When French children could drink wine at school

What did you use to drink at school when you were a child? *(I used to drink...)*

Vocabulary

1. believed 2. legal 3. encouraged 4. allowed 5. slogans 6. permission

True Story

In the past, French children were _____ to drink wine at school. This might sound surprising, but it was normal in France until 1956. Back then, many people _____ that wine was good for health. Parents even packed wine in their children's lunch boxes. In some places, if schools didn't allow wine, parents gave their children wine at breakfast before school.

However, in 1956, things began to change. The government said that children under 14 years old could not drink wine at school. Older children could, but only a little and with their parents' _____. In 1981, all schools in France stopped allowing any alcohol. Instead, they _____ children to drink milk. They used _____ like "To be strong, drink milk!" Today, the _____ age to drink alcohol in France is 18 years. Drinking wine is still a big part of French culture, but not for young school children.

Quiz

1. What was normal in France until 1956?
2. What changed in 1956?
3. How did schools promote milk?
4. What is the legal drinking age in France today?

True or False

1. French children used to drink wine at school until 1956. True | False
2. Parents used to pack bottles of wine in their children's school bags. True | False
3. Schools used slogans like "To be sober, drink milk!" True | False

Conversation

A: Hugo, do you prefer red or white wine?
B: Hmm, teacher, I actually like rosé better.
A: Oh? Do you have a favorite kind?
B: I enjoy "La Vieille Ferme" after a game of rugby.
A: I'm impressed! Not every child knows their wines so well.
B: Thanks, I hope to be big and strong someday!

Discussion

1. Do you agree with your country's drinking laws?
2. Do you drink alcohol? If so, what drinks do you like?
3. Is there anything you did at school which children can't do these days?

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