

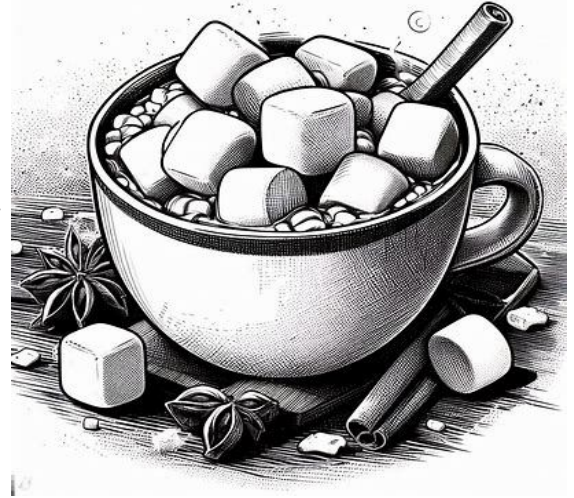


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Story of Hot Cocoa

Do you love sipping on a warm, chocolatey drink during chilly days? Hot cocoa has been a comforting treat for centuries! Its story goes back a long, long time.

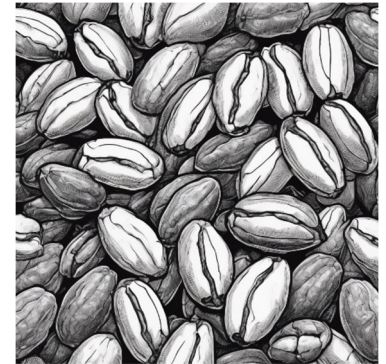
The story begins in ancient Central America where the Mayans were the first to enjoy a special drink made from cacao beans. They grew cacao trees and turned the beans into a frothy, bitter drink. To make it, they ground the cacao beans into a paste, mixed it with water, and added spices like chili peppers or cinnamon for flavor. It wasn't sweet like the hot cocoa we have today, but it was an important part of their culture and ceremonies.



Later on, the Aztecs, who lived near the area, also loved this cocoa drink. They called it xocolātl" (pronounced sho-co-LAH-tuhl) and valued it so much that they used cacao beans as money!

When explorers from Spain arrived in Central America in the 16th century, they discovered this unique drink. At first, they found it too bitter, but they brought cacao beans back to Europe. Soon, people started adding sugar or honey to sweeten it, making it more like the hot cocoa we enjoy today.

By the 17th century, hot cocoa became a fashionable drink among the wealthy in Europe. It spread to different countries, each adding its own twist with ingredients like milk, vanilla, or even more sugar. People found it so delicious that it became popular everywhere!



cocoa beans

Fast forward to today, and hot cocoa is a beloved drink all around the world. From cozy nights by the fireplace to chilly winter mornings, a cup of hot cocoa continues to bring warmth and joy to people of all ages.

Next time you sip on a mug of hot cocoa, remember its long journey from ancient Central America to your favorite cup - a delicious history that brings smiles to faces everywhere.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Story of Hot Cocoa

1. How did the Mayans make their special cocoa drink? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. How did people in Europe make the drink less bitter? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What else did the Aztecs use cacao beans for?

- a. to make jewelry
- b. to trade as currency
- c. to make clothing dye
- d. to feed their animals

4. When did hot cocoa become a fashionable drink among the wealthy in Europe?

- a. 15th century
- b. 17th century
- c. 19th century
- d. 21st century

5. What does the second picture in the passage help the reader understand about the text? \_\_\_\_\_

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