

History Tasks: The History of Chocolate

Chocolate is enjoyed by millions of people, across the globe. It can be found in many different forms: from chocolate bars to a hot drink, from eggs to pasta, but where did our love of chocolate come from? Here is your chance to look at the history of chocolate and find out more about the enjoyable treat. Use the timeline below to help to create an imaginative project on the history of chocolate. You can create anything you would like from the research you complete. I have given you some ideas with each area of history, but you are not limited to them, remember, be creative. I have put some links at the bottom that you can use, they will help you research different areas of chocolate's history. If you discover an area you are really interested in, then focus on that area and find out as much as you can.

1500 - 400 BC

First recorded use of cacao beans by the Olmec Indians in Mexico.



Travel back 3500 years. The first recorded use of cacao beans was linked to the Olmec Indians. Find out about the Olmec Indians of Mexico. What were these people like? How did they live? What did they produce? And what did cacao mean to them? You could find out about their gods, they could inspire you to create your own god, maybe of chocolate! You could find out about their big heads and how they invented rubber balls (yes – footballs!) and what they did with them. You could even try taking some very dark chocolate and adding flavouring to it to create your own chocolate. I wonder what chilli chocolate tastes like? Remember to take photos and write up the recipe.

900 - 250 BC

The ancient Maya of Mexico and central America made cacao into a spicy drink mixed with chili.



Travel to 900 BCE (2900 years ago). The Mayans are well known for their love of chocolate, but not as we know it. Find out more about the Mayans, their customs, lifestyles and their diets. Find out about their homes, their foods, the pyramids and football... yes football! How did the Mayans enjoy their chocolate? Maybe you could make your own Mayan pyramid or house, you could use Minecraft or Lego or reproduce one of their chocolate recipes. You could compare the Mayans to the Olmec Indians. How are they similar, how do they differ? You could find out more about the ball games that they played, how similar was it to the ball games that we play today?

1502

Christopher Columbus was the first European to come into contact with cacao.



Christopher Columbus went on a voyage and returned to Europe with chocolate. Find out more about his journey and what happened when he reached South America. You could plot his journey on a map and even investigate other journeys that he made. You can find out the impact of his discovery on Europe – did they like chocolate? What did they use it for? How did the purpose of chocolate change? You could create a timeline of chocolate in Europe or a snakes and ladders game for the popularity of chocolate in Europe through time.

1830

J.S. Fry and Sons of England produced the first ever moulded bar of eating chocolate.



We do not just drink chocolate like the Mayans and in 1600 in Europe, so where did the chocolate bar that we enjoy come from? Investigate the production of the early chocolate bars and the producers behind them. Find out more about chocolate makers such as: Nestle, Cadburys, Rowntree and Lindt. Find out about the history of advertisement and how important that it was for the sale of chocolate such as the Easter egg and chocolates on Valentine's day. You could create your own advertisement or design your own chocolate bar with different flavours. Find out more about the history of your favourite chocolate treat such as Mars Bars or cream eggs.

Other activities

Investigate the differences and similarities between the Mayans and the Aztecs and find out the battle over chocolate.

Look at the problems that the love of chocolate has caused and investigate fair trade.

Using the evidence of your research, create a rap song about the history of chocolate.

Create a fact file for a chocolate maker such as John Cadbury or J S Fry.

Create a board game about the Mayans, the Olmec Indians, the Aztecs or all three.

Create a set of top trump cards about chocolate.

Resource links (These links have been checked however, please remember to check with an adult before watching the you tube links)

History of chocolate - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-PIgY4Wr23c> - Bedtime History

Olmec Indians- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uURRfJu4mNc> (Edyoutoo video -education)

Mayans-<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zq6svcw-> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zay4WRJKc0k> - BBC Teach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTCSTUfRTMA>- BBC Teach https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=212_i8f6YtY - BBC Teach

Christopher Columbus - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt7IiKuYMBY>- BBC Teach

Chocolate production- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGaLWuLzHBU>- Choco <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJ-1snuKJ7o> - Kew Gardens