

The cultural history of chocolate: a quiz

Can you go a day without chocolate? Many of us can't. But how much do we really know about the world's most storied food? Test your knowledge below.

1. What was the world's first branded chocolate, produced in the United States beginning in colonial days?
2. Even if you don't like cocoa, you may be using it multiple times a day through Apple's computers and other devices. Why?
3. Martha Washington was not a fan of the fat in chocolate, but she did prefer another drink made from what chocolate byproduct?
4. Many early chocolate sellers began in what medical-related profession?
5. What was purportedly the favorite chocolate confection of Napoleon?
6. What religion dominated much of chocolate's early history?
7. Milk chocolate was not available until the 1870s. Where and by whom was it invented?
8. What food was proposed as a substitute for chocolate in an effort to avoid its mildly stimulating effect?
9. What famous American founding leaders also sold chocolate?
10. Among Asian nations, which is the only country that has had a long relationship with chocolate?
11. What English king in 1675 issued an edict banning all coffee and chocolate establishments in London for their "bad influence?"
12. In one of the oddest twists of chocolate history, the son of Hershey's longtime CEO William F.R. Murrie joined what rival company and helped to develop an iconic chocolate candy that still bears his initials?

Answers

1. Baker's Chocolate, established in 1765.
2. Cocoa is the name of the Application Programming Interface that helps to run all Apple products.
3. Tea made by steeping cocoa shells, in Europe often considered a "poor man's tea."

4. Pharmacy; chocolate was often sold as medicine for a variety of ailments.
5. Almond Crunch from Debaube & Gallais in Paris.
6. Roman Catholic; the Jesuit order established extensive cacao operations in the New World.
7. Switzerland, by Daniel Peter.
8. Carob, in the 1970s. It did not catch on as a chocolate replacement.
9. Benjamin Franklin, sold in his Philadelphia printing shop.
10. Of Asian nations only the Philippines has had a long relationship with chocolate, as it was brought there by Spanish colonists.
11. Charles II. The edict was ignored.
12. Murrie's son R. Bruce Murrie joined the Mars company and helped Forrest Mars develop M&M's, initials for Mars and Murrie.