

UNIT 3 – CHOCOLATE!

READING COMPREHENSION SECTION

DATE: _____

1 Listen and read. TR: 3.8

The Story of Chocolate



The story of chocolate starts with the Olmecs and the Mayan people, who lived in the Americas more than 1,000 years ago. The Mayas had been growing cacao trees and using the seeds to make chocolate drinks for 2,000 years or more. In fact, scientists have analyzed chocolate residue from a ceramic "teapot." The results suggest that the Mayas were drinking chocolate as early as 2,600 years ago! Some artifacts show people pouring the liquid into cups. The Mayas also used the seeds as currency. With ten seeds they could buy a rabbit at the market.

The story continues with the Aztecs, who also loved chocolate and prepared it hot like the Mayas. But the Aztecs added spices so that it would taste better. Some rich people drank chocolate for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Some were even buried with chocolate so that they could take it with them to the next world. Between 1200 and 1500 CE, the Aztecs also used chocolate as currency. In fact, by 1500, people were paying thirty seeds for a rabbit.

Let's continue our journey. When the Spanish arrived in the Aztec capital in 1519 CE, they tried chocolate and hated it. Without sugar it was extremely bitter, so the Spanish mixed it with sugar. In 1528 CE, the Spanish took the Aztec seeds and recipe back to Spain so that they could drink chocolate there. Before this, no one in Europe knew about chocolate!



People say that the Aztec ruler Moctezuma II drank 50 cups of chocolate a day.





2 Complete the chart. Write the cause or effect of each action.

Cause	Effect
1. The Aztecs added another ingredient	
2.	so that they could enjoy chocolate in their next life.
3. The Spanish added sugar	
4.	so that they could enjoy it in their own country.

3 Read the text again. Write how chocolate changed over time in these ways.

1. People: The Olmecs and Mayas used it first. Then the Aztecs used it. Finally, the Spanish began to use chocolate.
2. Ingredients: _____
3. Chocolate as currency: _____

4 Work in a group of three. Retell the story of chocolate. Take turns.

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