

Chocolate chile?

or

Chile chocolate?



Chile peppers
as **CHOCOLATE** flavoring?

for 3000 years by Aztec and Maya



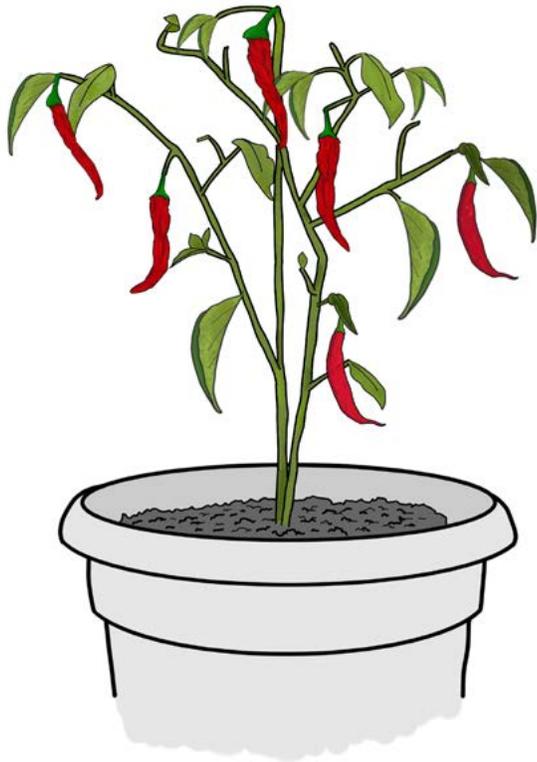
After reading about the popularity of chile for flavoring chocolate drinks thousands of years ago, Dr Nicholas wanted to find out which, of scores of sizes, shapes, and colors of native Mexican and Guatemalan chile, was the cocoa flavoring.

So he went to a Mayan market in the Q'eqchi' Mayan city of Coban, Alta Verapaz (Guatemala) to search.



And it really is, still today, in every Mayan village market where this chile is available, you can simply ask for “chile chocolate” and you will get the same size, shape, and taste in every market.





As soon as Dr Nicholas was able to know which chile was for chocolate flavoring, the last several years he has raised this chile chocolate in his Mayan ethnobotanical garden.

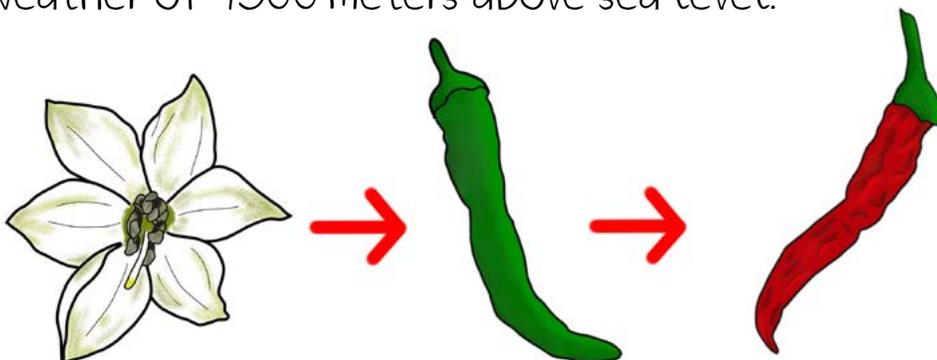
Even at 1500 meters elevation this chile chocolate grows well, even as a potted plants.

Every plant has small white flowers. Then green colored chile. And then the dozen chiles from a single plant gradually turn bright deep red.

Ripe for harvest.

Dr Nicholas also raises *Theobroma cacao* a few meters away from the Chile chocolate.

Unfortunately, Pataxte, jaguar chocolate tree, does not survive the chilly winter weather of 1500 meters above sea level.

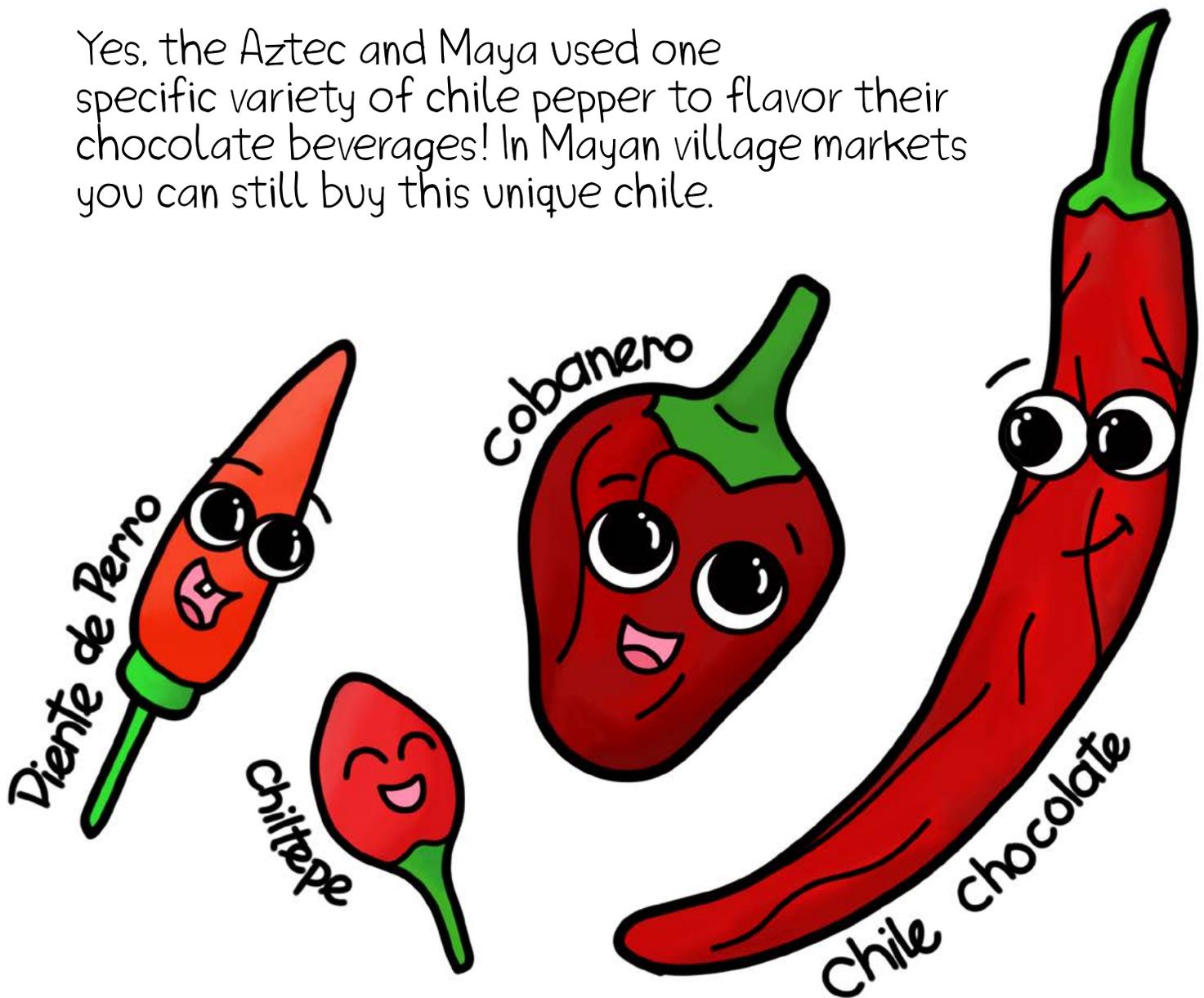


Here are four popular chiles from Guatemala. We raise all four in front of the FLAAR office so we can study their flowers, leaves, and fruits.

Yes, of the hundreds of sizes, shapes and colors of chile peppers,

One is called Chile Chocolate

Yes, the Aztec and Maya used one specific variety of chile pepper to flavor their chocolate beverages! In Mayan village markets you can still buy this unique chile.



For more information on flora: www.maya-ethnobotany.org

For more information on fauna: www.maya-ethnozoology.org

MayanToons are produced by the 100% Guatemalan team of FLAAR Mesoamerica, coordinated by FLAAR (USA). You can see previews on www.MayanToons.org.

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