



Key Questions

How do we know about the Maya if they lived so long ago?

How do we know chocolate was used by the Maya?

What was different about the way the cacao plant was used by the Mayan and Aztec Empires?

How and why did cocoa come to Europe?

Location



- Chocolate grows near to the equator (Geography link)
- Evidence of the first use of chocolate was from Central America.
- It may have been used before the Maya civilisation but there is no definite proof.

Key Vocabulary

Ancient	<i>Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence</i>
Civilisation	People that live together in large well organised groups and follow the same rules and beliefs.
Evidence	A sign that shows something really happened
Trade	A style that is from the past.
Exploration	The action of searching a new area
Import	To bring in from another country, especially as something to be sold.
Invention	A new thing someone has made.
BC	Referring to the years before the year 0 - Before Christ
AD	Referring to the years after the year 0 - Anno Domini

Maya Civilisation

The ancient Maya of Central America made cacao into a spicy drink mixed with chilli.



Aztec Civilisation

The Aztecs used cacao for trade and cacao seeds as a form of money.



Spanish Exploration

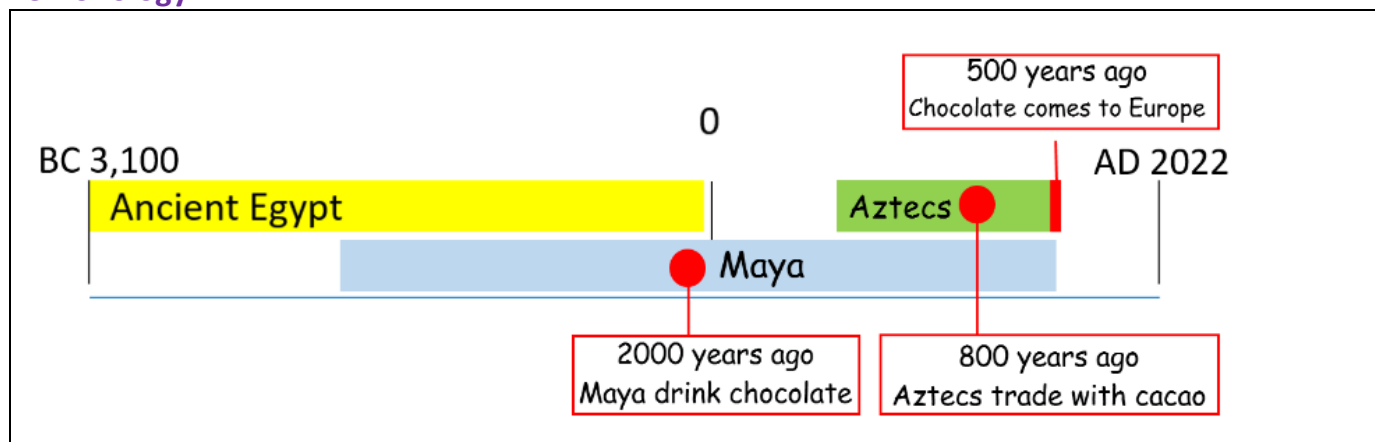
Christopher Columbus was the first European to come into contact with cacao 500 years ago. The Spanish brought cacao home and started flavouring it with cinnamon and sugar.



Chocolate Comes to England

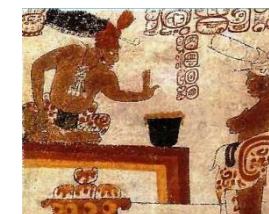
The first chocolate house was opened in London. Cacao was very expensive import and only those with money could afford it. 190 years ago, the first moulded chocolate bar was invented by JS Fry and Sons

Chronology



Sources

Pictures / Paintings	Artefacts	Building remains
----------------------	-----------	------------------



Testing chocolate drinks

Evidence from a painting on a Maya vase.