

KS2 SATs Reading Practice Paper 2

Non-Fiction Text

Time Allowed: 60 minutes

Total Marks: 35

Read the text carefully before answering the questions.

The History of Chocolate

Chocolate is one of the world's most popular foods. Millions of people enjoy it every day, whether it is eaten as a snack, used in desserts or given as a gift. However, chocolate has a long and fascinating history that began thousands of years ago.

Chocolate comes from the seeds of the cacao tree. These trees grow naturally in warm, tropical regions near the Equator. Historians believe that the first people to use cacao were the Olmec civilisation, who lived in what is now Mexico more than 3,000 years ago.

Later, the Maya and Aztec peoples also valued cacao highly. They used cacao beans to make a bitter drink, often mixed with spices and water. Unlike modern hot chocolate, this drink contained no sugar. Cacao beans were so valuable that they were sometimes used as a form of money.

In the early 1500s, Spanish explorers brought cacao back to Europe. At first, chocolate was expensive and only wealthy people could afford it. Eventually, sugar was added to make the drink sweeter, and it became more popular.

The invention of machines during the Industrial Revolution allowed chocolate to be produced more quickly and cheaply. In 1847, the first solid chocolate bar was created in England. This changed the way people consumed chocolate and helped it become a favourite treat around the world.

Today, cacao is grown in many countries, particularly in West Africa. Scientists continue to study the cacao tree to improve farming methods and protect crops from disease. As a result, chocolate remains an important industry that provides jobs for millions of people.

Although chocolate is enjoyed by people of all ages, experts recommend eating it in moderation because many chocolate products contain high levels of sugar and fat.

Questions

Retrieval

1. What food is the text mainly about?

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

2. What tree does chocolate come from?

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

3. Where did the Olmec civilisation live?

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

4. How long ago did the Olmec civilisation first use cacao?

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

5. Name two groups of people who used cacao after the Olmecs.

(2 marks)

Answer:

1. _____

2. _____

Vocabulary

6. What does the word "valuable" mean in this text?

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

7. Find a word that means "people who study the past."

(1 mark)

Answer: _____

Inference

8. Why were cacao beans sometimes used as money?

(2 marks)

Answer:

9. Why do you think only wealthy people could afford chocolate when it first arrived in Europe?

(2 marks)

Answer:

10. Why did the invention of machines help make chocolate more popular?

(2 marks)

Answer:

Author's Choice

11. Why has the author organised the text in chronological order?

(2 marks)

Answer:

12. What is the purpose of the final paragraph?

(2 marks)

Answer:

Summarising

13. Summarise how chocolate changed from ancient times to today.

(3 marks)

Answer:

Explanation

14. Explain how chocolate production changed during the Industrial Revolution.

(3 marks)

Answer:

Challenge Questions

15. Do you think chocolate has had an important impact on the world?

Use information from the text to explain your answer.

(5 marks)

Answer:

16. What is the most interesting fact you learned from this text? Explain why.

(6 marks)

Answer:

Mark Allocation

Question Marks

1–4 4

5 2

6–7 2

8–10 6

11–12 4

13 3

14 3

15 5

16 6

Total 35 Marks

KS2 SATs Reading Practice Paper 2 – Answers

The History of Chocolate

1. What food is the text mainly about?

Answer: Chocolate.

(1 mark)

2. What tree does chocolate come from?

Answer: The cacao tree.

(1 mark)

3. Where did the Olmec civilisation live?

Answer: In what is now Mexico.

(1 mark)

4. How long ago did the Olmec civilisation first use cacao?

Answer: More than 3,000 years ago.

(1 mark)

5. Name two groups of people who used cacao after the Olmecs.

Answer:

1. The Maya
2. The Aztecs

(2 marks)

Vocabulary

6. What does the word "valuable" mean in this text?

Answer: Worth a lot or considered very important.

(1 mark)

7. Find a word that means "people who study the past."

Answer: Historians

(1 mark)

Inference

8. Why were cacao beans sometimes used as money?

Answer: Cacao beans were used as money because they were rare and highly valued by people. Many people wanted them, which made them useful for trading.

(2 marks)

9. Why do you think only wealthy people could afford chocolate when it first arrived in Europe?

Answer: Chocolate was expensive because cacao had to be imported from far away and production was limited. Only rich people could afford to buy it.

(2 marks)

10. Why did the invention of machines help make chocolate more popular?

Answer: Machines allowed chocolate to be produced more quickly and cheaply. This meant more people could afford to buy it.

(2 marks)

Author's Choice

11. Why has the author organised the text in chronological order?

Answer: The author wanted to show how chocolate changed over time, from its origins with ancient civilisations to the modern chocolate industry.

(2 marks)

12. What is the purpose of the final paragraph?

Answer: The final paragraph gives advice about eating chocolate and reminds readers that it should be enjoyed in moderation because it can contain high amounts of sugar and fat.

(2 marks)

Summarising

13. Summarise how chocolate changed from ancient times to today.

Answer: Chocolate began as a bitter drink made by ancient civilisations such as the Olmecs, Maya and Aztecs. It was later brought to Europe, where sugar was added. Machines helped produce chocolate more cheaply, leading to the chocolate bars and products enjoyed around the world today.

(3 marks)

Explanation

14. Explain how chocolate production changed during the Industrial Revolution.

Answer: During the Industrial Revolution, machines were invented that could make chocolate more quickly and efficiently. This reduced costs and increased production. As a result, chocolate became more widely available and affordable.

(3 marks)

Challenge Questions

15. Do you think chocolate has had an important impact on the world?

Use information from the text to explain your answer.

Model Answer:

Yes, I think chocolate has had an important impact on the world. The text explains that cacao was used by ancient civilisations thousands of years ago and was even valuable enough to be used as money. Chocolate later spread across Europe and eventually became popular around the world. Today, cacao farming provides jobs for millions of people, making chocolate important both culturally and economically.

(5 marks)

16. What is the most interesting fact you learned from this text? Explain why.

Model Answer:

The most interesting fact I learned was that cacao beans were once used as money. I found this surprising because today we think of chocolate as a treat rather than something valuable enough to buy goods with. This fact shows how important cacao was to ancient civilisations and how different their lives were from ours.

(6 marks)

Total Marks: 35/35

Greater Depth Features Demonstrated

- ✓ Full explanations
- ✓ Evidence from the text
- ✓ Use of inference
- ✓ Precise vocabulary
- ✓ Complete sentences

✓ Detailed reasoning in longer-answer questions

These are model answers written at an **Expected Standard to Greater Depth standard**, showing the level of detail and explanation a Year 6 pupil should aim for in a SATs-style reading comprehension test.