

# Cocoa Fields

*"Behind the sweet taste there is a dark side."*

—*The Dark Side of Chocolate*, film trailer

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where does chocolate come from?
2. What is child labor?
3. Would you give up chocolate for a good cause?

### B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

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|---------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. slave            | a) to hurt physically, to hit   |
| _____ 2. beat             | b) to trade illegally   |
| _____ 3. pesticide        | c) far away from the central population                                 |
| _____ 4. initiative       | d) a plan or task that a person or group has begun                      |
| _____ 5. remote           | e) to refuse to use or buy something as an act of protest               |
| _____ 6. traffic          | f) an unpaid laborer who works against his or her will                  |
| _____ 7. boycott          | g) a chemical that protects plants and crops from bugs and pests        |
| _____ 8. turn a blind eye | h) legal and fair production of exports in developing countries         |
| _____ 9. fair trade       | i) a person who speaks on behalf of a company, business, or group       |
| _____ 10. spokesperson    | j) to pretend to not see something that is illegal or against the rules |



## Reading

### COCOA FIELDS

*Who is paying the price for our chocolate addiction?*

1. Chocolate is a billion dollar industry. Approximately 75% of the world's cocoa beans are grown in West Africa. Many of the people who work in cocoa fields are children. Some are the children of adult **slaves**. Instead of going to school, they help their parents in the fields. Other child slaves are sold for a few dollars by their own family members. Their slave owners promise to send money home, but this rarely happens. When the children try to run away, they are **beaten**. Many work 12-hour days. Some child slaves apply **pesticides** without masks or gloves.
2. In 2001, a Cocoa Protocol was established. This was a US government **initiative** to end child labor in the cocoa industry. On the tenth anniversary, investigators said hundreds of thousands of children were still working illegally in cocoa fields. Many chocolate companies argue that it's difficult to prevent child labor because cocoa fields are so **remote**. Journalists disagree. They say it is easy to find child slaves in cocoa fields. The difficult part is giving up chocolate.
3. Who is to blame for child **trafficking** in the chocolate industry? Consumers could **boycott** chocolate companies like Hershey's or Nestlé. In 2012, the International Labor Rights Forum threatened to run an ad about how Hershey's **turns a blind eye** to child labor. Hershey's acted quickly and made promises to buy **fair trade** cocoa. Will it live up to its promise to prevent child labor this time? In 2011, a **spokesperson** for Nestlé told journalists that preventing rural African children from working is impossible. He said that as long as these kids have access to school, it is okay that their parents expect help out in the fields. Do you agree with this statement? How many of these children have ever tasted chocolate?

## Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Where are the majority of cocoa beans grown?
2. What happens when child slaves try to escape the cocoa fields?
3. What health hazards do slaves in cocoa fields face?
4. What was the Cocoa Protocol?
5. What did Nestlé's spokesperson say about child labor in Africa?

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.  
You may need to change the word forms.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ promised that the company would only buy fair trade coffee.
2. Child \_\_\_\_\_ work instead of going to school. They don't get paid for their labor.
3. The child who ran away from the cocoa field was \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The parents of the child slaves \_\_\_\_\_ to the beatings.  
They keep working because they want to be fed.
5. Some people think slavery is a thing of the past. This is a myth.  
Human \_\_\_\_\_ happens in countries worldwide.

## B. Agree or Disagree?

Do you agree or disagree with these statements? If you disagree, rewrite the statement to make it true. Compare your answers with a partner.

1. Child slaves are better off than many children working in African villages. At least they get fed.

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2. People in developed countries should boycott chocolate unless it is fair trade.

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3. Most people in developed countries turn a blind eye to problems in developing countries.

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4. Before drinking coffee or eating chocolate, we should check if it is fair trade.

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5. It is impossible to give up an addiction like chocolate.

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## Discussion

1. Why are people addicted to chocolate?
2. What can the average person do to help reduce child slavery?
3. Why do chocolate companies turn a blind eye to child trafficking?
4. Have you ever been involved in a boycott? Name one product, brand, or company that you would like to boycott. Why did you choose this?

## Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions.  
Write their answers in the chart below.

Classmate's name:	Do you eat a lot of chocolate? Why do you like/dislike chocolate?	Should the government fine or shut down companies that turn a blind eye to child labor?	Should children in rural areas help parents in the fields? Is this a form of "child labor"?

## Listening – Gap Fill

🔊 <http://blog.esllibrary.com/2012/03/14/podcasts-cocoa-fields/>

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

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- Who is to blame for child **trafficking** in the chocolate industry? Consumers could **boycott** chocolate companies like Hershey's or Nestlé. In 2012, the International Labor Rights \_\_\_\_\_ threatened to run an ad about how Hershey's **turns a blind eye** to child labor. Hershey's acted quickly and made \_\_\_\_\_ to buy **fair trade** cocoa. Will it \_\_\_\_\_ its promise to prevent child labor this time? In 2011, a **spokesperson** for Nestlé told journalists that preventing rural African children from working is impossible. He said that as long as these kids have access to school, it is okay that their parents expect help out in the fields. Do you agree with this \_\_\_\_\_? How many of these children have ever tasted chocolate?

1. Instead of, rarely, masks  
2. government, hundreds, cocoa, giving up  
3. Forum, promises, live up to, statement

**ANSWERS:**