



A “Bite” of Chocolate History

Name _____

Explore the websites listed. On a separate sheet of paper answer each question with complete sentences.

1. According to “The History of Chocolate” found in several of these websites who were the first people to use cacao?
2. What was another ancient civilization more popularly known for their use of the cacao tree? What did they make from the cocoa bean?
3. Chocolate was a luxury among the Mayan people during life and during death. Explain this.
4. As revealed in the article, when the Aztecs conquered Xoconochco they gained great access to the “best cacao plantations in the area”. Besides making a chocolate drink from the cocoa beans, what else did the Aztecs use the cocoa beans for?
5. What did the Europeans add to the bitter chocolate drink of the Aztecs and Mayas?
6. Did all Europeans immediately enjoy the sweetly flavored, chocolate drink?
7. What plant does chocolate come from?
8. What does the scientific name of the cacao tree’s fruit, “Theobroma Cacao”, mean?
9. How was this name fitting for the cacao tree’s fruit 2000 years ago?
10. Where in the mid-1600s did a Frenchman open the first hot chocolate shop?
11. When and where was the first chocolate factory opened?
12. When was the cocoa press invented? What was its significance to the chocolate world?
13. Where and how did Daniel Peter and Henri Nestle, develop milk chocolate?
14. Why was Milton Hershey called the “Henry Ford” of chocolate?
15. What other people are associated with chocolate that are now the name of a company or candy bar?

ANSWER KEY

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(Student answers should be in complete sentences and may vary depending upon the websites they used. There are differences of opinion in some areas of this history.)

1. According to “The History of Chocolate” in several of these websites who were the first people to use cacao?
The Olmecs or Mayans
2. What was another civilization more popularly known for their use of the cacao tree? What did they make from the cocoa bean?
The Mayas and the Aztecs; they made chocolate drinks
3. Chocolate was a luxury among the Mayan people during life and during death. Explain this.
Chocolate was such a luxury among the Maya people, that when nobles died a large jar containing the chocolate drink was put down in their tomb.
4. As revealed in the article, when the Aztecs conquered Xoconochco they gained great access to the “best cacao plantations in the area”. Besides making a chocolate drink from the cocoa beans, what else did the Aztecs use the cocoa beans for?
A source of money or as trade
5. What did the Europeans add to the bitter chocolate drink of the Aztecs and Mayas?
Sugar
6. Did all Europeans immediately enjoy the sweetly flavored, chocolate drink?
No, just upper class “high society” people; it took some time before it was cheap enough for more people to drink.
7. What plant does chocolate come from?
A cacao tree
8. What does the scientific name of the cacao tree’s fruit, “Theobroma Cacao”, mean?
Food of the gods

9. How was this name fitting for the cacao tree's fruit 2000 years ago?
Over 2,000 years ago the cacao bean was worshiped as an idol by the Maya Indians.
10. Where in the mid-1600s did a Frenchman open the first hot chocolate shop?
London
11. When and where was the first chocolate factory opened?
1765 in Massachusetts Bay Colony
12. When was the cocoa press invented? What was its significance to the chocolate world?
1825, the cocoa press enabled confectioners to make chocolate candy
13. Where and how did Daniel Peter and Henri Nestle, develop milk chocolate?
1876; by adding condensed milk to chocolate liquor
14. Why was Milton Hershey called the “Henry Ford” of chocolate?
He mass-produced a quality chocolate bar at an affordable price to all.
15. What other people are associated with chocolate that are now the name of a company or candy bar?
Cadbury, Mars, Clark, Ghirardelli