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The Ecuadorian cocoa boom (1870-1925)

The old province of Guayaquil, which included a good part of the Ecuadorian coastline, except Esmeraldas, harvested and exported cocoa from the Colony. At the beginning of the 17th century, an average of nine ships a year were sent to the viceroyalty of New Spain (Mexico), which was exchanged with luxury items and textiles.

The cocoa boom at its best reached 100,000 loads. Between the 1790s and 1800s, there were three million cacao trees on the coast, and each worker could tend up to a thousand trees.

This era of the "golden seed" was characterized by the possession of large estates. The owners were called "Gran Cacao", for their economic and political power, as well as for their continuous trips to Europe, especially to France.

Which government corresponds to the cocoa and banana boom?

The policies promoted by President Galo Plaza Lasso and his Minister of Economy Clemente Yerovi in 1948, allowed farmers greater access to loans and thus began the **banana** era in **Ecuador** and exports began to grow at rates higher than the of the **banana** countries .

History of Cacao

Cocoa production in America dates back many centuries, even before the arrival of the Spanish.

From the end of the 18th century, cocoa became a strategic product in the life of Ecuador. In 1779 we witnessed the first great cocoa boom that would last until 1842, it made possible to finance two great moments in national history: The Independence and the Liberal Revolution.

A century later, in the second half of the 19th century, particularly after 1870, there was a second boom in the production of the fruit on the international market. Ten years later, the cocoa boom intensified, reaching its climax around 1906 when Ecuador ranked first in production in the world. During the twenty years, between 1895-1913, the country

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remained the leading exporter of cocoa, supplying between 15-25% of international demand.

Until the end of the 19th century, the fertile soil conditions and the temperature, as well as the adequate rainfall of the Ecuadorian coast, made it the ideal setting to produce the finest cocoa in the world with excellent productivity levels: the National cocoa.

Vocabulary

1.- boom.- Sudden success or popularity.

2.- harvest.- gather (a crop) as a harvest.

3.- luxury.- the state of great comfort and extravagant living.

4.- tend up.- to be disposed or inclined in action, operation, or effect to do something

5.- policies.- a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, or individual.

6.- remained.- continue to exist, especially

MATCH WORDS WITH THE CORRESPONDING DEFINITION

1.- boom	**A)** be disposed
2.- policies	**B)** opulence
3.- harvest	**C)** success
4.- tend up	**D)** plans
5.- remained	**E)** crop
6.- luxury	**F)** persist

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