

8th Grade English Language Arts

Optional Enrichment Activities

To Accompany

Sugar Guidebook Unit

Sugar Cane

By Grace Nichols

I

There is something
about sugarcane

He isn't what
he seem

indifferent hard
and sheathed in blades

his waving arms
is a sign for help

his skin thick
only to protect
the juice inside
himself

2

His colour
is the aura
of jaundice
when he ripe

he shiver
like ague
when it rain
he suffer
from bellywork
burning fever
and delirium

just before
the hurricane
strike
smashing him to pieces.

3

Growing up
is an art

he don't have
any control of

it is us
who groom and
weed him

who stick him
in the earth
in the first place

and when he
growing tall

with the help
of the sun
and rain
we feel the
need to strangle
the life

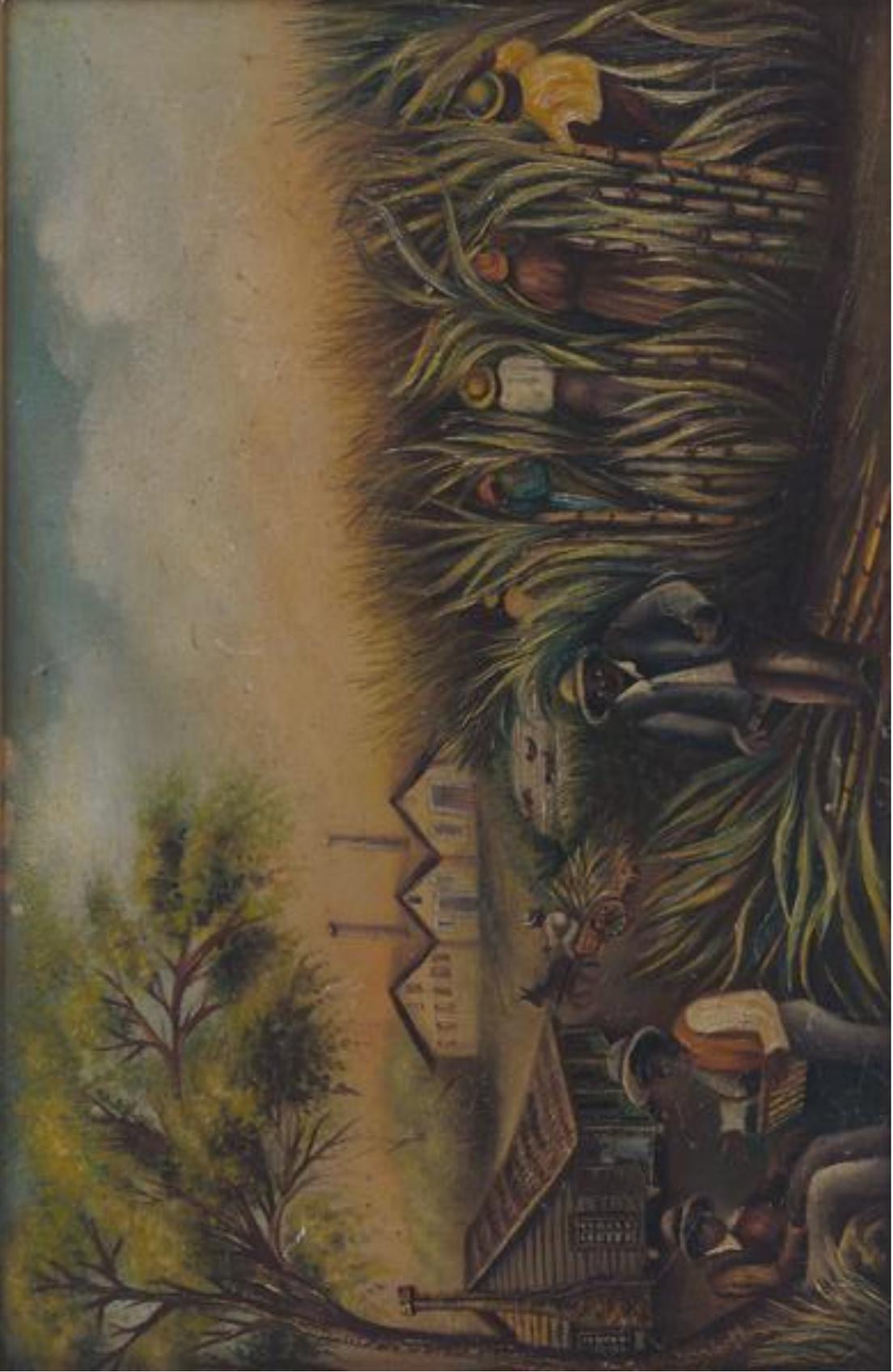
out of him
But either way he can't survive.

Vocabulary Chart

Keep a list of words you have learned throughout the unit.

Word	Part of Speech	My Definition	How You Determined the Definition	Source Sentence

Word	Part of Speech	My Definition	How You Determined the Definition	Source Sentence



Cane Cutting Scene

OPTIC¹

O	O is for Overview . Describe the main subject of the painting.
P	P is for Parts . What parts, elements or details of the painting seem important?
T	T is for Title . What information does the title add to the painting?
I	I is for Interrelationships . What connections or relationships can be made between the words in the title and the individual parts of the painting?
C	C is for Conclusion . What conclusion(s) can be drawn about the meaning of the painting as a whole? Summarize the message in one or two sentences.

¹ Adapted from Pauk, W. (2000). *How to study in college* (7th ed.). Houghton Mifflin Company: Boston.

What is the painter's attitude toward the sugar industry?

Attitude/Tone	Evidence from the text	What does this evidence show about the painter's tone?

Analyzing Theme Graphic Organizer

How does the poet use personification to depict the sugarcane plant?		
Example of personification in the text	What does this tell the reader about how the sugar cane acts or feels?	
What/Who" does the sugarcane plant represent?		
Symbolism	Evidence from the text	What does this evidence show about who or what the sugarcane plant represents?

What is the poet's attitude toward the sugar industry?

Attitude/Tone	Evidence from the text	What does this evidence show about the poet's tone?

How do personification, symbolism, and tone contribute to the theme in the poem?

Evidence Handout

Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Paragraph Frame

	Question to Prompt My Thinking	Sentence Frame
<u>Claim</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What do I know, based on the text? ● What is my response to the question? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flip the question into a statement.
<u>Evidence</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How do I know this? ● What in the text tells me this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the text it says, “ _____.” ● For example, _____.
<u>Reasoning</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why does the evidence support the claim? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This shows that _____. ● This means that _____. ● From this, I can conclude _____.

Model

Prompt: What is the painter’s purpose in “Cane Cutting Scene”?

Claim		
<p>The painter’s purpose in “Cane Cutting Scene” is to portray a more positive image of slave life on a sugar plantation.</p>		
Evidence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The tree and sky make the scene natural and beautiful and the colors used throughout the painting are very light and soothing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The expression on the workers face in the middle of the painting seems to be a smile. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They also seem to be dressed well. They have multiple layers of clothing, colorful fabrics, and their clothes look undamaged and clean.
Reasoning		
Empty space for reasoning		

Practice

Prompt: What is the poet’s purpose in “Sugar Cane”?

Claim		
<p>The poet’s purpose in “Sugar Cane” is to portray the brutality and injustice of slave life on a sugar plantation.</p>		
Evidence		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “He shiver/ like ague/when it rain/he suffer/from bellywork/burning fever/and delirium” (Lines 17-23) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “His waving arms/is a sign for help” (Lines 7-8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● “We feel the/ need to strangle/ the life/ out of him/ But either way he can’t survive” (Lines 43-47)
Reasoning		
Empty space for reasoning		

How Sugar Changed the World

By Heather Whipps June 02, 2008



Sugar, or White Gold, as British colonists called it, was the engine of the slave trade that brought millions of Africans to the Americas beginning in the early 16th-century. Profit from the sugar trade was so significant that it may have even helped America achieve independence from Great Britain.

(Image: © sanja gjenero/stock.xchng)

Each Monday, this column turns a page in history to explore the discoveries, events and people that continue to affect the history being made today.

What's not to like about candy, ice cream and all those other sweet treats made with everybody's favorite indulgence, sugar?

Plenty, as it turns out, beyond the way it expands waistlines and causes cavities. It's unlikely that many [candy-lovers](#) in the United States think about history while quaffing an estimated 100 pounds of sugar per year, but sweet stuff once played a major role in one of the sourest eras in modern times.

White Gold, as British colonists called it, was the engine of the slave trade that brought millions of Africans to the Americas beginning in the early 16th-century. The history of every nation in the Caribbean, much of South America and parts of the Southern United States was forever shaped by sugar cane plantations started as cash crops by European superpowers.

Profit from the sugar trade was so significant that it may have even helped America achieve independence from Great Britain.

The Trade Triangle

Today more sugar is produced in Brazil than anywhere else in the world even though, ironically, the crop never grew wild in the Americas. Sugar cane — native to Southeast Asia — first made its way to the New World with [Christopher Columbus](#) during his 1492 voyage to the Dominican Republic, where it grew well in the tropical environment.

Noting sugar cane's potential as income for the new settlements in the Americas — Europeans were already hooked on sugar coming from the Eastern colonies — Spanish colonizers snipped seeds from Columbus' fields in the Dominican Republic and planted them throughout their burgeoning Caribbean colonies. By the mid 16th-century the Portuguese had brought some to Brazil and, soon after, the sweet cane made its way to British, Dutch and French colonies such as Barbados and Haiti.

It wasn't long, however, before the early settlers realized they were lacking sufficient manpower to plant, harvest and process the backbreaking crop.

The [first slave](#) ships arrived in 1505 and continued unabated for more than 300 years. Most came from western Africa, where Portuguese colonies had already established trading outposts for ivory, pepper and other goods. To most of the European merchants, the people they put on cargo ships across the Atlantic — a horrendous voyage known as the Middle Passage — were merely an extension of the trading system already in place.

Sugar slavery was the key component in what historians call The Trade Triangle, a network whereby slaves were sent to work on New World plantations, the product of their labor was sent to a European capital to be sold and other goods were brought to Africa to purchase more slaves.

By the middle of the 19th century, more than 10 million Africans had been forcibly removed to the New World and distributed among the sugar plantations of Brazil and the Caribbean.

Sugar boosts independence

During those three centuries, [sugar](#) was by far the most important of the overseas commodities that accounted for a third of Europe's entire economy. As technologies got more efficient and diversified, adding molasses and rum to the plantation byproducts, sugar barons from St. Kitts to Jamaica became enormously wealthy.

The importance of those [sugar-rich](#) colonies, especially those belonging to Britain and France, had enormous consequences for the map of the Americas during the 1700s.

Britain lost its 13 American colonies to independence in part because its military was busy protecting its sugar islands, many historians have argued.

As opposed to the slaves working plantations in the U.S. South, Africans on Caribbean sugar plantations (and the islands themselves) outnumbered their European owners by a wide margin. The British planters lived in constant fear of revolt and demanded soldiers for protection. Several decisive battles of the Revolutionary War would have turned out differently had Britain thrown its full might behind the war, experts believe.

Sizable garrisons were also stationed in the West Indies to guard the few sugar holdings Britain had left at the end of the Seven Years' War in 1763. In carving up the Americas after the fighting stopped, King George III had decided to cede a few of his Caribbean sugar islands to France in order to secure a sizable chunk of North America.

How important was sugar cane in that time?

In swapping sweet and profitable Guadeloupe for the barren, sugar-free wasteland of Canada, plus most of the land east of the Mississippi River, many Englishmen thought the King got a raw deal.

Add these words to your vocabulary log after reading “How Sugar Changed the World”:

- Commodities
- Sufficient
- Diversified
- Cash crops

What is the central idea of the article?

What are the supporting ideas in the text?

Cold-Read Task

Read “200 Years of Progress in the Louisiana Sugar Industry: A Brief History” by Dr. Charley Richard. Then answer the questions.

“200 Years of Progress in the Louisiana Sugar Industry: A Brief History”

Dr. Charley Richard

The following article appeared in the February, 1995 edition of the Sugar Journal, a monthly technical publication that is distributed to an international audience in the sugar industry.

1 The Louisiana territory, named for Louis the XIV, king of France, was claimed by de La Salle in 1682. Although sugarcane originated in New Guinea, Louisiana has long been known for its importance in the world’s sugar industry. Columbus, in his second voyage to the New World in 1493 carried sugarcane from the Canary Islands to Santo Domingo.

2 Sugarcane may have been first planted in Louisiana during the late 1600s by Iberville, the “Founder of Louisiana.” However, there are no records of successful cane production until 1751 when Jesuit missionaries carried sugarcane plants, with help from experienced field workers, to what is now downtown New Orleans where the Jesuit Church stands on Baronne Street. The cane, “Creole,” was sweet and excellent for chewing. However, it was very susceptible to the frosts that occurred in the less than tropical area of New Orleans. The plantings survived and by the late 1750s one sugar mill had already been built by Claude-Joseph Dubreuil de Villars of Esplanade Street.

3 Other planters followed his example and the industry attempted to expand. However, the manufacture of sugar, which had moved from Europe and spread throughout the Americas, was difficult because of the short growing season, early winter frosts and immature cane in Louisiana. “Tafia,” a rum-like drink, was produced from cane juice and consumed in great quantity. Enough sugar was produced to satisfy the modest New Orleans market in some years.

4 The sugar was of extremely poor quality and could not be shipped back to France. This caused the developing industry to falter and it was not until the end of the 18th century when several factors enabled the industry to blossom. Of particular importance was the indigo crop, which had been a major economic factor to the area but was lost due to wet weather and insects. A new cane variety, “Otaheite” (Tahiti or Bourbon cane), was imported from Santo Domingo around 1797, and Etienne de Bore provided the manpower and expertise for sugar manufacture. De Bore married the daughter of the former treasurer of

Louisiana, Jean-Baptiste Destrehan, and they risked their fortune in the manufacture of sugar. With the expert help of a sugar maker, Antoine Morin from Santo Domingo, de Bore succeeded in making sugar granulate at his wife's family property (now Audubon Park in New Orleans). De Bore was not the first to have accomplished the feat, but he was the first to do it in a manner judged to be economically successful. His first crop consisted of some 100 hogsheads (100,000 lbs.) of sugar which were sold for 12.5 cents per lb., along with 50 cents per gallon for molasses, which netted him a profit of \$12,000. Because of this success, the commencement of the U.S. sugar industry is cited as 1795.

5 In 1803, the U.S. purchased the territory of Louisiana from the French. Anglo Americans poured into Louisiana and joined others in developing the sugar industry. The War of 1812 temporarily slowed the development of the industry.

6 Several factors were instrumental in renewing the industry's growth. The use of steam power in milling cane, proposed earlier, was finally adopted in the early 1800s in the Louisiana sugar industry. This allowed the use of more efficient horizontal mills which were larger than those used with animal power. In 1825 two new varieties, which became known as Louisiana Purple and Louisiana Striped, were shipped to Louisiana. Both canes were more frost resistant than Creole or Otaheite which allowed the industry to quickly expand outside of the New Orleans area. Norbert Rillieux, a free man of color born in New Orleans and educated in Paris, installed his invention, the first triple-effect evaporator, in 1834. However, it was not until 1843-1844 that his multiple-effect evaporation process was proven successful. This invention, still used today, has proven to be one of the greatest contributions to the world's sugar industry. Other inventions which proved successful at about the same time were the centrifuge, condenser and polariscope.

7 The planters and processors of that time were faced with the constant risk of frost, floods, cane pests, animal and insect pests, sickness among slaves, animal diseases and falling market prices. One of the largest problems was the need for labor. Slavery proved to be the answer and the industry grew to 300,000 slaves prior to 1860. The catastrophic effects of the Civil War on the sugar industry can be easily seen by comparing the 264,000 short tons of sugar produced in 1861 with the 5,971 short tons produced in 1864. Sugar producing plantations decreased from 1,200 in 24 parishes in 1861 to 175 plantations in 16 parishes in 1864.

8 Following the Civil War, the industry slowly began to reorganize, although labor was still the major problem. The industry was forced to accept change in order to survive. Mechanization, first animal, then steam, electricity and gasoline, quickly spread throughout the industry. Chemical fertilizers replaced manures. The Louisiana State University

Experiment Station conducted research in a number of areas. New varieties were imported from foreign lands. Consolidation continued with a further reduction in the number of factories—each growing in power, efficiency and size.

9 World War I raised sugar prices briefly, but they fell quickly after the war was over. New diseases entered the cane belt, and along with poor weather, caused the near destruction of the cane industry. Sugar production dropped to the lowest levels (47,000 tons) since the Civil War. Mosaic resistant POJ varieties from Java were imported. These canes were spread across the industry which quickly recovered from the onset of new diseases. It was at this time that the American Sugar Cane League, Louisiana State University, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture joined forces to develop varieties for the Louisiana sugar industry.

10 The Great Depression brought drastic changes in the value of the industry and ownership of farms and factories. World War II brought sugar rations to the U.S., but more importantly, an extreme shortage of labor. Mechanical harvesters cut the entire Louisiana crop by the late 1940s while mechanical planters were soon developed. Research programs were instituted in all areas of production by the various agencies involved in Louisiana. These programs must continue in an effort to further increase production efficiency and to overcome the numerous issues facing the industry including environmental regulations.

11 During the 1990s, the industry's acreage has reached an all time high. Perils faced by early growers and processors are still affecting the industry. However, in the 200th year of production (1994) the industry has set a new record for Louisiana sugar production, having recovered over 1.04 million tons of sugar. This is a remarkable feat for an industry that has a very short growing season, frosts and freezes too early in the harvest season, and an industry that many say shouldn't even be producing sugarcane. This tremendous accomplishment and the 200 years of production occurred because of the diligence of the many members of the Louisiana sugar industry—from Iberville, to de Bore to Rillieux, to the modern-day scientists, growers, processors and other individuals. The year 1995 is not only a time to commemorate 200 years of production, but also a time to work toward higher goals, including increased efficiency in the global community in which Louisiana now operates.

Courtesy of Sugar Journal, SugarJournal.com

1. **Part A**

What is the main idea of the “200 Years of Progress in the Louisiana Sugar Industry: A Brief History”?

- A. The sugar industry originated in New Guinea and was later brought to Louisiana.
- B. The sugar industry was not profitable in Louisiana due to the short seasons and harsh weather.
- C. The sugar industry was renewed by implementing the evaporation process and using steam power.
- D. The sugar industry has a long history that has been filled with both obstacles and triumphs.

Part B

Which statement from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “The use of steam power in milling cane, proposed earlier, was finally adopted in the early 1800s in the Louisiana sugar industry.”
- B. “Although sugar originated in New Guinea, Louisiana has long been known for its importance in the world’s sugar industry.”
- C. “This tremendous accomplishment and the 200 years of production occurred because of the diligence of the many members of the Louisiana sugar industry.”
- D. “New diseases entered the cane belt, and along with poor weather, caused the near destruction of the cane industry.”

2. How does paragraph 6 of the passage refine the idea of growth in the sugarcane industry?

- A. The author presents various items that increased efficiency in Louisiana sugarcane production.
- B. The author compares the growth of the Louisiana sugar industry to its growth in other parts of the world.
- C. The author criticizes the industry’s lack of growth and stability in Louisiana.
- D. The author describes in detail the proper procedure for growing sugarcane in Louisiana’s climate.

3. **Part A**

How does paragraph 10 reinforce the idea of change in “200 Years of Progress”?

- A. It presents obstacles faced by the sugar industry and possible solutions.
- B. It introduces researched-based programs that may affect the industry.
- C. It discusses reasons for the decline in value of the sugar industry.
- D. It proposes that an increase in slavery adversely affected the sugar industry.

Part B

Which statement from paragraph 10 **best** supports the idea of change in the industry?

- A. "The Great Depression brought drastic changes in value of the industry and ownership of farms and factories."
- B. "World War II brought sugar rations to the U.S., but more importantly, an extreme shortage of labor."
- C. "Mechanical harvesters cut the entire Louisiana crop by the late 1940s."
- D. "These programs must continue in an effort to further increase production efficiency."

View "[State of Sugar](#)" from *This Week in Louisiana Agriculture*. Then answer the questions.

4. Which sentence best summarizes the video "The State of Sugar"?
- A. Louisiana's sugar industry has grown tremendously since 1997.
 - B. Louisiana's sugar production is expected to decline in 2013 but remain profitable.
 - C. Louisiana saw a dramatic decline in the price of sugar in 2012.
 - D. Louisiana, Mexico, and Brazil are projected to make more money from sugar this year.
5. What aspects of the video "The State of Sugar" best reveal the author's purpose?
- A. The video includes vivid imagery to demonstrate the need for change in the industry.
 - B. The video presents the previous year's statistics to make predictions about the future of the industry.
 - C. The video incorporates loaded words and phrases to convey excitement about the future of the industry.
 - D. The video excludes information about the efforts of sugar industries in other countries.
6. Read the sentence from "State of Sugar" from *This Week in Louisiana Agriculture*.

We've always managed to survive.

Write a multiparagraph essay that explains in detail what Mr. Simon means by this statement and how this idea is conveyed in both "200 Years of Sugar" and "The State of Sugar." Cite evidence from both the video and the passage to support your response. Be sure to observe the conventions of standard English.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Court Rejects New York City's Portion Cap for Sugary Drinks

By Dr. Lisa Firestone
2014

In 2014, Michael Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York, designed a proposal known as "the soda ban" that would put limits on the size of sugary drinks that people could buy. The proposal was favored among health advocates, including the Board of Health, who argued that sugary drinks were linked to rising obesity rates and healthcare costs. In this opinion piece, Dr. Lisa Firestone, Director of Research and Education at The Glendon Association, explains why she believes the New York State Court of Appeals ultimately made the wrong decision in blocking Bloomberg's "soda ban." As you read, take notes on how people on both sides of the argument support their positions.

- [1] New York City lost its final appeal to limit the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces.

In a 20-page report, the New York State Court of Appeals issued its final decision on the Portion Cap Ruling. Justice Pigott wrote:

"We hold that the New York City Board of Health, in adopting the 'Sugary Drinks Portion Cap Rule,' exceeded the scope of its regulatory authority.¹ By choosing among competing policy goals, without any legislative delegation² or guidance, the Board engaged in law-making and thus infringed³ upon the legislative jurisdiction of the City Council of New York."



"SUPER BIG GULP" by Majiscup is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

The Portion Cap Ruling, commonly known as the soda ban, was to restrict the sale of sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces in restaurants, movie theaters, sports arenas and delis. The decision is disappointing and a defeat to public health advocates urging the government to curb the sale of oversize sugary drinks thought to be a major contributor to America's obesity crisis.

- [5] Dr. Mary Bassett, the commissioner of health for the city, issued the following statement:

"Today's ruling does not change the fact that sugary drink consumption is a key driver of the obesity epidemic, and we will continue to look for ways to stem the twin epidemics of obesity and type 2 diabetes by seeking to limit the pernicious⁴ effects of aggressive and predatory marketing of sugary drinks and unhealthy foods."

1. Regulatory authority is a law or rule-making power.
2. **Delegate (verb):** to assign a task or responsibility to another person
3. **Infringe (verb):** to actively break the rules or terms of (something)
4. **Pernicious (adjective):** causing harm or having a harmful effect

Mayor Bill De Blasio also expressed his disappointment in the court's decision. As written in *Capital New York*:

"We are extremely disappointed by today's Court decision that prevents the city from implementing a sugary drink portion cap policy," de Blasio said in a press release. "The negative effects of sugary drink over-consumption on New Yorkers' health, particularly among low-income communities, are irrefutable."

As a nutritionist and portion size advocate, I too was disappointed with the court's decision.

- [10] Portion sizes have grown exponentially over the years and rates of obesity have skyrocketed. In the 1950s, a soda at McDonald's was 7 ounces; today, the company sells a quart-size soda nearly five times larger than its original size. KFC sells a half-gallon size with nearly 800 calories.

As I told *Food Navigator USA*:

"From a consumer perspective, this was not about banning soda. This was about how much is reasonable for one person. There are a lot of factors that contribute to obesity. One very major one is the fact that what used to be a normal size is now called 'mini.'"

Indeed, we need to change our food environment if we want to reduce obesity rates and encourage consumers to select healthier food choices. That means selling smaller size portions of foods and drinks that provide no nutritional value. In my opinion, curbing the sizes of sugary drinks was certainly a good place to start.

I applaud the health department's efforts and hope that we can all work together to promote a healthier food environment for our children to grow up in.

"Court Rejects New York City's Portion Cap for Sugary Drinks" from [Huffington Post](#), © 2014, Dr. Lisa Firestone. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. Which of the following best states the purpose of the proposed Sugary Drinks Portion Cap Rule?
 - A. To ban the sale of sugary drinks like soda and juice in restaurants
 - B. To ban the sale of sugary drinks like soda and juice in grocery stores and private homes
 - C. To limit the portion sizes of sugary drinks like soda and juice in restaurants and other places
 - D. To impose a steep tax on consumers who buy more than 16 ounces of a sugary drink like soda or juice

2. PART A: Which of the following best explains why the New York State Court of Appeals rejected the Sugary Drinks Portion Cap Rule?
 - A. Because there was not significant scientific evidence linking sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces to increased risk of obesity
 - B. Because the New York Board of Health does not have the authority to ban sugary drinks
 - C. Because the proposed cap was unfavorable among businesses and citizens in New York City
 - D. Because the proposed ban on sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces would have cost the New York City too much money to put in place

3. PART B: Which phrase from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "exceeded the scope of its regulatory authority" (Paragraph 3)
 - B. "choosing among competing policy goals, without any legislative delegation or guidance" (Paragraph 3)
 - C. "The decision is disappointing and a defeat to public health advocates" (Paragraph 4)
 - D. "major contributor to America's obesity crisis" (Paragraph 4)

4. PART A: What does the word "pernicious" most closely mean as it is used in paragraph 6?
 - A. Harmful
 - B. Disappointing
 - C. Cruel
 - D. Unstable

5. PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?
 - A. "sugary drink consumption is a key driver of the obesity epidemic" (Paragraph 6)
 - B. "aggressive and predatory marketing" (Paragraph 6)
 - C. "sugary drinks and unhealthy foods" (Paragraph 6)
 - D. "KFC sells a half-gallon size with nearly 800 calories" (Paragraph 10)

6. According to the text, how have people's expectations for food and drink portions changed over the last 50 or 60 years? Cite evidence from the text in your response.

Discussion Questions

Directions: *Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.*

1. Re-read the New York State Court of Appeals ruling. The ruling states that the Board of Health “exceeded its regulatory authority.” What does this mean? And do you agree or disagree with this assertion?
2. Is this a balanced article? Why or why not?
3. Imagine that you are the CEO of Coca-Cola asked to testify in front of the New York State Court of Appeals. Outline the key points of your argument.
4. Opponents of the soda ban claim that people do not need someone to tell them how much they can and can’t drink—that people should self-regulate. Advocates of the soda ban claim that self-regulation is nearly impossible in an environment where 44 oz. sodas is the norm. What do you think? Do we need a government to help “protect us from ourselves”?