



Name:

Date:

Sweet Treat

Chocolate, which is made from cocoa beans, is one of the world's best-loved foods. Some chocolate manufacturers, however, are warning that there may be a major shortage of chocolate in the near future. This is because the world is now consuming more chocolate than it can produce. Moreover, demand keeps increasing. In fact, the price of chocolate increased by over 60 percent between 2012 and 2014.

One reason for the chocolate shortage can be seen as a good thing. Chocolate is a luxury item, so most of it is consumed in wealthy countries. However, with the strong economic growth of many developing countries over the past two decades, demand for chocolate has risen. For example, the development of a large middle class in China and India has led to more chocolate being consumed in these countries. Demand for chocolate has also grown dramatically in South America. In this sense, the growing shortage of chocolate can be seen as a sign that the standard of living is rising around the world.

Another reason, though, is more troubling. Today, about 70 percent of the world's cocoa beans are produced in two West African countries, Ghana and the Ivory Coast. Production in these countries, though, has been declining. This is because there have been increasing periods of very dry weather caused by climate change. Moreover, cocoa trees are being threatened by various diseases that attack them, because cocoa trees take a long time to grow and produce beans, these diseased trees cannot be replaced easily.

Cocoa bean farmers have been responding by developing new kinds of cocoa trees. These new kinds are stronger against disease and produce more beans than normal trees. However, progress is slow because of the time it takes for each tree to grow. At the same time, demand for chocolate is rising, so cocoa is becoming more and more valuable. Therefore, chocolate manufacturers are investing more money in the industry so that production will increase in the future. By doing this, they hope to avoid cocoa shortages. With luck, people around the world will continue to have access to one of their favorite foods.



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1. What are chocolate manufacturers concerned about?
 - a. People prefer living a healthy life to eating sweets such as chocolate.
 - b. People will not want to buy chocolate any longer because it is too expensive.
 - c. They will have to increase the price of chocolate by 60 percent to cover costs.
 - d. They are not able to produce as much chocolate as people want to buy.

2. The change in demand for chocolate shows that
 - a. the quality of life of people around the world is improving.
 - b. many people living in South America are now selling chocolate.
 - c. middle-class people are unlikely to buy large amounts of chocolate.
 - d. Chinese people are more interested in luxury goods than other people.

3. In the area where the majority of cocoa beans come from,
 - a. climate change is helping to produce healthier cocoa trees.
 - b. it is taking longer than usual to grow new cocoa trees.
 - c. fewer beans are being produced because the weather is becoming drier.
 - d. beans are 70 percent smaller than beans grown in South America.

4. In order to keep up with demand for chocolate,
 - a. manufacturers are looking for ways to make sweets that taste like chocolate.
 - b. manufacturers are spending more money on increasing production.
 - c. farmers are moving to new places to grow cheaper cocoa beans.
 - d. farmers are buying cocoa trees that can produce beans more quickly.

5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - a. The number of diseases that threaten cocoa trees is decreasing.
 - b. Cocoa trees that can protect themselves against diseases are being developed.
 - c. People in China and India have stopped believing that chocolate is a luxury food.
 - d. Chocolate will probably become the world's best-loved food in the near future.