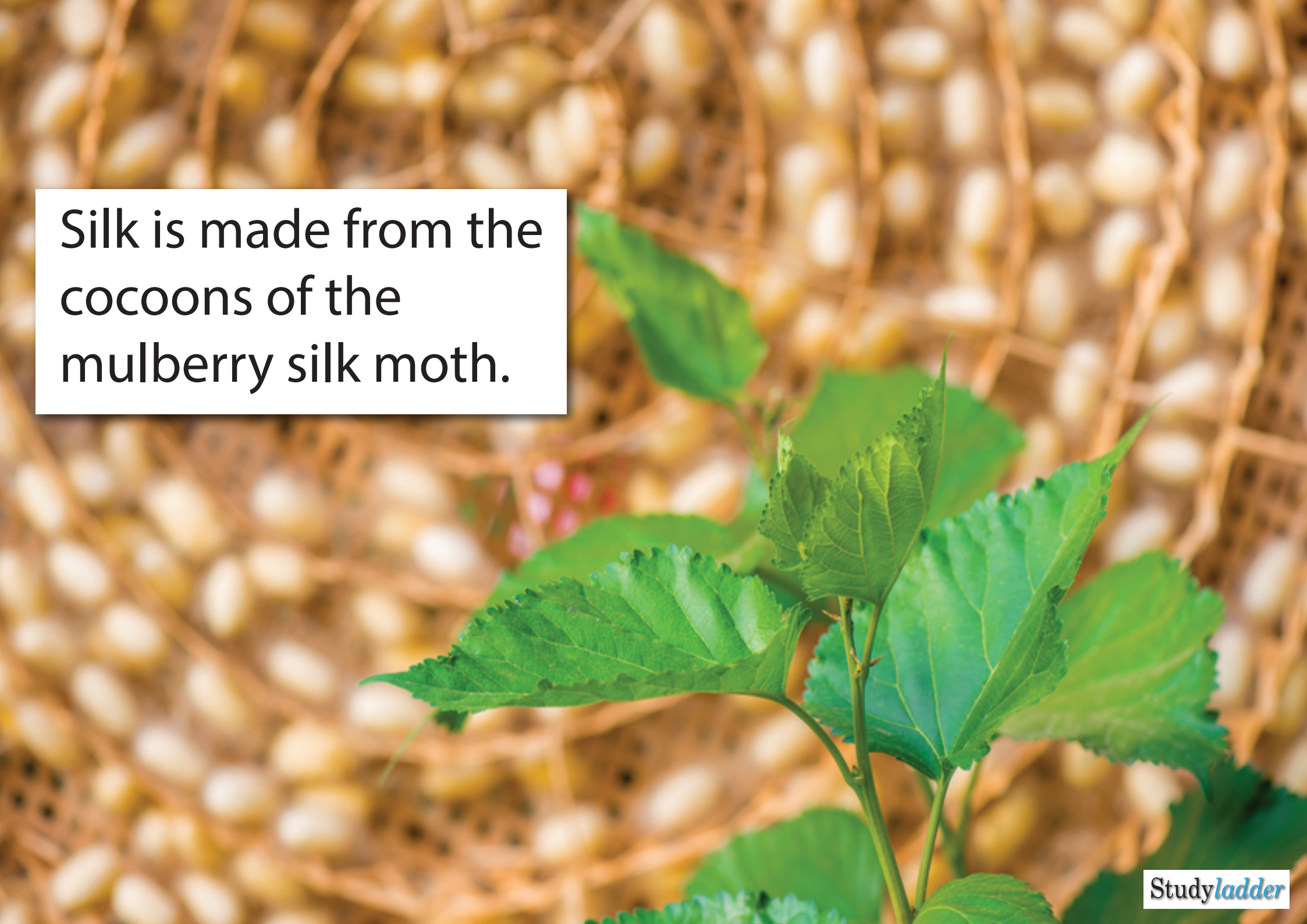


The background of the entire image is a close-up of a red silk fabric. The fabric has a rich, deep red color and a glossy sheen. It is covered in a repeating pattern of gold dragons, which are intricately detailed with scales, whiskers, and flowing manes. The dragons are positioned in various orientations, creating a dynamic and luxurious texture. The fabric is draped and folded, with light reflecting off the peaks of the folds and creating soft shadows in the valleys, emphasizing its smooth and fluid nature.

How is silk made?

Study*ladder*

A close-up photograph of a mulberry plant with several bright green, serrated leaves. The background is a dense, out-of-focus layer of dry, brown mulch or straw. Numerous small, white, oval-shaped silkworm cocoons are scattered throughout the background, some resting on the dry material and others on the leaves. A small cluster of red mulberry berries is visible in the middle ground, partially obscured by the leaves.

Silk is made from the cocoons of the mulberry silk moth.



Traditional methods of silk production involved washing, spinning, dyeing and weaving the thread by hand.



But now silk thread is produced and woven in factories.

Where was silk discovered?



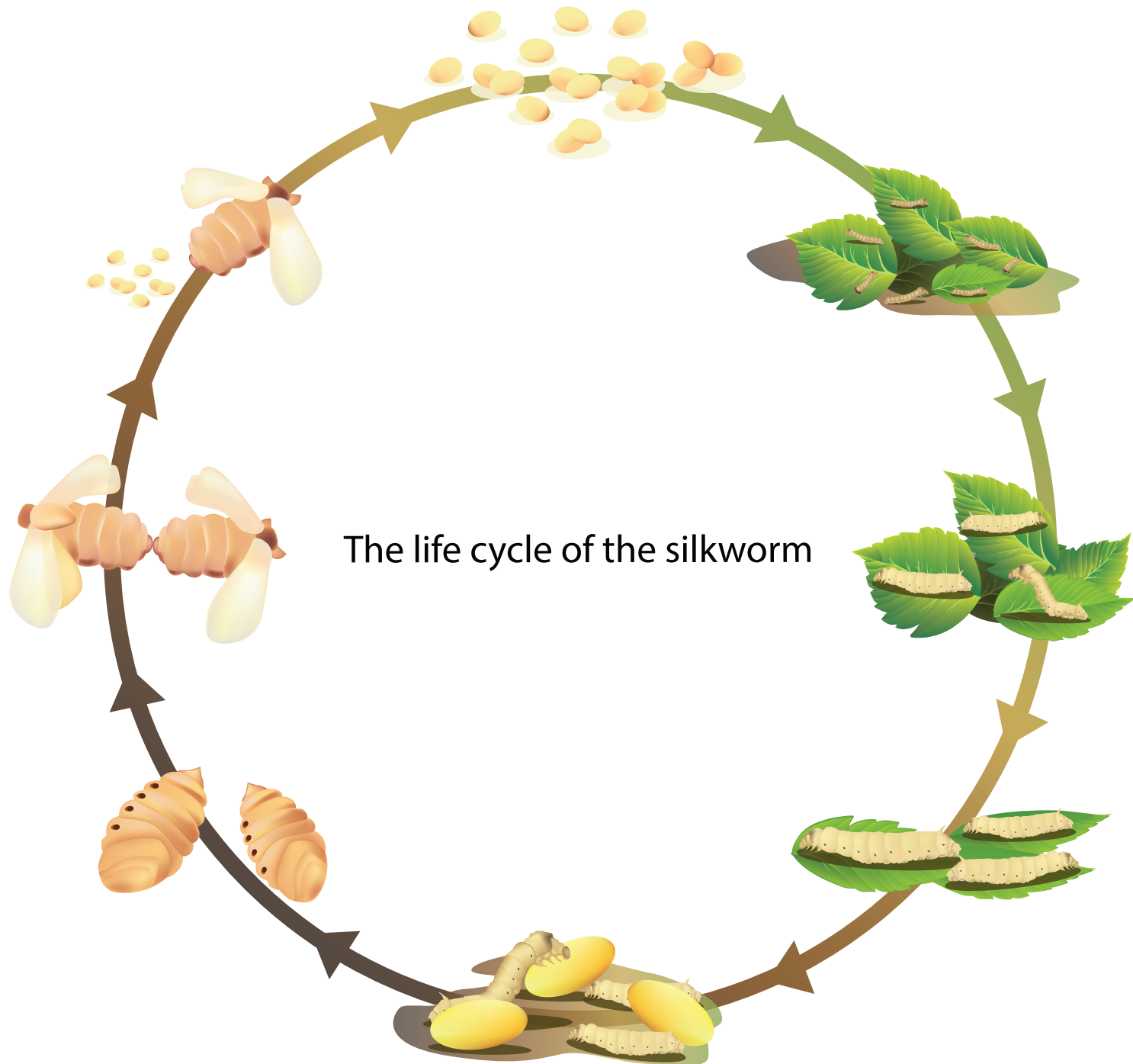
Silk originates from China.

According to Chinese legend, Empress Hsi Ling Shih was the first to discover it around 3000 BCE.

The empress was sitting under a mulberry tree having tea when a cocoon fell into her cup.

After watching the cocoon unravelling in her tea she wondered if the silky thread could be used for weaving.

She experimented with methods of production and soon China was making silk cloth of the finest quality.



The life cycle of the silkworm