

Choc – o – lot!

Developed by: Jan Bryan, Ed. D.
Grade level: Intermediate grades – high school
Content areas: English Language Arts

Invitation: It can only grow in a tropic climate – 20 degrees north or south of the equator, and growers wait up to five years before the first pods bloom. Once in full harvest, it takes almost 400 beans to make a single pound of the semi-liquid mass produced by grinding its beans. Earliest cultures added chili, others fed it to their soldiers, and Americas ate more than 3.1 billion pounds of it last year.

Chocolate – the food of the gods –nourished us for more almost 2000 years. The typical chocolate lover consumes more than 11.7 pounds of semi-sweet, sweet, dark, white, milk, Dutch, and hot chocolate. We drizzle it on ice cream when we’re hot and sip it with marshmallows when we’re cold. We use it to comfort us when were disheartened and celebrate when we’re exuberant. Face it; we love chocolate.

In this lesson, students learn research skills, such as verifying information found online and taking notes—all while learning about chocolate.

Assessment: Students show evidence developing research skills as they:

- Locate, compare and verify online information.

Technology tools

Dana by AlphaSmart or Dana Wireless
Inspiration for Palm OS
Printer
Computer with Internet access and browser

Additional resources:

[Introduction to Dana by AlphaSmart](#) (published by AlphaSmart, Inc.)

Creative Chocolate

http://www.creativechocolates.com/choc_info_index.html

The History of Chocolate

<http://www.karachocolates.com/chochist.html>

Urban Legends of the Food Kind

<http://chef2chef.com/features/cynthia/article/2001-01.shtml>

National Standards for Students

National Educational Technology Standards

- Understand basic concepts and operations
- Practice responsible use
- Use technology tools to enhance learning, collaborate, publish and promote creativity.
- Locate, evaluate and share information.

National Council of Teachers of English

- Use spoken, written, and visual language to communicate effectively
- Conduct research
- Use technological and information resources
- Employ a wide range of writing strategies
- Apply knowledge of language structure and conventions
- Participate in literacy communities

For a detailed explanation of NETS for Students visit: http://cnets.iste.org/students/s_stands.html

Learn more about NCTE Standards at: <http://www.ncte.org/about/over/standards/110846.htm>

Step-by-Step

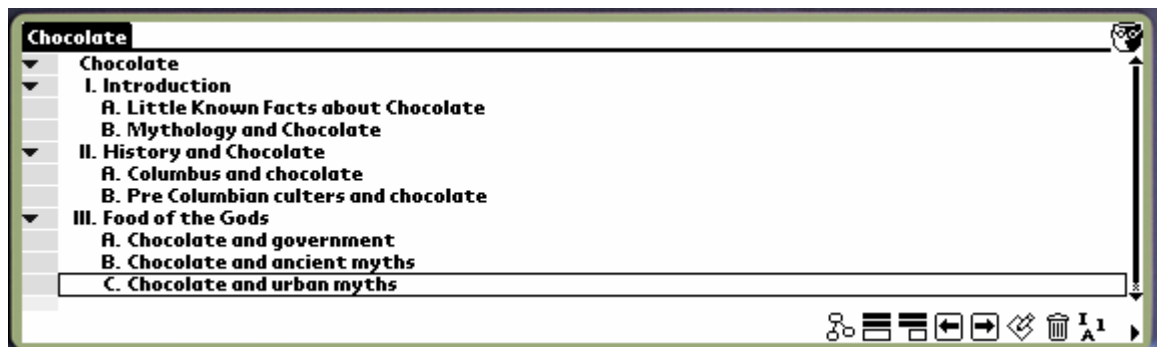
Step 1: Preparation

If using Dana Wireless, bookmark and save information from the Creative Chocolate site at http://www.creativechocolates.com/choc_info_index.html. (Note: Go to the Records menu to add a bookmark. Go to the Navigate menu and select Save Current Page to archive the site. Select html to open your archived page in DanaWeb. Select Memo pad to open the text from the web page in the Memo pad. For this lesson, save as html *and* memo pad.)

Bookmark and save <http://chef2chef.net/features/cynthia/article/2001-01.shtml> to learn about the "Neiman Marcus chocolate chip cookie recipe" urban myth. Archive this site in the memo pad. Copy and paste only the information regarding the cookie recipe in an AlphaWord file.

If you are not using Dana Wireless, archive sites on your desktop computer. Copy and paste information (with correct citation and all reference notes) into a Word document. Save and HotSync through AlphaWord Sync to get information to student Danas.

Open AlphaWord and create an outline template for students or create an Inspiration for Palm OS outline and beam to students. For example, beam this template to students:



Go over the following vocabulary terms with students:

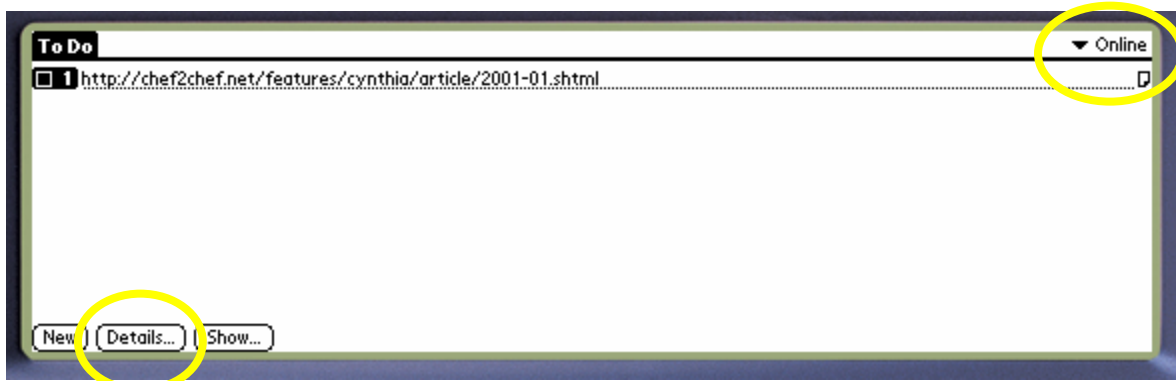
Reading for pleasure
Reading for information
Urban myths
Verify facts (or "fact check")

Step 2: "This really happened. My cousin knows a guy whose neighbor's uncle . . . " :
Uncovering Urban Myths

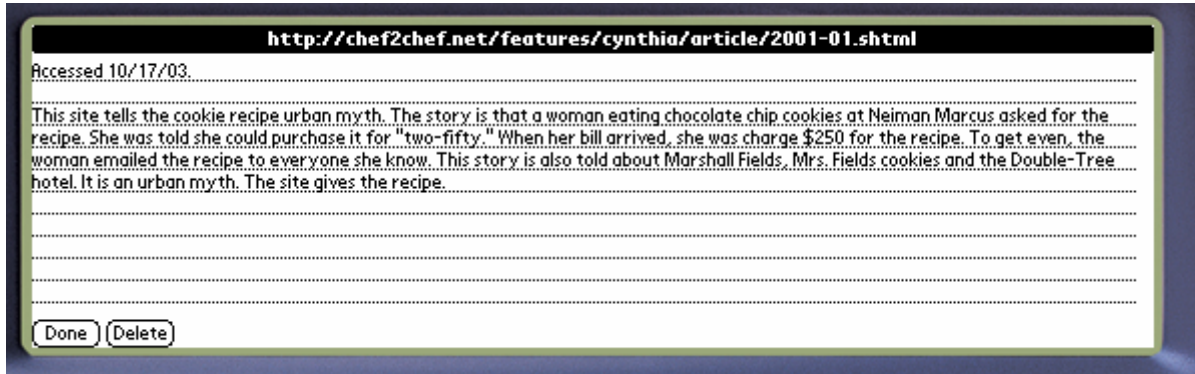
Discuss the amount of information available on the Internet and that we must learn skills to verify what we read. Unlike newspapers and research resources – which require extensive fact checks – some Internet sites ignore fact checking. That's why we see so many urban myths abound on the World Wide Web. As an example, tell the urban myth about the Neiman Marcus chocolate chip cookie recipe. Ask students what they think about the story. What would they do? Now, go to <http://chef2chef.net/features/cynthia/article/2001-01.shtml> click the link to Neiman Marcus Chocolate Chip Cookie Recipe and read the facts.

Step 3: Setting up students' note cards

Go to Dana's application launcher and tap the To Do icon (or click the To Do key on Dana's keyboard). Tap the upper right corner to access the list of To Do Categories. Select Edit Categories and create an Online category. Repeat for Textbooks and Resources. Use each category to list online and traditional resources for your chocolate research and fact checking. Open the category. Tap the New button. Enter the resource.



Tap the Details button. Then tap the Note button to summarize what you learned from that resource. When using online resources, students must not the author of the site (when available), the complete URL and the date they accessed the information.



For every fact students read and note online, require them to verify through at least one other traditional resource, such as newspaper, magazine article, encyclopedia, expert testimony or textbook information. Enter the verification in the To Do list in the appropriate category.

Step 4: Research

Students continue to research the origin of chocolate and use Dana's To Do list as their note card tool.

Step 5: Order notes

Use the To Do prioritization feature to order notes. To Do this, tap the number next to each entry. Tap 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 from the pull-down menu to prioritize the notes.

Step 6: Print notes

To print your To Do lists, go to Dana's application launcher. Tap the home icon (or click the apps key on Dana's keyboard) until you see All in the upper right corner of the application launcher. Tap the Print icon to open the print application. Tap To Do and then tap the Print button. Select the category to print. Each item on the To Do list and any notes you've written will print. Students use this as modified note cards.

Step 7: Organize notes and create outline.

Step 8: Write first draft.

Beam to peers and/or teacher for editing.

Step 9: Revise, rewrite and publish

Send to a computer or printer, or HotSync.