



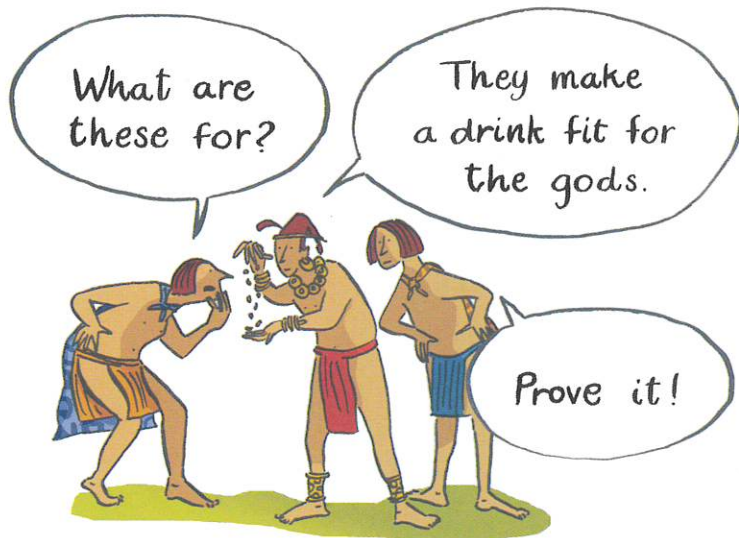
Chapter 2

Learning the secret



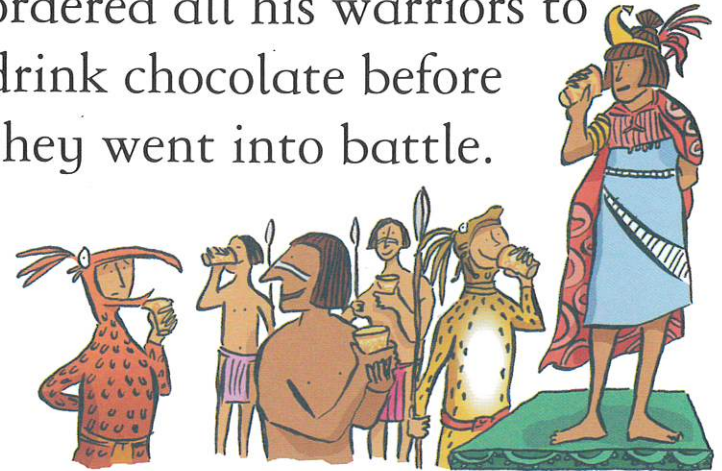
Hundreds of years later, a group of merchants arrived in a Mayan village. They had journeyed for days to find exotic goods for their emperor.

The merchants belonged to a fierce group of people called Aztecs. To avoid trouble, the Mayans offered them some of their precious beans.



When the Aztecs had learned the chocolate secret, they served a cupful to their emperor. He was delighted.

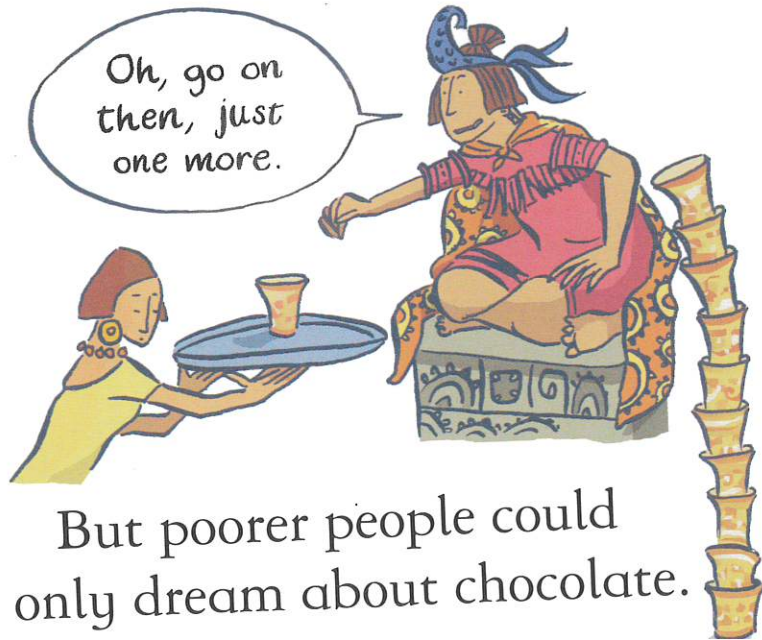
“Perfect!” he cried. “A cool, refreshing drink that doesn’t make you drunk.” And he ordered all his warriors to drink chocolate before they went into battle.



Where the Aztecs lived it was too cold to grow cocoa. So, they had to buy their beans from the Mayans and carry them all the way home.

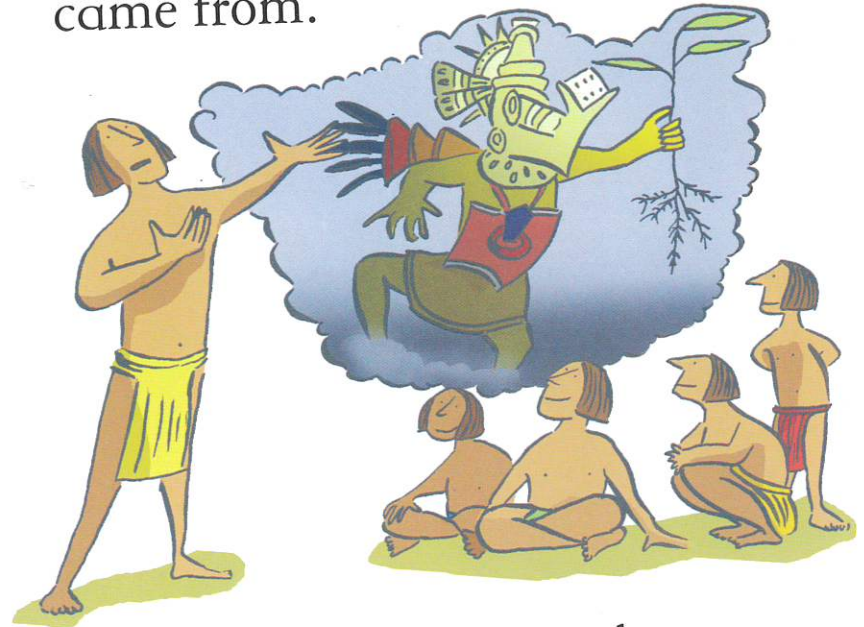


The Aztec emperor, Montezuma, was crazy about chocolate. He kept the royal warehouses piled high with cocoa beans. Sometimes he ordered 50 cups of chocolate a day, thinking they would make him richer and wiser.



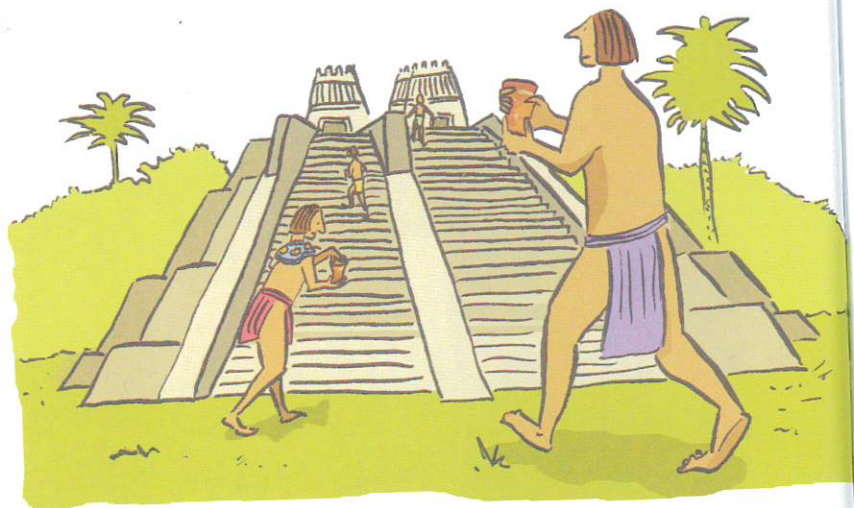
But poorer people could only dream about chocolate.

Over time, a legend grew up about where chocolate first came from.



“Once upon a time, the world had no chocolate,” said the storytellers. “Then Quetzalcoatl, the god of farming, appeared from paradise with a cocoa tree.”

Quetzalcoatl was the Aztecs' hero. They built him grand temples and left him chocolate drinks as gifts.



But other countries had their eyes on the Aztecs' riches. Chocolate wouldn't stay a central American secret for long...