

Cacao Connections

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Review the list of questions that follows. Use **four different colors** (or symbols if colors are not available) to circle each question number according to its QAR type:

- **Right There** - Green
- **Think and Search** - Blue
- **Author and Me** - Yellow
- **On My Own** - Red

The History of Chocolate

Thousands of years ago, the Maya and Aztec civilizations in Central America used cacao beans to make a bitter, frothy drink. This drink was considered special, often used in ceremonies or given to warriors for strength. When Spanish explorers arrived in the 1500s, they brought cacao back to Europe. There, sugar and milk were added, transforming the drink into something sweet and popular. By the 1800s, advances in machinery allowed chocolate to be mass-produced in solid bar form. Chocolate quickly spread across the world, becoming a favorite treat for people of all ages. Today, chocolate is not only enjoyed as candy but also used in cakes, drinks, and even savory dishes. Despite its sweet reputation, historians remind us that chocolate began as a bitter, ceremonial drink tied to culture and tradition.



1. Which civilizations first used cacao beans to make a drink?
2. How did chocolate change when it was introduced to Europe?
3. Do you think chocolate would have become popular without the addition of sugar and milk? Why or why not?
4. How do you personally like to enjoy chocolate?
5. What role did technology play in making chocolate more widely available?
6. According to the passage, why was chocolate originally considered special?
7. How does the passage show both cultural and technological changes in the history of chocolate?