP WITHOUT HANDLE (as not all cultures use a handle-less teacup).

E. Frequently requested. *Is it often requested of the Unicode Consortium, or of Unicode member companies? n/a*

6. Selection factors – Exclusion.

F. Overly specific. *Is the proposed character overly specific?*

No. We propose a single emoji for teapot without any explicit constraint on visual design. While teapots may be made of many different materials (most notably metal or porcelain), we do not imply that any specific material is intended. We also do not intend to imply any specific teapot design. While the provided image depicts a traditional teapot with a handle placed opposite the spout, this proposal is intended to conceptually include the Japanese *yokode kyūsu* (横手急須) with a side-handle.

G. Open-ended. *Is it just one of many, with no special reason to favor it over others of that type?*

No. The teapot is distinctive relative to other kinds of drinkware. Its only close visual relative is the kettle, discussed in section 7, “Other information”.

H. Already representable. *Can the concept be represented by another emoji or sequence, even if the image is not exactly the same?*

No. No emoji depicting a teapot exists at this time. As noted above in section 5.D, “Completeness,” the general concept of tea as a beverage may be ambiguously represented with U+2615 HOT BEVERAGE, or explicitly with U+1F375 TEACUP WITHOUT HANDLE, but the usefulness of these two emoji for this purpose is limited by their ambiguity of meaning (in the case of U+2615) or cultural specificity (U+1F375).

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, specific buildings, deities. *Are the images unsuitable for encoding as characters?*

No. TEAPOT does not explicitly represent any logo, brand, icon, sign, person, building, or deity. Some corporate logos have, however, incorporated the teapot into their branding, including the Japanese tea brand Ayataka and the American tea brand The Republic of Tea.

J. Transient. *Is the expected level of usage likely to continue into the future, or would it just be a fad?*

No. Teapots have existed since at least the 12th century in China and have been made in Europe since the late 17th century. The continued use of tea in these cultures has allowed the teapot to remain a symbol of tea drinking to the present day. It is not expected that the teapot will lose its meaning or usefulness any time in the near future.

K. Faulty comparison. *Are proposals being justified primarily by being similar to (or more important than) existing compatibility emoji?*

No. The teapot is not currently represented in the current emoji set and is not similar to existing compatibility emoji.

L. Exact Images. *Does the proposal request an exact image?*

No. No exact image of a teapot is being requested.

M. Region Flags Without Code. **n/a**

7. Other information.

Distinguishing Teapots and Tea Kettles

Care should be taken to allow for the potential distinction of TEAPOT from the kettle, a vessel resembling a teapot, but intended for boiling water, rather than steeping tea.⁸

There are few strong visual distinctions between TEAPOT and kettles, as the distinction is primarily one of function. Kettles do tend to have a top-handle rather than a side-handle, for greater portability. In addition, kettles are often made of heat-conducting metal while teapots may also be made of ceramic or porcelain. However, there are exceptions to all of these guidelines, including basic usage patterns; a number of cultures steep their tea inside the kettle used to heat/boil the water, such as the Kashmiri *samavar* (Figure 11) or some modern versions of the Japanese *tetsubin* (鉄瓶) (Figure 8).



Figure 2. A steaming kettle (left) and a red teapot (right). Photograph by the authors.

⁸ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 2.

1-24 of over 7,000 results for Home & Kitchen : Kitchen & Dining : "teapot" Sort by Featured

Show results for

- < Any Category
- < Home & Kitchen
- Kitchen & Dining**
- Teapots
- Dining & Entertaining
- Teakettles
- Cookware
- Tea-For-One Sets
- French Presses
- Tea Sets
- Kitchen Utensils & Gadgets
- Electric Kettles
- Cup & Saucer Sets
- [See more](#)

Refine by

- AmazonFresh**
- fresh
- Subscribe & Save**
- Subscribe & Save Eligible
- Delivery Day**
- Get it Today
- Get it by Tomorrow
- Amazon Prime**
- prime
- Eligible for Free Shipping**
- Free Shipping by Amazon
- Avg. Customer Review**
- 4 stars & up
- 3 stars & up
- 2 stars & up
- 1 star & up
- Tableware Material**
- Ceramic
- Glass
- Porcelain
- Stainless Steel
- Bone China
- Stoneware
- Cast Iron
- Plastic
- Fine China
- Earthenware
- Copper
- Clay
- Price**
- Under \$25
- \$25 to \$50
- \$50 to \$100
- \$100 to \$200
- \$200 & Above
-
- Coffeepot & Teapot Capacity**
- Under 2 Cups
- 2 to 3.9 Cups
- 4 to 5.9 Cups



SPONSORED BY WILLOW & EVERETT
Surgical whistling tea kettle - make tea in style
 Shop now >



Tea Kettle - Surgical Whistling Teapot with Capsule Bottom and Mirror Finish, 2.75 Quart Tea Pot - Stove To...
 ★★★★★ 1,464
 prime

[Ad feedback](#)

Showing results in Home & Kitchen. Show instead results in All Departments.



See Color Options

Sponsored
Hwagui Best Japanese Cast Iron Teapot Tea Kettle With Stainless Steel Infuser, Black 800ml/27oz
 by HwaGul
\$36²⁰ prime
 Get it by Fri, Nov 23
 Only 5 left in stock - order soon.
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 8



See more choices

Sponsored
Sweese 2312 Porcelain Teapot, 40 Ounce Tea Pot - Large Enough for 5 Cups, Turquoise
 by Sweese
\$22⁹⁹ prime
 Get it by TODAY, Nov 21
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 50



Sponsored

Bredemeijer Cosy 1510WK Cosy Manto Teapot 1.0 L White Metal Fittings
 by bredemeijer
\$94⁹⁵ prime
 Get it by Sat, Nov 24
 Only 1 left in stock - order soon.
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 5



See more choices

Sponsored
Sweese 2307 Teapot, Porcelain Tea Pot with Stainless Steel Infuser, Blooming & Loose Leaf
 by Sweese
\$19⁹⁹ prime
 Get it by TODAY, Nov 21
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 54



Hiware 1000ml Glass Teapot with Removable Infuser, Stovetop Safe Teapot, Blooming and
 by Hiware
\$16⁹⁹ ~~\$31.99~~ prime
 Get it by TODAY, Nov 21
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 786



Hiware Good Glass Teapot with Stainless Steel Infuser & Lid, Borosilicate Glass Tea Pots Stovetop Safe,
 by Hiware
\$14⁹⁹ prime
 Get it by TODAY, Nov 21
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders and 1 more promotion
 ★★★★★ 1,982



Circulon 1.5-Quart Sunrise Teakettle, Navy Blue
 by Circulon
\$14⁹⁹ ~~\$40.00~~ prime
 Get it by TODAY, Nov 21
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders
 ★★★★★ 492



Tea Kettle - Surgical Whistling Teapot with Capsule Bottom and Mirror Finish, 2.75 Quart Tea Pot -
 by Willow & Everett
\$38⁹⁹ prime
 Get it by Fri, Nov 23
 FREE Shipping on eligible orders and 9 more promotions
 ★★★★★ 1,463

Figure 1. Search results for "teapot" on the Amazon US store, performed November 21, 2008. Note the three "tea kettle" entries returned in the non-sponsored results (highlighted in red). <https://www.amazon.com/s/ref=sr_il_to_kitchen?fst=as%3Aon&rh=n%3A1055398%2Cn%3A284507%2Ck%3Ateapot&keywords=teapot&ie=UTF8&qid=1542821529&lo=none>.

Indeed, the similarity and association between teapots and kettles is such that, in the Amazon search results for “teapot” on the US store, no fewer than three kettles returned in the top eight results (Figure 1), with two of the results explicitly using both the words “teapot” and “kettle” in their names. This suggests that, in some cultures, conflating the concepts of teapots and kettles is not in and of itself harmful.

Even so, it is worth attempting to draw a potential distinction between teapots and kettles. The general function of kettles suggests a more distinctive visual element that could form the basis of a future emoji proposal. Kettles, when used for boiling water, typically release steam from their spout (sometimes associated with a whistling sound, depending on the design of the kettle) (see Figure 2). This visual distinction (and the somewhat broader usage of kettles for boiling hot water for non-tea purposes) may therefore justify the addition of a separate “kettle spouting steam” emoji at a later date (though this may also be handled by the sequence TEAPOT followed by U+1F4A8 DASH SYMBOL, as described above in B.3 “Use in sequences”).

Therefore, while this proposal does not intend in any way to prescribe that the codepoint for TEAPOT explicitly *excludes* depictions of kettles, it is strongly recommended that the name of the emoji and the sample images used to depict it *not* conflate these two kinds of vessels in order to provide for forward-compatibility and to minimize the potential for confusion between the two concepts in cultures that may not as readily conflate them.



Figure 3. A Devonshire tea, c. 2008: tea taken with scones, clotted cream and jam. A teapot containing the tea is at top left. Photograph by Liyster <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Devonshire_tea.jpg>.

Background

Archaeological studies suggest that the teapot was first developed in or around the city of Yixing, in Jiangsu, China some time between the Song (960–1279 CE) and Yuan (1271–1368) dynasties. The area around Yixing appears to have been connected to pottery from an early date, perhaps dating back to the neolithic age, but evidence of the development of pottery making use of the characteristic dark-purple *zisha* (紫砂) clay associated with early Chinese teapots only dates to the Song dynasty.⁹

It is unclear if teapots were first made as part of this early usage of *zisha* clay. While sherds of *zisha* clay excavated at Yangjiaoshan in 1976 are suggestive of teapot-like vessels having been developed at this time,¹⁰ it is possible that these early forms may have instead served as predecessor forms to teapots, including kettles used to boil water and heated wine ewers.^{11, 12}

⁹ K.S. Lo, *The Stonewares of Yixing: From the Ming Period to the Present Day* (Sotheby Publications, 1986), 13–17, Google Books, accessed November 12, 2018, <https://books.google.com/books?id=3zAP3tBBPEcC&pg=PA13#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

¹⁰ Lo, *Stonewares of Yixing*, 15–17.

¹¹ Laura C. Martin, *Tea: The Drink That Changed the World* (Tokyo: Tuttle, 2007), 99–101.

¹² Leah Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots* (New York: House of Collectibles, 2004), 47.

Based on records which are suggestive of a gradual shift in tea consumption from a whisked, powdered tea to loose-leaf tea, it is generally assumed that teapots began to see use in the late Yuan and early Ming dynasties.¹³ Corroborating this is a claim made by the early Qing author Cai Sizhan (蔡司沾), in his book *Jiyuan conghua* (霁园丛话). In this book, Cai noted his purchase of a teapot that he asserted was once owned by Yuan scholar Sun Daoming (孙道明).¹⁴ If Cai's claim is true (and his teapot authentic), then teapots must have been used for tea in the late Yuan, but the relatively late appearance of this claim (Cai lived some 300 years after the end of the Yuan dynasty) has caused some individuals to disagree with this assessment.¹⁵

It is certain, however, that teapots saw use no later than the Ming dynasty. The earliest extant teapot, made by the potter Gongchun (供春), has been dated to 1513 and is now held by the Flagstaff House Museum of Teaware in Hong Kong.¹⁶ While tradition implies that teapots predated Gongchun's work in the field, he is often called the father of the *zisha* teapot, having reportedly mastered the art form from monk potters at the Jinsha Temple near Yixing.¹⁷

As European trade expanded to China in the mid to late Ming period, Chinese tea culture, including the usage of the teapot, was exported to Europe. Both the earliest recorded appearance of the English word "teapot" (as "chaw pot") in the diary of a English merchant in Japan in 1616,^{18, 19} and an early treatise on tea, *Traitez nouveaux & curieux du café, du thé et du chocolate*, by Philippe Sylvester Dufour, imply that Europeans were aware of teapots from their earliest exposure to tea-drinking (see Figure 6).

While the earliest teapots in Europe appear to be exported Yixing ware (like Figure 4),²⁰ by the late 1600s, Europeans had begun to produce their own teapots using Yixing ware as a model (Figure 5). Other materials, such as glass (Figure 7), glazed porcelain and stoneware (Figure 8), and silver^{21, 22} became increasingly common in European teapots through the 18th century.

¹³ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 46.

¹⁴ Lo, *Stonewares of Yixing*, 18.

¹⁵ “紫砂的起源—宋元不定说（下）,” 之陶紫砂, last modified August 20, 2017, <http://www.zishapot.com/news/4107.html>.

¹⁶ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 48.

¹⁷ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 48.

¹⁸ *The Oxford English Dictionary*, 2nd ed., s.v. "Tea-pot."

¹⁹ Richard Cocks, *Diary of Richard Cocks, vol. 1*, ed. Edward Maunde Thompson (London: Hakluyt Society, 1883), 215, Internet Archive, uploaded February 28, 2009, <https://archive.org/details/diaryrichardcoc00unkngoog/page/n281>.

²⁰ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 72–73.

²¹ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 173–174.

²² Luke Vincent Lockwood, "Old American Silver, Part Four: Tea-Pots & Creamers," *Country Life in America*, June 1914, 57–59, 80, Google Books, accessed November 12, 2018, <https://books.google.com/books?id=WKhMAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA57#v=onepage&q&f=false>.



Figure 4. A Yixing ware teapot with Kylin on lid dating from the Qianlong dynasty (1736–1795), held by Auckland War Memorial Museum. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot,_lidded_\(AM_19304-2\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot,_lidded_(AM_19304-2).jpg).



Figure 5. A red stoneware teapot from Delft, c. 1680, held by Germanisches Nationalmuseum. Photograph by Daderot https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot,_Delft,_c._1680,_red_stoneware_-_Germanisches_Nationalmuseum_-_Nuremberg,_Germany_-_DSC02616.jpg.



Figure 6. “Chinois avec son pot de Thé,” etching from *Traitez nouveaux & curieux du café, du thé et du chocolate*, by Philippe Sylvestre Dufour, published 1688. A teapot is depicted at bottom right. Image courtesy of the University of Michigan Special Collections Research Center https://quod.lib.umich.edu/s/sclib/x-39015093159898/34967_0003.



Figure 7. Teapot of green glass, from Gujarat, India, c. 1750–1800, held by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot_with_Lid_LACMA_M.89.83.2a-b.jpg>.



Figure 8. Salt-glazed stoneware teapot, from Staffordshire, England, c. 1750, held by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.
 <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:House_Teapot_LACMA_M.91.371.4a-b.jpg>.

Teapot shapes changed at the same time. As they were originally based on tall wine ewers, early teapots tended to have an elongated pear-shaped body with a straight spout and no strainer. The need to keep the tea leaves out of a teacup resulted in the addition of a strainer to the base of the spout and the subsequent development of the swan-like neck of the teapot. Likewise, the poor diffusion of tea extract throughout early tall teapots resulted in the development of smaller, more apple-shaped designs.²³

Growing familiarity with the form also led to the development of more elaborate and varied designs, beginning with the rise of Japanese *imari* porcelain over the original *zisha* and Chinese blue and white porcelains in the late 17th century.²⁴ European teapots such as those made by Meissen in Germany and by Josiah Wedgwood in England in the late 1700s²⁵ (such as that in Figure 9) continued this experimentation, turning teapots into a collectible form of art.^{26, 27}

By 1774, the association of teapots with tea in England and its American colonies was strong enough for teapots to be used symbolically in political cartoons such as “The able Doctor, or America Swallowing the Bitter Draught,” (Figure 11) which makes no direct mention of tea, but uses a teapot to stand for the perceived injustices of British laws such as the Boston Port Act, enacted by Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party.

²³ Keith Souter, *The Tea Cyclopedia* (New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2013), 72–73.

²⁴ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 67.

²⁵ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 188.

²⁶ Lilian Leslie Tower, “A Study in Teapots,” *Good Housekeeping* 44 (March 1907): 253–257, Google Books, accessed November 12, 2018, <https://books.google.com/books?id=jMZAAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA253#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

²⁷ Rousmaniere, *Collecting Teapots*, 18.



Figure 9. Wedgwood earthenware teapot shaped like a cauliflower, 1765, held by the Wedgwood Museum, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, England. Photograph by Daderot <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot, Josiah Wedgwood, 1765, cream-colored earthenware, green glaze - Wedgwood Museum - Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, England - DSC09534.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Teapot,_Josiah_Wedgwood,_1765,_cream-colored_earthenware,_green_glaze_-_Wedgwood_Museum_-_Barlaston,_Stoke-on-Trent,_England_-_DSC09534.jpg)>.



Figure 10. A Japanese *sencha* (煎茶) tea set, featuring two *yunomi* (湯のみ) teacups (left), *tetsubin* (鉄瓶) cast-iron tea kettle (center), and *yokode kyūsu* (横手急須), a common Japanese teapot design (right). Note the *kyūsu* handle, which is perpendicular to the spout rather than opposite, as in most other teapots, or over the lid, as with the *tetsubin* kettle. Photograph by the authors.



Figure 11. "The able Doctor, or America Swallowing the Bitter Draught." British engraving, c. 1774. Held by the Boston Public Library. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/boston_public_library/5935079118/>.



Figure 12. A man preparing a cup of Moroccan mint tea in Tangiers, Morocco. Photograph by Akuppa John Wigham <<https://www.flickr.com/photos/90664717@N00/16560771393/>>.



Figure 13. Etching of a Kashmiri *samavar* from the Ujfalvy collection. <<https://books.google.com/books?id=exZXAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA19#v=onepage&q&f=false>>.

At about the same time as Europeans began adopting and making teapots for themselves, Japanese tea-drinkers began to adapt the Fujian kettle known as the *kip-soey* (急焼), used to heat water and sake, into the teapot known as the *yokode kyūsu* (横手急須) (see Figure 10).²⁸

Like the *kip-soey* from which it was derived, the *yokode kyūsu* is distinguished by the location of its handle, which is placed perpendicular to the spout, rather than opposite the spout or over the lid, like other teapots and kettles.

The Islamic world, too, began adopting tea and teapots for its own by the mid 1700s. While tea was known of in parts of the Islamic world as early as the 9th century,²⁹ it was not until the 17th century that parts of central Asia with land trade to China began consuming the drink with any regularity.³⁰ As a result, it was only with the expansion of European trade in the 1700s that tea culture became established in most of the Islamic world, particularly in Morocco and the Maghreb (Figure 12), which very probably made use of silver teapots from its earliest days.³¹

Not all regional tea cultures make extensive use of the teapot. Of particular note are those cultures that use samovar-based vessels for tea preparation, such as Russia, Iran, and Kashmir. However, some Russian-style samovars are designed to heat a teapot containing the

²⁸ “なぜ日本だけ、横手茶器の急須で茶を淹れるのか?,” Karo—Sencha Note, last modified March 30, 2018, https://sencha-note.com/root_of_kyusu/.

²⁹ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 151–2.

³⁰ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 155.

³¹ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 157.



Figure 14. A man with two Russian-style samovars in Afghanistan, c. 1895. The right samovar has a teapot on top. Photograph by Lillias Anna Hamilton. Courtesy of the Wellcome Collection <<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zctwk4hz>>



Figure 15. A Turkish tea set, featuring a *çaydanlık* (Turkish teapot) in back. Photograph by Azmi <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Türkisches_Teegeschirr.JPG>.

zavarka, a strong concentrate of tea above the main body of the samovar (Figure 14). The *zavarka* in this teapot may then be diluted with the heated water in the samovar.³²

The Kashmiri *samavar* (Figure 13), used for the preparation of noon chai, is designed around the model of the Russian samovar; it is usually made of metal such as copper, and is built with a central heat source used to boil water in the vessel surrounding it. However, unlike Russian-style samovars, it is designed for pouring its contents into a cup like a traditional teapot, having both handle and spout.³³

Though they now drink the highest amount of tea per capita in the world,³⁴ unlike the rest of the Islamic world, Turkish tea culture did not really become established until after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. As a result, its tea utensils are informed by developments in teapots, kettles, and samovars through the 19th century. The most unique element of Turkish tea culture, the Turkish “teapot” or *çaydanlık* (Figure 15), resembles a hybrid of the Russian samovar and the tea kettle, as a tea concentrate is heated in a second kettle located above a kettle used for boiling water.³⁵

³² Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 144.

³³ Charles-Eugene de Ujfalvy, *L'art des cuivres anciens au Cachemire & au Petit-Tibet* (Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1883), 61, Google Books, accessed November 24, 2018, <https://books.google.com/books?id=exZXAAAAMAAJ&pg=PA17#v=onepage&q&f=false>.

³⁴ Martin, *Tea*, 2.

³⁵ Mair and Hoh, *True History of Tea*, 163.



Figure 16. Art Deco Sadler racing car teapot, 1930s.

Photograph by Teapotgeorge <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Sadler_car_teapot_30s.JPG>.



Figure 17. Teapot shaped like vintage radio with cat-shaped lid, made in England.

Photograph by Joe Haupt <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22Vintage_Radio%22_Shaped_Ceramic_Teapot_with_a_%22Cat%22_Lid,_Made_in_England_\(8546314226\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22Vintage_Radio%22_Shaped_Ceramic_Teapot_with_a_%22Cat%22_Lid,_Made_in_England_(8546314226).jpg)>.



Figure 18 (above). Animal-shaped teapots and milk jugs, produced by Mosa potteries, Maastricht, Netherlands, 1920s–1930s. Held by Centre Ceramique, Maastricht, Netherlands. Photograph by Kleon3 <[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Theepotten_en_melkkannen_in_de_vorm_van_dierfiguren,_geproduceerd_door_Mosa_ca_1920-40_\(collectie_H_v_Buren,_Maastrichts_aardewerk,_Centre_C%C3%A9ramique,_Maastricht\).JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Theepotten_en_melkkannen_in_de_vorm_van_dierfiguren,_geproduceerd_door_Mosa_ca_1920-40_(collectie_H_v_Buren,_Maastrichts_aardewerk,_Centre_C%C3%A9ramique,_Maastricht).JPG)>.

Figure 19 (right). Teapot caricature of Margaret Thatcher. Held by the People's Palace in Glasgow. Photograph by dalbera.

<[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Peoples_Palace_\(Glasgow\)_3842739244.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Peoples_Palace_(Glasgow)_3842739244.jpg)>



With the continued development and formalization of British tea culture in the 19th century, the accompanying teapot spread to the British colonies, such as Australia,^{36, 37} South Africa,³⁸ and Kenya.³⁹ At the same time, new technical innovations resulted in internal improvements to the teapot, such as built-in metallic strainers and the teabag supplanted the traditional strainer holes placed at the base of the spout.⁴⁰

Modern teapots now take many forms. While many teapots may still have simplistic, geometric designs (such as that in Figure 3), others may take the form of anything from cars (Figure 16), to vintage radios (Figure 17), to animals (Figure 18), or even caricatures of politicians (Figure 19).

³⁶ Erika Rappaport, *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017), 187–190.

³⁷ Jessica Knight, “‘A Poisonous Cup?’ Afternoon Tea in Australian Society, 1870-1914,” (BA diss., The University of Sydney, 2011), accessed March 1, 2019, https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/7983/1/Knight_J_A%20Poisonous%20Cup.pdf.

³⁸ Rappaport, *Thirst for Empire*, 79.

³⁹ Katherine Mary Grillo, “The Materiality of Mobile Pastoralism: Ethnoarchaeological Perspectives from Samburu, Kenya”, (PhD diss., Washington University, 2012), 130, accessed November 24, 2018, <https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1956&context=etd>.

⁴⁰ William H. Ukers, *All About Tea, vol. 2* (New York: The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal Company, 1935), 439–445, Internet Archive, uploaded October 16, 2015, <https://archive.org/details/AllAboutTeaV2/page/n451>.

References

- Amorphia Apparel. "Russell's Teapot." Accessed March 1, 2019. <https://amorphia-apparel.com/teach/teapot-a-atheism-religion-burden-of-proof-bertrand-russell-shirt/#/>.
- CBC Radio. "Emoji evidence is causing confused faces in courtrooms." *The Current*. Last modified March 22, 2018. <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/thecurrent/the-current-for-march-22-2018-1.4586671/emoji-evidence-is-causing-confused-faces-in-courtrooms-1.4586702>.
- Cocks, Richard. *Diary of Richard Cocks, vol. 1*. Ed. Edward Maunde Thompson. London: Hakluyt Society, 1883. Internet Archive. Uploaded February 28, 2009. <https://archive.org/details/diaryrichardcoc00unkngoog>.
- Grillo, Katherine Mary. "The Materiality of Mobile Pastoralism: Ethnoarchaeological Perspectives from Samburu, Kenya." PhD diss., Washington University, 2012. Accessed November 24, 2018. <https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1956&context=etd>.
- Karo—Sencha Note. "なぜ日本だけ、横手茶器の急須で茶を淹れるのか?" Last modified March 30, 2018. https://sencha-note.com/root_of_kyusu/.
- Knight, Jessica. "'A Poisonous Cup?' Afternoon Tea in Australian Society, 1870-1914." BA diss., The University of Sydney, 2011. Accessed March 1, 2019. https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/7983/1/Knight_J_A%20Poisonous%20Cup.pdf.
- Lo, K.S. *The Stonewares of Yixing: From the Ming Period to the Present Day*. Sotheby Publications, 1986. Google Books. Accessed November 12, 2018. <https://books.google.com/books?id=3zAP3tBBPEcC&pg=PA17#v=onepage&q&f=false>.
- Lockwood, Luke Vincent. "Old American Silver, Part Four: Tea-Pots & Creamers." *Country Life in America*, June 1914, 57–59, 80. Google Books. <https://books.google.com/books?id=WKhMAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA1-PA57#v=onepage&q&f=false>.
- Mair, Victor H. and Erling Hoh. *The True History of Tea*. Thames & Hudson, 2009.
- Martin, Laura C.. *Tea: The Drink That Changed The World*. Tokyo: Tuttle, 2007.
- Motz, Lloyd & Carol Nathanson. *The Constellations: An Enthusiast's Guide to the Night Sky*. New York: Doubleday, 1988.
- Munroe, Randall. "Russell's Teapot." *XKCD*. Accessed March 1, 2019. <https://xkcd.com/1866/>.
- The New Oxford American Dictionary*, 2nd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- The Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd ed. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989.
- Rappaport, Erika. *A Thirst for Empire: How Tea Shaped the Modern World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2017.
- Rousmaniere, Leah. *Collecting Teapots*. New York: House of Collectibles, 2004.
- Russell, Bertrand. "Is There a God? [1952]." *The Collected Papers of Bertrand Russell, vol. 11: Last Philosophical Testament, 1943–68*. Routledge. 547–548. Accessed November 24, 2018. <http://russell.mcmaster.ca/cpbr11p69.pdf>.
- Souter, Keith. *The Tea Cyclopedia*. New York: Skyhorse Publishing, 2013.
- Tower, Lilian Leslie. "A Study in Teapots." *Good Housekeeping* 44 (March 1907): 253–257. Google Books. Accessed November 12, 2018. <https://books.google.com/books?id=jMZAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA253#v=onepage&q&f=false>.
- Ujfalvy, Charles-Eugène de. *L'art des cuivres anciens au Cachemire & au Petit-Tibet*. Paris: Ernest Leroux, 1883. Google Books. Accessed November 24, 2018. <https://books.google.com/books?id=exZXAAMAAJ&pg=PA17#v=onepage&q&f=false>.
- Ukers, William H. *All About Tea, vol. 2*. New York: The Tea and Coffee Trade Journal Company, 1935. Internet Archive. Uploaded October 16, 2015. <https://archive.org/details/AllAboutTeaV2>.
- 之陶紫砂. "紫砂的起源—宋元不定说（下）." Last modified August 20, 2017. <http://www.zishapot.com/news/4107.html>.

Acknowledgements

All of the above images are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0>>, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0>>, or have been placed in the public domain, with the exception of Figure 17, which is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic license <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>>, and Figure 18, which is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>.

Therefore, the authors have licensed this document, its contents, and the images embedded therein originally created by the authors under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>>, except that the sample emoji images on the first page embedded in this document have been released into the public domain independent of their inclusion within this document.

Individual images in this document may be available for reproduction and use under less restrictive licenses. The original URIs accompanying each image may be referenced in order to determine their respective license.