

How Chocolate Is Made

Read the text. Then answer the questions on the next page.

- 1 A chocolate bar is smooth and sweet, but it does not start out that way. Chocolate begins as the bitter seeds of a tree, and it takes many steps to turn those seeds into a treat.
- 2 Chocolate comes from the cacao tree. Cacao trees grow in hot, rainy places near the equator, the imaginary line around the middle of Earth. Large pods shaped like footballs grow right on the trunk and branches. Inside each pod are dozens of seeds called cacao beans.
- 3 Farmers get the beans ready on the farm. They cut the pods open and scoop out the beans and the white pulp around them. The beans sit in covered piles or boxes for about a week, which brings out their chocolate flavor. Then the farmers spread the beans in the sun to dry.
- 4 At a factory, the beans are roasted and ground. Roasting in big ovens makes the flavor even richer. Machines crack off the thin shells and keep the insides, called nibs. Heavy machines grind the nibs into a thick, dark paste.
- 5 Finally, the paste is turned into chocolate. Workers mix in sugar to make it sweet, and they often add milk too. Machines stir the mixture for hours until it is silky smooth. The warm chocolate is poured into molds, where it cools and hardens into bars.



How Chocolate Is Made: Questions

Go back to the text to find your proof. Underline it in the color shown.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☐ how chocolate is made
- ☐ the equator
- ☐ rainy weather

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?



- ☐ Cacao pods are shaped like footballs.
- ☐ Chocolate begins as the bitter seeds of a tree, and it takes many steps to turn those seeds into a treat.
- ☐ The equator is an imaginary line.

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?



- ☐ Ovens get very hot.
- ☐ The insides of the beans are called nibs.
- ☐ At a factory, the beans are roasted and ground.

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 that tell more about its main idea.



5. What is paragraph 2 mostly about?



6. Which would be the best new title for this text?

- ☐ From Bean to Chocolate Bar
- ☐ Trees That Need Rain
- ☐ How to Bake a Cake

How Chocolate Is Made: Answer Key

Answers are in green. The proof is where to find each answer in the text.

1. What is the topic of this text?

- ☒ how chocolate is made
- ☐ the equator
- ☐ rainy weather

Proof The topic is named in the title and comes up in every paragraph.

2. Which sentence tells the main idea of the whole text?

red

- ☐ Cacao pods are shaped like footballs.
- ☒ Chocolate begins as the bitter seeds of a tree, and it takes many steps to turn those seeds into a treat.
- ☐ The equator is an imaginary line.

Proof Paragraph 1: “Chocolate begins as the bitter seeds of a tree, and it takes many steps to turn those seeds into a treat.”

3. What is the main idea of paragraph 4?

orange

- ☐ Ovens get very hot.
- ☐ The insides of the beans are called nibs.
- ☒ At a factory, the beans are roasted and ground.

Proof Paragraph 4: “At a factory, the beans are roasted and ground.”

4. Write two details from paragraph 3 that tell more about its main idea.

yellow

Farmers cut the pods open and scoop out the beans. The beans sit for about a week and are then dried in the sun.

5. What is paragraph 2 mostly about?

green

The cacao tree and where chocolate comes from.

6. Which would be the best new title for this text?

- ☒ From Bean to Chocolate Bar
- ☐ Trees That Need Rain
- ☐ How to Bake a Cake

Proof It tells what the whole text is about, not just one part.