Loan Materials for Educators

The Museum’s Harris Educational Loan Program has developed a new “experience box” for the Chocolate exhibition. For more information on the Harris Loan program, please call the registrar at (312) 665-7555 or visit our website at www.fieldmuseum.org.

The History of Chocolate

Chocolate is a food that appeals to the senses. We are captivated by its aroma, tantalized by its taste, and reminded of pleasurable experiences. This experience box adds yet another dimension to our interaction with this delicious food as it demonstrates the ecological, biological, and commercial importance of chocolate. A diorama shows the cacao tree in its natural habitat and its adaptations to the environment and an ancient Maya village. Included are models of the pods as well as actual cacao beans. The box also includes books, a guide for exploration with a brief synopsis of the history, biology, cultivation, harvesting and other uses of the cacao bean, as well as activities for students, a vocabulary list, and sources for further study.