

From *Kakawa* to Chocolate: The Evolution of Chocolate throughout History

Grade Levels—6-8

Standards—

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for History:

8.1.6A, 8.1.6C, 8.1.6D, 8.2.6A, 8.4.6A, 8.4.6B, 8.4.6C, 8.4.6D

Pennsylvania Academic Standards for Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening

1.1.8B, 1.1.8D, 1.3.8F, 1.6.8A, 1.6.8C, 1.6.8D

Materials Needed—

- Computers with internet access
- Printout of [graphic organizer worksheet](#) (class set)
- Butcher paper (optional)

Teacher Background—

This lesson is intended to illustrate to students how a product, chocolate in this case, changes throughout history due to shifts in technology and culture. By completing this lesson, students will arrive at *The Hershey Story* with an understanding of how chocolate has evolved throughout the years and what Milton Hershey's role was in chocolate's evolution. Students should also begin to understand how the place and time period in which they lived influences their personal tastes. Upon completing the visit to the museum, students can extend their focus on chocolate and its impact on history by completing the post-visit lesson "Cupid's Ambassador: The Cultural Impact of Chocolate."

Essential Question—

What historical forces shaped how people consume chocolate? (Post this question in a visible location in your classroom)

Vocabulary—(Have these words and definitions posted in your classroom)

1. cacao bean—seed from the tropical cacao tree used in making chocolate
2. aristocracy—the ruling class; nobility
3. industrial revolution—the rapid shift from home-based hand manufacturing to large-scale factory production
4. dutching—the addition of alkalai to cocoa powder to make it easier to mix; makes cocoa powder milder, less bitter tasting

5. mass production—the manufacture of goods in large quantities, often using standardized designs and assembly-line techniques

Activating Strategies—

Step 1—Think-Pair-Share

Ask students to individually list what chocolate tastes like. Have students share their list with a partner or small group and compile a group list. Groups share with the class.

Step 2—Explain to students that chocolate was originally a bitter, adult drink; the cacao beans were used as money and only the rich could afford the luxury of chocolate.

Step 3—Ask class the essential question: What historical forces shaped how people consume chocolate? Explain that the class will investigate this question to find out larger truths like the importance of the time period and region you live in determining your personal tastes.

Teaching Strategy—

Step 1—Divide students into 5 groups.

Step 2—Accessing the website www.allchocolate.com, students will work in their groups to read and fill out a graphic organizer that focuses on the important changes in how chocolate has been consumed. Each group will be assigned a different page in The History of Chocolate section of the website: The Pre-Columbian Experience, Chocolate's European debut, The Chocolate Enlightenment, Chocolate Goes Industrial, and The People's Treat.

Step 3—Each group will read its assigned page while filling out the graphic organizer. The members of each group will be sure to have the same information and see that all members understand and can relate the information to others.

Step 4—Various options on reporting each groups information back to the class exists:

Option A—New groups are formed comprised of at least one member from each of the original groups. Each student shares information from their original group. The graphic organizer is filled out as each student shares their information.

Option B—Each group presents its information to the class. Try to have each group member involved in the presentation.

Option C—Each group presents its information in a creative way to the class. The teacher may want to give a filled out copy of the graphic organizer to the class if this option is chosen to save time. Examples of creative presentations could include: a dramatic portrayal, a collage mural, or a PowerPoint timeline.

Step 5—Student Reflection:

Answer the essential question and/or answer, “If I were magically transported to the royal court of Spain in the 1600s, what would I think of chocolate and how would I consume it?”

Step 6—Students will now be ready to visit The Hershey Story museum with a basic knowledge of how chocolate has changed over the years. If you plan on using the post-visit lesson “Cupid’s Ambassador: The Cultural Impact of Chocolate,” you will want to shift the focus from how history has changed chocolate to how chocolate has changed history.

Summarizing Strategies—

1. Graphic Organizer
2. Group presentations
3. Student Reflection

From *Kakawa* to Chocolate Note Organizer

1. www.allchocolate.com
2. click on Understanding Chocolate
3. click on The Rich History of Chocolate
4. click on your assigned page

Web Page	How was chocolate consumed?	What events or technology changed how chocolate was consumed?
The Pre-Columbian Experience (1200 B.C.-1492 A.D.)		
Chocolate's European Debut (16 th -17 th centuries)		
The Chocolate Enlightenment (18 th century)		
Chocolate Goes Industrial (19 th century)		
The People's Treat (20 th -21 st centuries)		
What historical forces shaped how people consume chocolate?		

