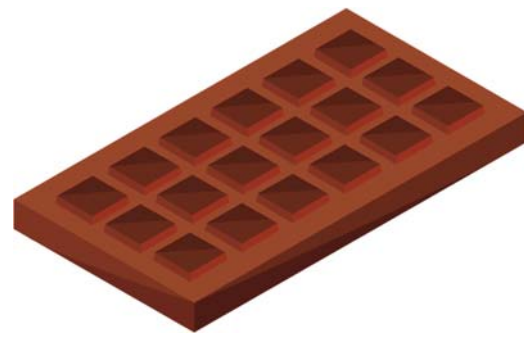


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Sweet Journey of Chocolate Bars

Do you love chocolate bars? Many of us do! But do you know where chocolate bars come from and how they became such a tasty treat? Let's explore the history of chocolate bars and find out!

Long ago, chocolate was not a sweet treat like we know it today. It started as a bitter drink made by the ancient Mayans and Aztecs in Central and South America. They would mix ground cocoa beans with water, spices, and sometimes chili peppers to create a spicy and frothy drink. It was nothing like the chocolate bars we enjoy today!

The Mayans and Aztecs considered cocoa beans so valuable that they used them as money. Imagine paying for things with chocolate! They also believed that cocoa had magical properties and used it in religious ceremonies.

It wasn't until the 16th century when Spanish explorers like Christopher Columbus and Hernán Cortés discovered chocolate in the Americas and brought it back to Europe. At first, chocolate was still a drink for the rich and powerful. It was mixed with sugar and other ingredients to make it taste sweeter.

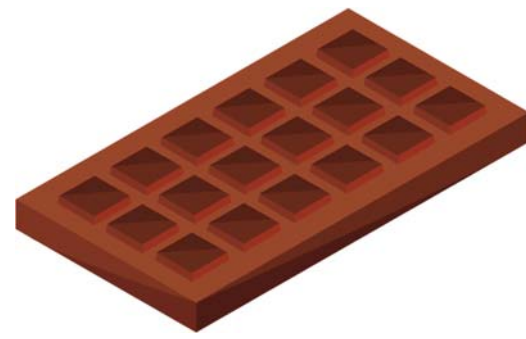
In the 19th century, chocolate started to change. A man named Joseph Fry from England created the first chocolate bar in 1847. He mixed cocoa powder, sugar, and cocoa butter and pressed it into a mold. This was the beginning of the chocolate bars we know today!

Then, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, famous chocolate companies like Cadbury, Nestlé, and Hershey's started making chocolate bars in different flavors. Milk chocolate became a favorite, and companies began adding ingredients like caramel, nuts, and nougat to create a variety of chocolate bar flavors.

During World War II, chocolate bars were included in soldiers' rations to provide them with a quick source of energy and comfort. This made chocolate bars even more popular around the world.

Nowadays, you can find chocolate bars with all sorts of delicious fillings and toppings, from peanut butter and fruit to crunchy cookies and even potato chips! Chocolate bars have truly come a long way from the bitter cocoa drinks of ancient times.

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Sweet Journey of Chocolate Bars

### Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Who were the first people to make a bitter cocoa drink?
  - A) Europeans
  - B) Ancient Mayans and Aztecs
  - C) Spanish explorers
  - D) American colonists
2. What did the Mayans and Aztecs use cocoa beans for besides making a drink?
  - A) Money
  - B) Toys
  - C) Building materials
  - D) Jewelry
3. Who created the first chocolate bar in 1847?
  - A) Christopher Columbus
  - B) Hernán Cortés
  - C) Joseph Fry
  - D) Cadbury
4. What significant change happened to chocolate bars during World War II?
  - A) They became less popular.
  - B) They were banned.
  - C) They were included in soldiers' rations.
  - D) They were only available in Europe.
5. What are some of the things added to chocolate bars to create different flavors?
  - A) Chili peppers and spices
  - B) Peanut butter and fruit
  - C) Water and sugar
  - D) Potatoes and carrots