

READING

Comprehension

Name: _____

Date: _____

Read the story and answer the questions.








The History of Chocolate



The Aztecs made a special drink from cacao beans. They mixed cacao with vanilla, black pepper and honey. Then they poured the drink from height so it had foam. The drink wasn't very sweet, and the Aztecs called it Cacahuatl or "bitter water". Only the king and the nobles drank Cacahuatl. Some people say that the Aztec king Moctezuma II drank 50 cups of Cacahuatl a day. When Hernan Cortes came to Mexico, Moctezuma gave him a Golden cup full of this precious drink. Hernan Cortes took three chests of cacao beans back to Spain with him in 1528. At first, nobody liked the strange drink. Someone added hot water and sugar to the cacao beans and this drink became popular.

The Spaniards tried to keep the recipe secret, but slowly it spread across Europe. By the 1700s, there were chocolate shops in many European cities. Chocolate was very expensive. Only rich people could buy it. In the early 1800s, a doctor in England invented a new chocolate recipe. He added milk instead of water to the mixture of sugar and cacao. Children started drinking hot chocolate, and it became even more popular. The next step in the transformation of the cacao bean happened in Holland. In 1828, Conrad van Houten made cocoa butter and cocoa powder from the beans. This was the start of solid chocolate. With this new method, a company called Fry's of England made the first chocolate bar in 1847. Then in 1876, the Swiss company Nestle added milk to the recipe and made the first milk chocolate bar. At first, chocolate bars were very expensive, but then, in 1894, Hershey's made the first cheap chocolate bar. Other chocolate companies did the same, and soon ordinary people were buying chocolate in stores all over the world.

-  What did an England doctor add to the recipe?
-  Who made the first cheap chocolate bar?
-  How many chests did Hernan Cortes take to Spain?
-  What did the Aztecs mix with cacao?
-  What was the drink called?