

Chocolate: from the land to the hand

Task 1: Read the texts about chocolate. For each one, underline (a) the jobs and (b) the total time the jobs take.

Text A: Cocoa farmers

DID YOU KNOW? Chocolate comes from a cocoa tree!

Every year families plant cocoa trees on the land. Cocoa is sensitive, so the farmers must protect the trees from wind, sun and disease. Each tree produces 'pods' (like footballs with seeds inside). The cocoa farmers work under the hot sun to pick the pods, open them and take out the cocoa beans. Next they prepare the cocoa beans, dry them in the sun and put them in bags to sell. This is six months of hard work. Often the farmers' children work instead of going to school, and in some countries, people are forced to do the work for little or no money. Children are actually stolen to work on the land. When the weather is bad or there's disease on the trees, the farmers earn nothing.

Text B: Chocolate companies

DID YOU KNOW? Machines wrap 65,000 bars of chocolate in one hour!

Cadbury, the famous chocolate company, buys its cocoa beans from Ghana. The beans are transported by ship for about 20 days from Ghana to Cadbury's factory in Wales. In the factory, the beans are cleaned and processed for two days. The beans become powder. Machines do most of the work, but people are paid to operate the machines.

Next the cocoa is sent to another Cadbury factory (in England). Here it's made into delicious chocolate in just two days! Machines add the ingredients and pour the liquid into the shape of chocolate bars. Finally, machines wrap the bars and add labels. Your chocolate bar is ready!

Text C: Retailers

DID YOU KNOW? Europeans eat the most chocolate in the world!

You probably bought your chocolate from a retailer, e.g. a supermarket or shop. Retailers order a quantity of chocolate from the factory. They check they have received the right quantity and then put the new price label on the bars. Finally, they put the bars on the shelves and the shop assistant sells them. For two days' work, retailers charge you double what they paid the factory!

Some retailers sell chocolate made by ethical companies. This means it's more likely that the farmers are paid a fair price, that the environment is protected, and that workers are paid. You can help farmers by buying it. Look for logos on wrappers or find out about ethical companies on the internet.

Task 2: Complete the table with information about the cocoa farmers, the chocolate companies and the retailers.

	(A) Cocoa farmers	(B) Chocolate companies	(C) Retailers
Jobs done			
Total time taken to do jobs			

Task 3: Discuss the questions in your group.

1. What do you feel about children working on cocoa farms, and workers being forced to work on the farms? Why?
2. Why do you think many cocoa farmers no longer want to grow cocoa? How could it affect you?
3. How fair does it seem to you that retailers charge much more than cocoa farmers earn? Why?
4. How do you think ethical chocolate producers help cocoa farmers? How can you find out about buying ethical chocolate locally?
5. Would you pay more for your chocolate if it helped the cocoa farmers? How much?