



Chocolate Scavenger Hunt

Subjects Social Studies, Nutrition, Communications

Grades 4-5

Brief Description

This two day class starts with viewing the animated video 'Xocolatl' (Chocolate) as a class. Enumerate and discuss the many types of chocolate mentioned in the video. Students are given homework to locate, in a scavenger hunt format, as many different types of chocolate from as many different geographic places as possible. They may bring the actual chocolate (yum!) or photographs of the chocolate to class on a subsequent day. They will sort the chocolate geographically by country source if possible. They can also make a commercial for some of the most unusual chocolate products that they find.

Allergy Warning: Some people are allergic to chocolate, and many more are allergic to nuts. Chocolate is often packaged with nuts. Do not do this activity if allergies are a concern in your classroom.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Practice listening skills
- Develop an awareness of the ancient roots of the foods we eat
- Develop an awareness of the variety of heritage foods that exist
- Develop an awareness of alternatives to mass produced foods

Keywords

Chocolate, Maya, Aztec, Olmec, food, ancient agriculture.

Materials Needed

- access to the ¡Hola Canada! *The Latin-American Collectiosn at the Simon Fraser University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology* web site
- speakers on the computer
- access to the Internet for further research

Lesson

On the first day, as a class, listen to the video and list the many types of chocolate and additives to chocolate that are mentioned. Students are given homework to locate, in a scavenger hunt format, as many different types of chocolate from as many different geographic places as possible. They may bring the actual chocolate (yum!) or photographs of the chocolate to class on a subsequent day.

On a subsequent day, they will sort the chocolate geographically by country source if possible.

Much of the commercial chocolate used in North American products is grown in Sierra Leone, West Africa. Did the students find any chocolate products which identify where the chocolate is grown? Did any come from small, indigenous or fair trade suppliers? These suppliers are more likely to identify the point of origin of the chocolate.

Optional activity

Make a commercial for some of the most unusual chocolate products found.

Evaluation

Students are graded on the completeness of the list they made after watching the video and the number and variety of different types of chocolate they found in their scavenger hunt.