

EL CHOCOLATE



The story of chocolate begins in Mexico. Quetzalcóatl the morning star God descended upon the Toltec people in the city of Tollan. The city had two resident gods: Tláloc (rain god- and his wife Xochiquetzal the goddess of love and happiness. Quetzalcóatl taught the Toltec people the change of seasons for planting, the art of clay and the movement of the stars. He wanted to give them a special gift. He stole from the gods a small red bush with dark red flowers. He asks Tláloc to water it and Xochiquetzal to make it bloom. Quetzalcóatl picked the pods and grinded them into fine powder making a bitter beverage. The powder mixed with water was called chocolatl. The Mayas called it kakau because it was a bitter drink. The legend says Quetzacóalt was punished by the gods by transforming the chocolatl bush into dry plants with thorns called Agave. Ashamed he left towards the land of Tabasco where he planted the last seed of cacao. He left behind the last gift of the morning star to his beloved people of Mexico. The Mayas and the Aztecs continued using the bitter drink and cocoa pods became a currency. Aztecs believed that wisdom and power came from drinking the chocolatl. Hernán de Cortés bought a slave for 100 cocoa beans and you could buy an avocado or fish for three beans. Cortés started a cacao plantation to grow money. Cortés presented the drink to the King of Spain Charles V. He believed that by mixing the chocolatl with sugar, cinnamon, vanilla and spice it could become a delightful drink. The results were amazing and years later the beverage became very popular all over Europe and all over the world.

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Q P T P O C W F Q H D C C X Z
Y U I R O M J T S P H A V X G
M V E R X V L A T O V G S F R
U O T T C T C B C I E N E A A
S É N U Z E G O I L C K L Z N
S A V E T A L O C O H C R Ú O
F D C Z D A L E N A C E A C D
U M A E T A N C X B Y V H A E
O A O L T Z Q L Ó H A A C R C
D H K G W L O I J A F G W R A
U U Y A J A O J K O T A B K C
D F V J K R O T Y U K L L N A
C O N Q U I S T A D O R E S O
O A K O X O E J E S P A Ñ A M
I O C X K J W F Z S Y X I N D

Quetzalcóatl

Kakau

Chocolatl

Toltecas

Conquistadores

España

aztecas

chocolate

Cortés

Agave

grano de cacao

moneda

azúcar

Charles V

canela

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1. What gift did Quetzalcóatl gave to the Toltec in Mexico?

2. What did Quetzalcóatl ask Xochiquetzal and Tláloc to do for his red bush?

3. What did Quetzalcóatl do with the fruit of the red bush?

4. What was the taste of the Chocolatl?

5. What role Hernan Cortes played in transforming "chocolatl" into "chocolate"?

COLOREA EL DIOS AZTECA

