

The Chocolate Tree

Theobroma cacao (cacao tree or cocoa tree). *Theobroma* translates to "food of the gods" in Greek. These trees are native to the Americas. They grow near the equator in the tropical rainforests of Mexico, and Central and South America.

A favorite drink of the Aztec and Inca Kings was cocoa seeds and spices (such as cinnamon). The Spanish explorers took the cocoa powder back to Europe. The Spanish sweetened the cocoa powder with sugar. The Swiss added milk to the cocoa powder and created milk chocolate. The English, in the 19th century, developed solid chocolate and created the chocolate candy bar.

