**A Read the extract.**

When reading a more factual text in French, you often have the advantage of already knowing some of the information in your own language. You can then see how to relate your existing knowledge to the French text, so you can understand extra details without too much difficulty. It is also an efficient way of expanding your vocabulary.

Chocolate was introduced to Europeans in the 16th century, and it really became fashionable in the 17th century. Chocolate in different forms is now used to celebrate holidays and festivals, and – in spite of globalisation – every country still has its own traditions and preferences.

This is a magazine interview with Victoire Finaz, a French chocolate expert who has done extensive research on all aspects of chocolate.

**Comment présenteriez-vous le chocolat?**

Lorsque nous en mangeons, nous sommes sensibles à la fois à son odeur, sa texture et son goût. La définition du chocolat est un mélange de cacao, de sucre et d’un peu de lécithine de soja, pour lier le tout. Il doit contenir 35% de cacao minimum pour être qualifié de «chocolat». Le chocolat blanc ne contient pas du tout de cacao mais seulement du beurre de cacao, ce n’est donc pas du chocolat au sens strict.

**Le chocolat a-t-il la même place partout dans le monde?**

Le chocolat n’est pas consommé dans le monde de la même façon, et tous les pays n’ont pas forcément de traditions avec lui. En Europe, sa présence depuis le 16ème siècle et l’intérêt pour la gastronomie font qu’il a toujours été présent et apprécié, notamment en France. Nous avons ainsi la tradition du «chocolat cadeau» lié à l’esprit des fêtes de Noël et de Pâques.

**Le chocolat est-il recommandé pour la santé?**

Ses vertus médicinales sont effectivement reconnues depuis les Aztèques. Il contient des nutriments bons pour la mémoire et très importants pour notre système nerveux, tels que le magnésium et des antioxydants bons pour la prévention des maladies du cœur. Mais attention, nous parlons du chocolat noir, dosé à 70% de cacao minimum. Et 2 ou 3 carrés par jour suffisent. En France, nous aimons davantage le chocolat noir que nos voisins, qui sont plus «chocolat au lait»…

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This article shows that making the effort to read in a foreign language – French in this case – is a fun way of learning about all kinds of different things you may be interested in. Being able to start gathering information in different languages is really exciting. This is just a start, and it’s up to you to research topics that are closest to your heart.

**B True or false? Write T or F and correct the false statements.**

**1** Chocolate has to contain a minimum of 35% cocoa. \_\_\_

**2** White chocolate contains cocoa butter. \_\_\_

**3** In countries like France, people rarely give chocolate as a present. \_\_\_

**4** Chocolate is linked to festivals such as Christmas or Easter. \_\_\_

**5** The Aztecs didn’t think chocolate had medicinal properties. \_\_\_

**6** Chocolate is good for memory. \_\_\_

**7** The French prefer milk chocolate. \_\_\_

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**C Find in the extract the French for the following words or phrases.**

**1** smell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **7** memory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**2** texture \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **8** nervous system \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**3** taste \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **9** heart diseases \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**4** cocoa butter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **10** dark chocolate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**5** century \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **11** square \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
**6** gift\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **12** milk chocolate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**D Find in the extract the French phrases for the following statements.**

**1** Soya lecithin is used as a bonding agent.

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**2** Chocolate is consumed differently in different parts of the world.

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**3** It has been available in Europe since the 16th century.

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**4** The health benefits of chocolate relate to 70% dark chocolate.

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**5** The recommended daily intake is no more than two or three chocolate squares.

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**E Find in the extract (and answer in English):**

**1** one piece of information you found most surprising.

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**2** one piece of information you found most interesting.

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**3** one piece of information you found most annoying.

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**F Write two or three lines in French about what chocolate means for you.**

Example:

*Pour moi, le chocolat, c’est… / Je mange surtout du chocolat quand je…*

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**G Work in small groups and prepare two or three other questions you would have liked to ask this chocolate expert in French.**

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**Extension**

Do more research about chocolate and write a short article about a famous French chocolatier or chocolate company – past or present.

**Answers**

**B**

**1** T

**2** T

**3** F In countries like France, people traditionally give chocolate as a present.

**4** T

**5** F The Aztecs thought chocolate had medicinal properties.

**6** T

**7** F The French prefer dark chocolate.

**C**

**1** smell − *l’odeur*

**2** texture − *la texture*

**3** taste − *le goût*

**4** cocoa butter − *le beurre de cacao*

**5** century − *le siècle*

**6** gift − *le cadeau*

**7** memory − *la mémoire*

**8** nervous system − *le système nerveux*

**9** heart diseases − *les maladies du cœur*

**10** dark chocolate − *le chocolat noir*

**11** square − *le carré*

**12** milk chocolate − *le chocolat au lait*

**D**

**1** *Un peu de lécithine de soja, pour lier le tout.*

**2** *Le chocolat n’est pas consommé dans le monde de la même façon.*

**3** *En Europe, sa présence depuis le 16ème siècle…*

**4** *Nous parlons du chocolat noir, dosé à 70% de cacao minimum.*

**5** *2 ou 3 carrés par jour suffisent.*

**E**

Student's own answers

**F**

Student's own answer

**G**

Student's own answers