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# THE HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE



The history of chocolate started in the country we know today as Mexico in the 7th century. (Year 600 AD)

Cocoa became very important in the Aztec culture. They believed that their God had given the cocoa tree to them. It was also the main food in their diet. They even used the cocoa beans instead of money. You could buy everything with cocoa beans, just as you buy now with euros.



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The Mayas and Aztecs used the cocoa beans to make a drink called "xocolat". They mixed cocoa with corn, chilli and spices and then boiled it.



Aztec Emperor Moctezuma considered chocolate as a luxury drink and served it in golden cups to his most important visitors. When the Hernán Cortés reached Mexico in 1519, he was received with a great ceremony. Cortes gave Moctezuma a necklace made of stones and Moctezuma offered him gold, feathers, pearls a thick cup of chocolate. Cortés was very surprised at the bitter taste of the chocolate but he soon got to like it.



→ XOCOLAT

When Cortés returned to Spain from Mexico in 1528, he filled his sailing boats with cocoa beans and chocolate drink-making equipment (chilly pepper, cornmeal and spices).



Soon the rich people in Spain started drinking chocolate. They had to bring the cocoa beans from America so cocoa was very expensive so the special chocolate drink was only for rich people like the King and the Queen and the Court.