

Almond History

and the **ALMOND FAMILY**

VOCABULARY

ancestry: family or ancestral descent

originated: begun or started

The **ancestry** of the almond is unknown, but almonds are thought to have **originated** in the Mediterranean area of Europe. Explorers ate almonds while traveling the Silk Road between the Mediterranean area, central Asia and eastern Asia. Before long, almond trees were being enjoyed by many different cultures, from China to India and beyond.

The almond tree was brought to California from Spain in the mid-1700s by the Franciscan padres. The moist, cool weather of the coastal missions, however, did not provide very good growing conditions. By the turn of the 20th century, almonds were firmly established in the Sacramento and San Joaquin areas of California's Central Valley.

Surprisingly, the almond is not a member of the nut family, but rather is actually a family member of stone fruits such as nectarines, peaches, plums and cherries. For this reason, some people refer to an almond as a fruit.

ACTIVITY

Follow the maze to see how almonds traveled from the Mediterranean area of Europe to India and beyond.

