

Chocolate has been a favoured dish for centuries. Tribes in Mesoamerica (an area that covers Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras and more today) considered it one of their most important foods.

The Aztec, Maya and Olmec civilisations were brewing hot chocolate drinks as far back as 1900 BCE. The Olmec were the earliest known civilisation to do this; they used to drink it from special cups called tecomates. The Maya and Aztec also had special vessels to drink this most important beverage from, but theirs were much taller and richly decorated.

These early drinks were made from different varieties of the cacao bean (the Aztecs called them cacahuatl). The drink itself was called xocolatl (it's pronounced shoc-o-lat-ul), which is most likely where the word chocolate comes from. Cacao beans were so highly valued that the Aztecs used them as currency!

Early chocolate drinks would have been much more watery and bitter than modern chocolate but were often flavoured with things like honey or vanilla. It wasn't until much later on that milk chocolate was invented.

FOCUS ON - WORD

1 Identify the adverbs in the sentence below.
Tick **two** boxes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Cacao beans were so highly valued that the Aztecs used them as currency.

2 Match the prefixes to each of the words below?
Each prefix can only be used once.

dis
un
re
de

considered
valued
covers
flavoured

3 Write an antonym of the underlined word in the box to complete the sentence.

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chocolate drinks would have been much more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.

FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

1 Which verb tense is underlined in the sentence?

Tick **one**.

The Aztecs, Maya and Olmec civilisations were brewing hot chocolate drinks as far back as 1900BCE.

- ☐ present progressive
- ☐ past progressive
- ☐ present perfect
- ☐ past perfect

2 Underline the relative clause in the sentence below.

The drink itself was called xocolatl, which is most likely where the word chocolate comes from.

3 Insert an adverb of possibility into the sentence below without changing its meaning.

Chocolate has _____ been a favoured dish for centuries.

maybe definitely perhaps unlikely

4 Tick the sentence which means the same as the one written underneath.

- ☐ Early chocolate drinks would have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.
- ☐ Early chocolate drinks may have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.
- ☐ Early chocolate drinks might have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.
- ☐ Early chocolate drinks should have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.
- ☐ Early chocolate drinks will have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.

FOCUS ON - TEXT

1 Underline the possessive pronoun.

The Maya and Aztec also had special vessels to drink from, but theirs were much taller and richly decorated.

2 Match the sentence to the verb tense.

The Maya and Aztec also had special vessels.

Chocolate has been a favoured dish for centuries.

(It's pronounced shoc-o-lat-ul.)

present

present perfect

past

3 Tick one box in each row to show whether the clause underlined is main or subordinate.

sentence	main clause	subordinate clause
<u>Because early chocolate drinks would have been much more watery and bitter than modern chocolate,</u> they were often flavoured with things like honey or vanilla.		
Because early chocolate drinks would have been much more watery and bitter than modern chocolate, <u>they were often flavoured with things like honey or vanilla.</u>		
<u>The Olmec drank from their own special cups called tecomates,</u> while the Maya and Aztec had their own taller and richly decorated drinking vessels to drink from.		
The Olmec drank from their own special cups called tecomates, <u>while the Maya and Aztec had their own taller and richly decorated drinking vessels to drink from.</u>		

FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Insert the missing comma into the sentence below.


Cacao beans were highly valued so the Aztecs used them as currency.

2 Which sentence has been punctuated correctly?
Tick one.

- ☐ (The Olmec) use to drink chocolate from special cups tecomates.
- ☐ The Olmec use to drink chocolate from (special cups tecomates).
- ☐ The Olmec use to drink chocolate from special cups (tecomates).
- ☐ The Olmec use to drink (chocolate) from special cups tecomates.

3 Identify the punctuation mark.

The Olmec were the earliest known civilisation to do this; they used to drink it from special cups called tecomates.



4 Which sentence uses the apostrophe correctly?
Tick one.

- ☐ The Olmec Tribes special drinking cup's were called tecomates.
- ☐ The Olmec Tribe's special drinking cups were called tecomates.
- ☐ The Olmec Tribes special drinking cups' were called tecomates.
- ☐ The Olmec Tribes special drinking cups were called tecomate's.

Answers - Mesoamerica

WORD

1. so and highly
2. discovers
- unflavoured
- devalued
- reconsidered
3. **Ancient** chocolate drinks would have been much more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.

SENTENCE

1. 2nd option – past progressive
2. The drink itself was called xocolatl, which is most likely where the word chocolate comes from.
3. Chocolate has definitely been a favoured dish for centuries.
4. 4th option - Early chocolate drinks will have been more watery and bitter than modern chocolate.

TEXT

1. The Maya and Aztec also had special vessels to drink from, but theirs were much taller and richly decorated.
 2. past – The Maya and Aztec also had special vessels.
- present perfect - Chocolate has been a favoured dish for centuries.
- present - (It's pronounced shoc-o-lat-ul.)
3. subordinate
- main
- main
- subordinate

PUNCTUATION

1. Cacao beans were highly valued, so the Aztecs used them as currency.
2. The Olmec use to drink chocolate from special cups (tecomates).
3. semi-colon
4. 2nd option - The Olmec Tribe's special drinking cups were called tecomates.