



# Unit 17

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# The Story of Chocolate

**T**he average American **consumes** twelve pounds of chocolate each year! But how much do you know about chocolate? What is in chocolate? How is it made? Who makes it? You might be surprised what you can learn about this popular treat!

## Cocoa or cacao?

**Cacao** (că că ă) was the original word and spelling. Like many words, it changed with time. The spelling **cocoa** (cō cōa) probably began when early English traders misspelled the word *cacao*. Today, *cacao* mostly refers to the trees and the seeds. *Cocoa* mostly refers to the powder that is made from the seeds.

## From Cacao Trees to Chocolate Candy

Chocolate is made from the seeds of the cacao tree. Cacao trees grow in warm, humid rainforests. Although cacao trees first grew in South America, today western Africa has the most cacao tree farms.

The cacao tree produces a fruit called a



Cacao pods