

## Climate change increases price of Easter eggs

28th March 2024



This year's Easter eggs will be much more expensive than last year's. The reason is climate change. Extreme weather patterns have made growing cocoa more challenging. Cocoa beans are used to make chocolate. Around 70 per cent of the world's

cocoa beans are grown in West Africa. Recent heatwaves, droughts and heavy rain in Ghana and the Ivory Coast have greatly reduced the amount of cocoa beans grown. Temperatures have been four degrees higher than normal. The Reuters news agency said cocoa prices have more than doubled compared to this time last year. Amber Sawyer, an energy and climate analyst, said farmers in West Africa were, "struggling in the face of both extreme heat and rainfall".

Chocolate eggs are given as gifts for the Christian holiday of Easter, which celebrates the resurrection of Jesus. Traditionally, people dyed and painted chicken eggs. Wikipedia says chocolate eggs first appeared at the court of Louis XIV in France in 1725. In 1873, the English chocolate company J.S. Fry produced the first hollow chocolate egg, similar to the ones people give today. Wikipedia says: "In Western cultures, the giving of chocolate eggs is now commonplace, with 80 million Easter eggs sold in the UK alone." However, climate change is making it more difficult to grow the cocoa beans. Climate analysts say we need to do more to reduce fossil fuel emissions if we want a steady supply of cocoa and chocolate.

Sources: [wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org) / [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [ecowatch.com](https://www.ecowatch.com) / [cbsnews.com](https://www.cbsnews.com)

### Writing

Chocolate is very important. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Easter / eggs / climate change / weather patterns / cocoa beans / chocolate / drought / gifts / the resurrection of Jesus / chicken eggs / Western culture / fossil fuel emissions

### True / False

- 1) This year's Easter eggs will be 10 times more expensive than last year's. T / F
- 2) Around 70% of the world's cocoa is grown in Ghana. T / F
- 3) West Africa has been hit by heatwaves and heavy rain. T / F
- 4) A news agency said cocoa prices have doubled since last year. T / F
- 5) People traditionally painted goose and duck eggs for Easter. T / F
- 6) The first chocolate eggs were made in France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. T / F
- 7) Around 80 million Easter eggs are sold in the United Kingdom. T / F
- 8) The article says we need to cut fossil fuel emissions to have chocolate. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>expensive</b>   | a. increased twofold |
| 2. <b>challenging</b> | b. coloured          |
| 3. <b>normal</b>      | c. serious           |
| 4. <b>doubled</b>     | d. farm              |
| 5. <b>extreme</b>     | e. difficult         |
| 6. <b>gifts</b>       | f. stable            |
| 7. <b>dyed</b>        | g. costly            |
| 8. <b>grow</b>        | h. cut               |
| 9. <b>reduce</b>      | i. presents          |
| 10. <b>steady</b>     | j. usual             |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of giving chocolate eggs as gifts?
- c) Are painted or chocolate eggs best?
- d) What are your favourite religious celebrations?
- e) What can you do with chocolate?
- f) How can we reduce fossil fuel emissions?
- g) What would life be like without chocolate?
- h) What questions would you like to ask cocoa growers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Easter eggs will be much more             | a. now commonplace            |
| 2. Extreme weather                           | b. and heavy rain             |
| 3. Cocoa beans are                           | c. fuel emissions             |
| 4. heatwaves, droughts                       | d. patterns                   |
| 5. cocoa prices have more than               | e. of cocoa                   |
| 6. Easter, which celebrates the resurrection | f. people give today          |
| 7. similar to the ones                       | g. expensive than last year's |
| 8. the giving of chocolate eggs is           | h. of Jesus                   |
| 9. we need to do more to reduce fossil       | i. used to make chocolate     |
| 10. if we want a steady supply               | j. doubled                    |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Easter?
- What do you know about cocoa?
- How important is chocolate to you?
- How worried are you about climate change?
- What are your chocolate eating habits?
- What food prices are worrying you?
- How difficult is it to be a farmer?
- What do you think of extreme weather?

## Spelling

- mxrete weather patterns
- heatwaves, rouhdtsg and heavy rain
- prices have more than odebuld
- four eeersdg higher than normal
- an energy and climate ansalty
- farmers in West Africa were ilrngtugsg
- eelcarebts the resurrection of Jesus
- people dedy and painted chicken eggs
- the first wlolho chocolate egg
- the giving of chocolate eggs is now nloccpmoaem
- reduce fossil fuel emnisisso
- a steady plsupy of cocoa

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. i	7. b	8. d	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Chocolate

You think chocolate is the most important ingredient of desserts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ingredients aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): strawberries, nuts or beans.

### Role B – Strawberries

You think strawberries are the most important ingredient of desserts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ingredients aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): chocolate, nuts or beans.

### Role C – Nuts

You think nuts are the most important ingredient of desserts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ingredients aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): strawberries, chocolate or beans.

### Role D – Beans

You think beans are the most important ingredient of desserts. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their ingredients aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least necessary of these (and why): strawberries, nuts or chocolate.

## Speaking – Ingredients

Rank these with your partner. Put the best dessert ingredients at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| • Chocolate    | • Sugar |
| • Strawberries | • Eggs  |
| • Milk         | • Nuts  |
| • Cheese       | • Beans |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	F	6	T	7	T	8	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.