



Teacher Resource

# Chocolate Shortage

## Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What has happened to the price of chocolate around the world?
2. What is the key ingredient in chocolate?
3. Cocoa comes from which plant?
4. What has impacted on the supply of cacao beans?
5. What was surprising about this story?

## Activity: Class Discussion

### Before Watching

Before watching the BTN Chocolate Shortage story ask students to discuss the following, in pairs or small groups:

- What do you think has caused a chocolate shortage? Make some predictions.
- Where in the world does chocolate come from?
- What plant does chocolate come from?

### After Watching

Once your students have made their predictions watch the BTN Chocolate Shortage story, and then students will respond to the following:

- What did you learn watching the BTN story?
- What did you find surprising?
- What questions do you have about this story?
- Do you like chocolate? If so, what is your favourite chocolate?



### EPISODE 9

2nd April 2024

### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the factors that affect the production of cocoa beans. Students will explore the characteristics of chocolate.

### CURRICULUM

#### HASS – Year 3 and 4

Pose questions to investigate people, events, places and issues.

#### HASS – Year 5

Work in groups to generate responses to issues and challenges.

#### Design & Technologies – Years 3 & 4

Investigate food and fibre production and food technologies used in modern and traditional societies.

#### Design & Technologies – Years 5 & 6

Investigate how and why food and fibre are produced in managed environments and prepared to enable people to grow and be healthy.

#### Design & Technologies – Years 7 & 8

Analyse how food and fibre are produced when designing managed environments and how these can become more sustainable.

#### Science – Years 5 & 6

With guidance, pose clarifying questions and make predictions about scientific investigations.

#### Science – Year 7

Identify questions and problems that can be investigated scientifically and make predictions based on scientific knowledge.

## Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Chocolate Shortage story. Below are some words to get students started.

COCOA BEANS	DEFORESTATION	CACAO TREE
SHORTAGE	SUPPLY AND DEMAND	CLIMATE CHANGE

Ask students to write what they think is the meaning of each word (including unfamiliar words). They will swap definitions with a partner and ask them to add to or change the definition. Check these against the dictionary definition.

## Activity: KWLH Organiser

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Chocolate Shortage story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

What do I <b>know</b> ?	What do I <b>want</b> to know?	What have I <b>learnt</b> ?	<b>How</b> will I find out?

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below. Encourage students to collect and record information from a wide variety of sources and present the information they find in an interesting way.

- Where in the world are cocoa beans grown? Highlight on a world map.
- Why is there a cocoa bean shortage? List the factors that contribute to a shortage of cocoa beans.
- What is the difference between cocoa, cacao, and chocolate? Include an illustration with your explanation.
- What ancient civilisations discovered chocolate? How did they use chocolate? Watch this [TEDEd video](#) to learn about the history of chocolate.
- What is the journey from cacao tree to cocoa bean to chocolate bar? Explain the process.
- What type of climate do cacao trees grow in? Describe the climate.



## Activity: Food scientist for a day

### How well do you know chocolate?

Transform the classroom into a chocolate tasting laboratory. Students will take on the role of a food scientist to explore the subtle differences of chocolate through their senses of taste, sight, and smell. A food scientist studies food and their chemical and physical properties – they conduct studies to identify taste, texture, and food behaviour.

### Working in small groups

Each group will receive a plate with four different types of chocolate with differing levels of cacao. Individually, students will taste each type of chocolate and record their results.

### Materials needed:

- 4 different types of chocolate
- Chocolate tasting sheets to record results (see table below)
- Tasting plates
- Water for palate cleansing
- Microscopes (optional)
- Magnifying glasses (optional)



### Chocolate tasting results

Chocolate	Appearance What does it look like – colour, dull or shiny, crumbly.	Smell Describe the smell.	Texture What does it feel like when it melts on your tongue – smooth, waxy.	Taste Describe the taste.
Number 1				
Number 2				
Number 3				
Number 4				

### Share your results

As a group share your results, including:

- similarities and differences.
- identifying which chocolate had the most cacao.


As a whole class discuss your group's results and reveal the different types of chocolate and the amount of cacao in each.

## Activity: Reporter for a day

Students will be a reporter for a day and investigate the issues highlighted in the BTN Chocolate Shortage story. Write an online news report for kids explaining why there is a shortage of cocoa beans. Student's reports will answer the 5 W's – Who, What, Where, When and Why?

Things for students to think about:

- Who is your target audience? Use age appropriate language and themes.
- Write a headline that is short and to the point.
- Use words and pictures in your report.
- Find information from a variety of sources.
- Present the facts and/or opinions clearly and accurately.



Who, What,  
Where, When  
and Why?

Visit BTN's [Rookie Reporter Training](#) and [Becoming a Journalist](#) to learn more about how to make a news story.

## Useful Websites

- [Cocoa Shortage](#) – Newsbreak
- [Are Easter eggs getting smaller and more expensive?](#) – Newsround
- [Chocolate prices this Valentine's Day will be at a record high. What's behind the bittersweet hike?](#) – ABC News
- [Where are cocoa beans grown?](#) – ABC Education
- [The History of Chocolate](#) – TEDEd