**Objectives**

This project is meant to be a culminating activity after students have been exposed to cacao’s ecosystem, cultivation, harvesting, and fermenting.

or

This project can serve as a way for students to research cacao’s ecosystem, cultivation, harvesting, and fermenting.

**Lesson Plans**

**Instructional Activities:**

1. Have students brainstorm to produce a list of what they think are the processes cacao travels through from the minute it sprouts to the moment its seeds are shipped off for processing.

2. Students should list each step on an index card and arrange the cards chronologically.

3. Working individually, in pairs, or as a group, have students add to their index cards so that they have at least ten major steps. Ask students to research each of those steps.

4. Have students use their ten major steps to create a timeline depicting the growth, harvesting, and preparation of cacao for shipment.

**Possible Timelines:**

- Hang index cards on a length of string that represent the time between the minute the seed sprouts to the moment it is shipped off to be processed. Include an illustration on one side of the card and facts about the process on the other.

- Students can create their own chocolate exhibit. Encourage students to create a display for each of the major processes they’ve chosen for their timeline. How would they arrange their exhibit? What images or items would they need to display for people to understand the relationship between cacao and its environment?

- Have students create a diorama for each of the processes (example: create a magnified view of a midge pollinating a cacao flower or of a cacao farmer cutting off a cacao pod). Ask students to provide as much detail as they can about what’s happening during the process they’re depicting and to create a sign explaining what is occurring in their diorama.