



# CHOCOLATE

Learning Objective:

To know how the cocoa bean came to Europe



So, we now know that the cocoa bean originated in Mesoamerica over 3000 years ago! But how did it arrive in Europe, and eventually the UK?  
Let's find out...



In 1502, the Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus, travelled to Mesoamerica with the support of the Spanish monarchy. He first discovered cocoa beans when he raided a Mayan trader's cargo. He thought that they were a kind of nut, and noted that

"They [the Mayans] seemed to hold these...at a great price; I observed that when any of these almonds fell, they all stooped to pick it up, as if an eye had fallen".

Amongst many other new foods, Columbus took the beans back to Spain with him. However, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella showed little interest in the strange bean, finding the other edible treasures far more exotic and interesting.



Christopher Columbus  
c.1451-1506





Hernan Cortes  
1485-1547

In 1519, Hernan Cortes, a Spanish explorer, sailed to Mesoamerica in the hopes of claiming the land for his country. On his arrival, the leader of the Aztecs, King Montezuma II, thought that he was the god Quetzalcoatl, who had returned from paradise as had been promised! The King gave him lots of gifts, including cocoa beans, and Cortes tasted the drink xocoatl for the first time. After conquering the Aztec Empire, he returned to Spain in 1528, taking the cocoa beans, along with the recipe for xocoatl and the tools needed to make it.

Interest in the strange bean increased when Spanish cooks began experimenting with the recipe for xocoatl by adding sugar. This helped to sweeten the bitter taste, and its popularity increased. The Spanish drank the beverage as a medicine for health and energy – they even consumed it during church services and Lent! They kept their knowledge of the cocoa bean a secret, and did not share it with anyone else.



Scene showing the preparation of chocolate in Spain, c. 17th century



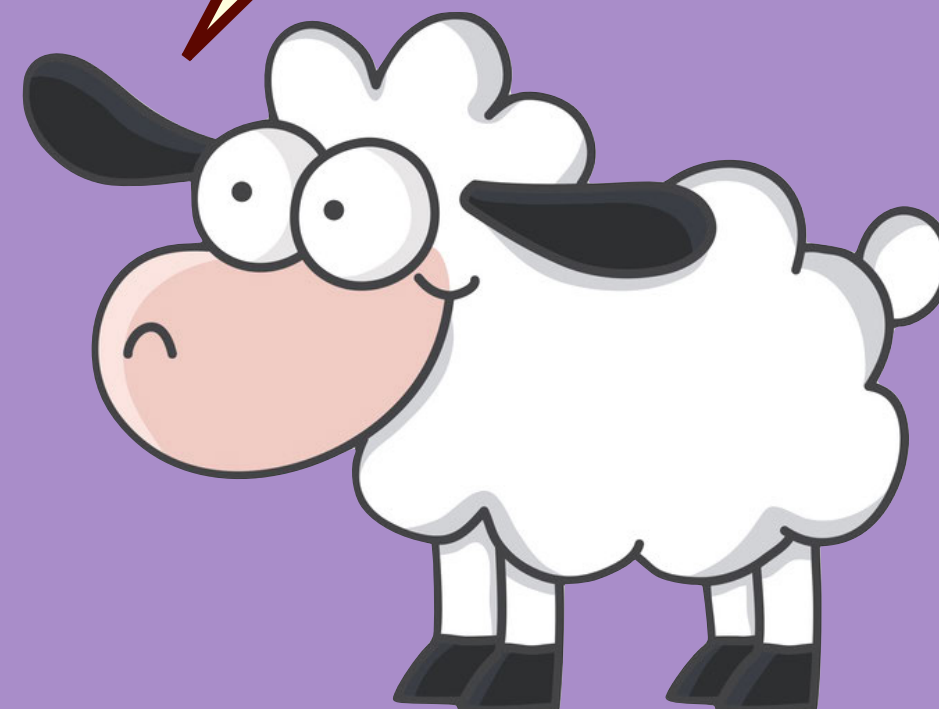


In 1579, some English pirates came very close to discovering the secret of cocoa – they attacked a Spanish ship carrying the beans, but thought that they were just dried sheep droppings, and so burnt the ship and its cargo in anger!



Sheep droppings!

I guess they do look a little similar...!



Cocoa beans



Chocolate was introduced to France in 1615, at the wedding of King Louis XII and Anne of Austria. It was considered a luxury fit only for the nobility.



Louis XV

1710-1774

The French king who was the biggest chocolate fan was Louis XV, who reigned from 1715-1774. He made his own chocolate in his private apartments, and had special pots to keep it warm, along with special cups to drink it from. He even wrote his own recipe for it!

“Place the same quantity of chocolate bars and glasses of water in a coffee maker and boil gently; when you are ready to serve, place one egg yolk for four servings and stir over a gentle heat but do not boil.”



When Marie Antoinette married the future King Louis XVI in 1770, she brought her own servant who was entitled 'Chocolate Maker to the Queen.' He invented new recipes with the addition of ingredients such as orange blossom and almonds. Marie Antoinette was said to have started each day with a cup of thick, creamy hot chocolate topped with even more cream!



Marie Antoinette  
1755-1793





Let's jump back a bit in history to 1657 – this was when chocolate came to the UK!



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A chocolate pot used to serve the drink from.

The first chocolate houses opened in London in the same year. However, the beverage was still expensive to buy, and the houses were only open to wealthy men (women were not allowed) who went there to drink chocolate, gamble and talk about politics.





Up until the 1700's, chocolate was made in almost exactly the same way that the Mayans had made it hundreds of years ago. But this soon began to change...

The Industrial Revolution began in 1760. It was a time when new manufacturing processes were introduced — the increased use of machines instead of making products by hand meant that it became quicker, easier and cheaper to mass produce many items.



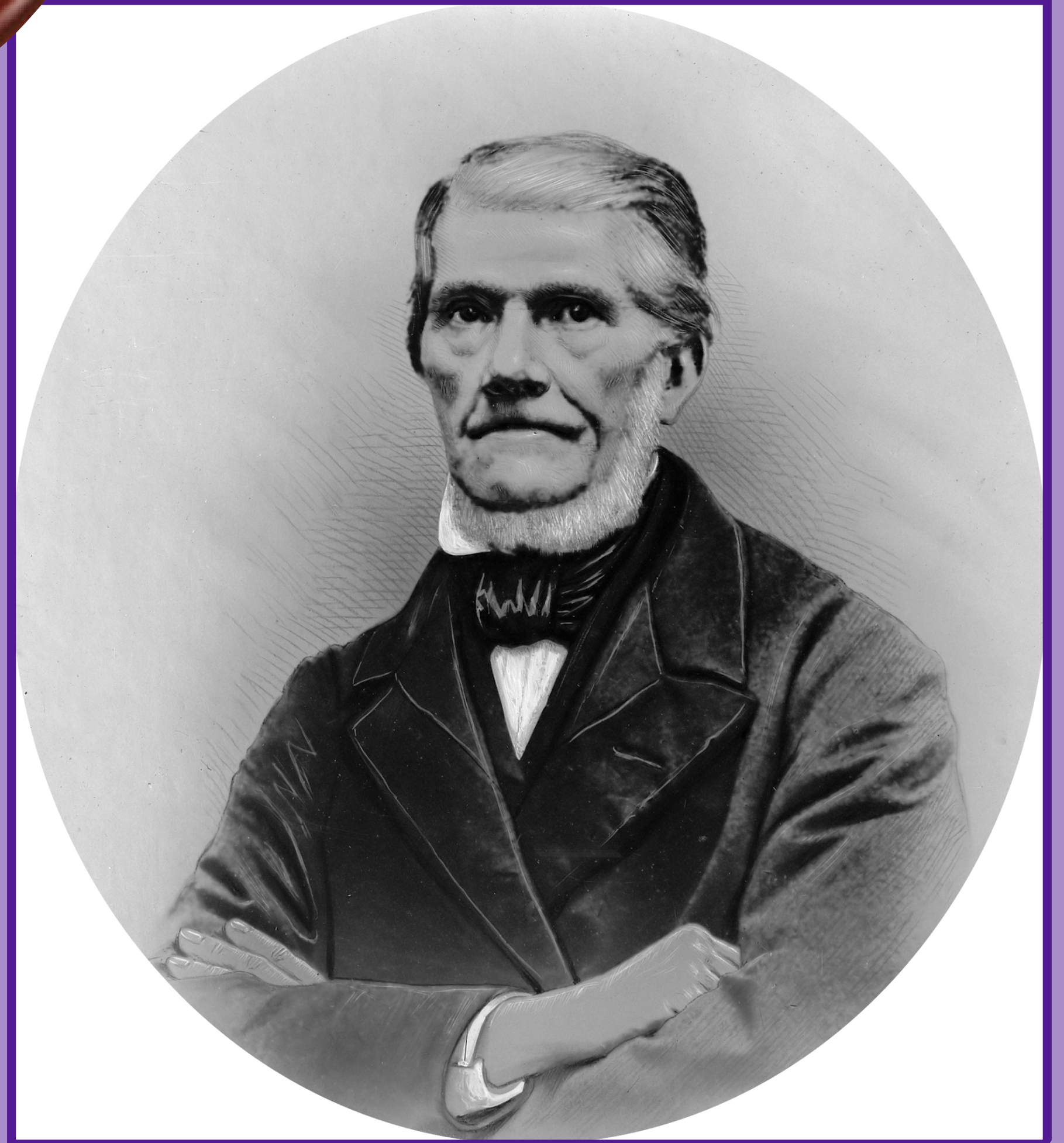




Because of the ease of production,  
chocolate became more affordable  
— now it could be enjoyed by  
everyone, and not just the  
wealthiest people in society.



In 1828, Coenraad van Houten, a Dutchman, designed the cocoa press. This revolutionary machine made it possible to separate the cocoa powder from the cocoa butter in each bean. This meant that chocolatiers could now experiment with different amounts of the two parts of the bean, and make different flavours!



Coenraad van Houten  
1801-1887



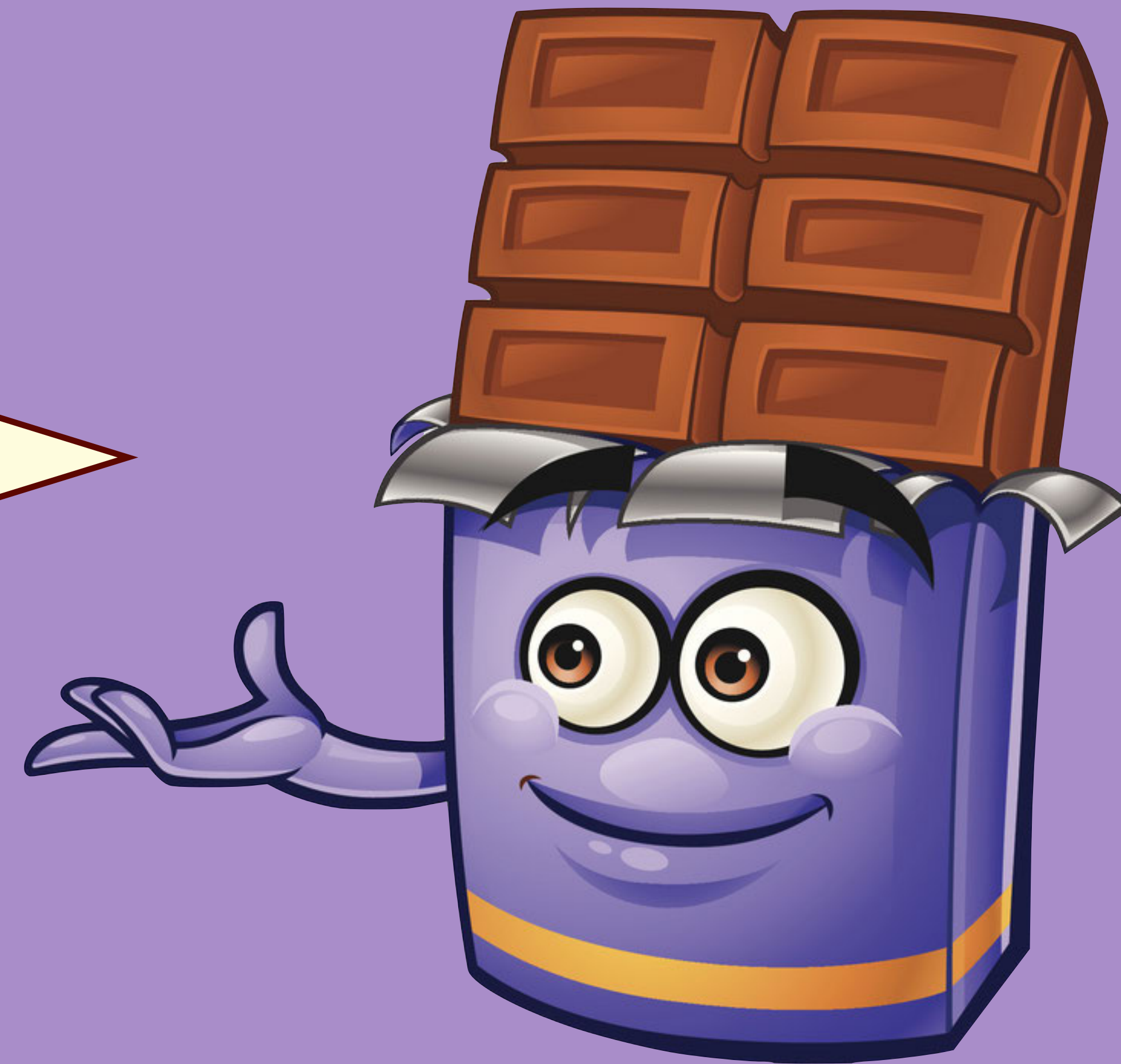


An early advertisement for Fry's Cocoa and Chocolate.

In 1847, the world's first chocolate bar was invented by the Fry Company. It was made from a mixture of cocoa powder, sugar, and a small amount of cocoa butter, which meant that it could be moulded and set into a bar shape. It would probably have had a rougher texture and a more bitter taste compared to the chocolate we eat now.



The arrival and spread in popularity of chocolate in Europe was viewed differently by people throughout this time period. Now it's time to put yourself into their shoes...





Plenary:



Let's see how much you  
remember about how the cocoa  
bean came to Europe....!

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Who thought the cocoa bean was a type of nut when he raided a Mayan trader who was carrying them?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Christopher  
Columbus!



Let's try another one....

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Who did King Moctezuma  
II believe that Hernan  
Cortes was at first?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Quetzalcoatl,  
an Aztec god!



Let's try another one....





What did Spanish cooks add  
to the recipe to make  
xocoatl taste less bitter?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Sugar!



Let's try another one....

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What did some English pirates who were raiding a Spanish ship mistake some cocoa beans for?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Sheep  
droppings!



Let's try another one....

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Which French king was  
the greatest lover of the  
chocolate drink?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



King Louis XV!



Let's try another one....

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Which French queen had  
her own exclusive  
'chocolate maker'?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Marie  
Antoinette!



Let's try another one....

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In which year did  
chocolate first arrive  
in the UK?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



1657!



Let's try another one....

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What began in 1760  
that changed the way  
many items, including  
chocolate, were  
manufactured?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



The Industrial  
Revolution!



Let's try another one....

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Next





Which company  
invented the world's  
first chocolate bar?

Think, pair, then share your ideas.



Frys!



Well done!

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