



Historical Background

1. Salt was so precious in olden times that a good person was described as “The salt of the Earth”.
 2. Salt was first “mined” by the Chinese by drawing salty water or brine up through bamboo poles and evaporating it in clay dishes.
 3. Rome stopped repeated attacks from the city of Carthage by sowing its fields with salt. This early chemical warfare ensured nothing would grow.
 4. At medieval banquets, the rich sat at the top of the table and the poor were “below the salt”.
 5. Professional classes are paid a “salary”, from the French word “sel” for salt.
 6. Without salt, people could not preserve food and their annual winter starvation would be doubly difficult.
 7. Gandhi led a (relatively) peaceful revolution against the British in India. He insisted that people should be able to produce their own salt by evaporating sea water and not have to buy it from British monopoly producers.
 8. The manufacture of salt led to the development of great chemical and munition (equipment for war – guns, tanks & bombs) industries in Germany.
 9. Great profits were made in mining salt but conditions were terrible for the workers. Slaves, captured enemy soldiers and political prisoners were often “sent to the salt mines”.
 10. Salt is a natural antiseptic. During World War 2, before antibiotics had been developed, burned airmen were brought to Perth to bathe them in the sea to help heal their wounds. However, the treatment must have been painful, as is suggested by the old saying “to rub salt into the wound”.
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Your task

Five more fascinating facts about salt

Select one aspect of salt (sodium chloride) and research five more fascinating facts from a web search you have designed. Your report should answer the following questions.

Organisation planner

Question	Answer	Done
What is your time limit?		
What is your report's title?		
What key words or concepts will you use to refine your search?		
What is/are the reference URLs? (list these properly)		
What are your five fascinating facts?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	
Where in WA is table salt made?		

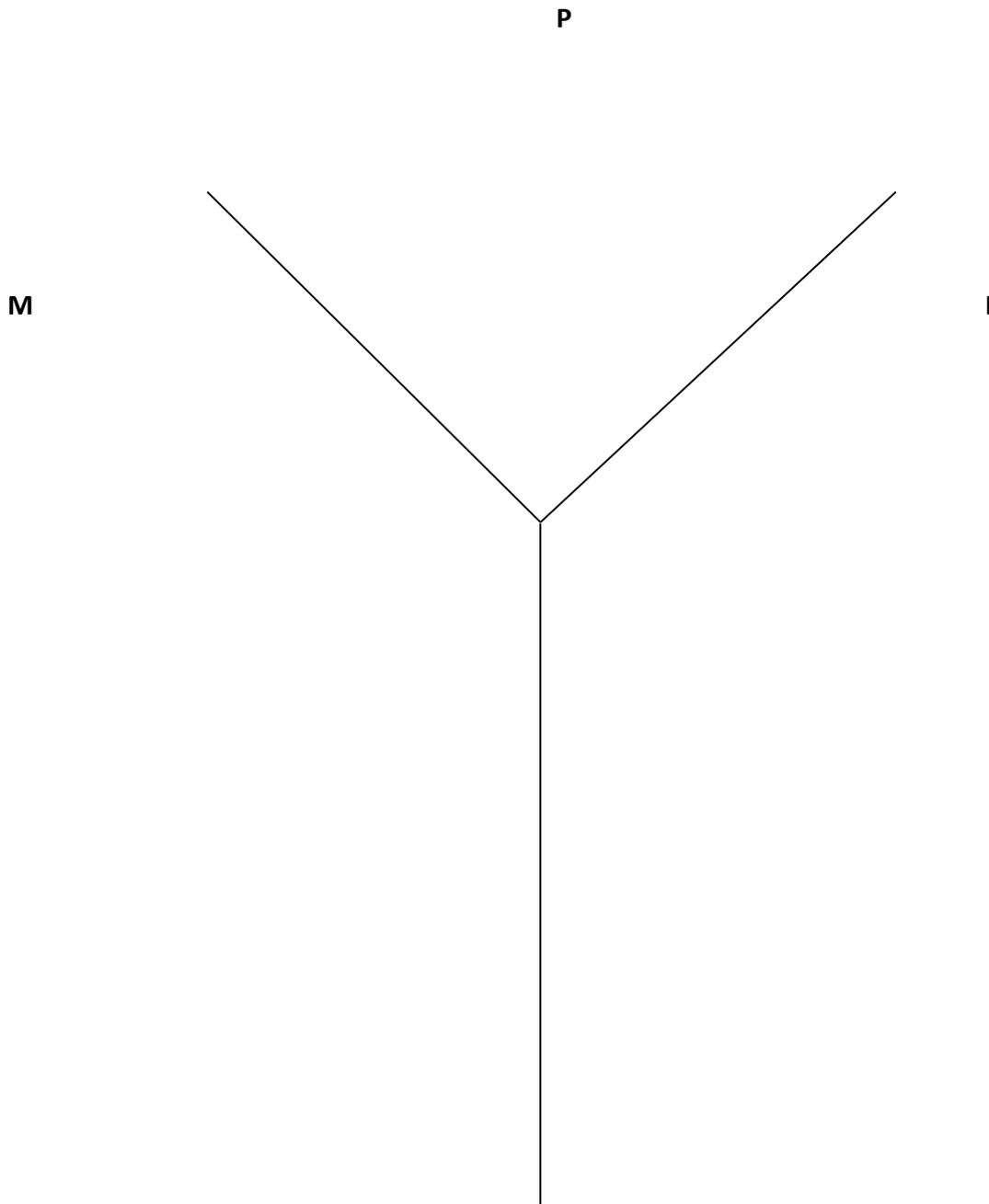
Share your findings and construct a PMI chart

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Plus, Minus and Interesting facts about salt



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