

It snowed chocolate in a Swiss town

23rd August, 2020



Switzerland is renowned the world over for the quality of its chocolate. The nation has earned an international reputation for its premium chocolate brands. However, residents in the Swiss town of Olten, near Zurich, got the

surprise of their lives earlier this week when it started snowing chocolate. Some locals wondered if the brown dusting was a bizarre consequence of climate change. However, all became clear after the local chocolate manufacturer revealed the brown shower was the result of a malfunction at its factory. The chocolate maker Lindt confirmed that a minor defect in its cooling ventilation systems allowed gusty winds to whip up chocolate dust and sprinkle it over the town.

Many parts of the town were covered in a fine layer of light brown, milk-chocolate-flavoured dust. A representative from Lindt offered to pay for any cleaning services required as a result of the event. To date, no one has asked for help. The spokeswoman reassured people in the vicinity of the factory that crushed cocoa beans are harmless to human health and the environment. She added that factory engineers are currently working on repairing the technical hitch. The cocoa-dust incident led to a lot of banter on social media. A Twitter user wrote: "Chocolate snowflakes falling from the sky, dreams do come true." Another tweeter posted a comment saying: "I'm dreaming of a brown Christmas."

Sources: yahoo.com / theweathernetwork.com / interestingengineering.com

Writing

Access to chocolate should be a human right. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

renowned / quality / chocolate / premium / surprise / snow / climate change / wind / dust / cleaning / help / result / cocoa beans / technical hitch / banter / social media

True / False

- a) Switzerland has renewed its status as a premium chocolate maker. T / F
- b) Chocolate snow fell on the residents of a town near Zurich. T / F
- c) Experts say the chocolate snow was caused by climate change. T / F
- d) Chocolatiers used the chocolate to whip up a special dessert. T / F
- e) A town had a thick coating of the chocolate dust. T / F
- f) No resident accepted the chocolate company offer to clean up the mess. T / F
- g) The company said crushed cocoa beans are not harmful to our health. T / F
- h) A Twitter user is dreaming of a white Christmas. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. renowned | a. until now |
| 2. earned | b. fault |
| 3. residents | c. blanketed |
| 4. bizarre | d. merited |
| 5. malfunction | e. occurrence |
| 6. covered | f. peculiar |
| 7. to date | g. mending |
| 8. repairing | h. famous |
| 9. incident | i. repartee |
| 10. banter | j. citizens |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of snow?
- b) How much do you like snow?
- c) What do you think of chocolate?
- d) Why do so many people love chocolate?
- e) What is a chocoholic?
- f) What would you do if chocolate fell from the sky?
- g) How is chocolate made?
- h) How healthy or unhealthy is chocolate?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Switzerland is renowned the world | a. up chocolate dust |
| 2. The nation has earned an international | b. on social media |
| 3. a bizarre consequence | c. it over the town |
| 4. allowed gusty winds to whip | d. a fine layer |
| 5. sprinkle | e. no one has asked |
| 6. covered in | f. reputation |
| 7. To date, | g. hitch |
| 8. people in the vicinity of | h. of climate change |
| 9. technical | i. the factory |
| 10. led to a lot of banter | j. over |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Do you think the insects in the town were happy?
- What would you like to fall from the sky?
- How can we help someone who is a chocoholic?
- In England it rains cats and dogs. What does this mean?
- What is the best thing that is made from chocolate?
- Would you prefer a white or brown Christmas?
- What questions would you like to ask the chocolate company?

Spelling

- Switzerland is ndrenwoe the world over
- earned an international piuettanro
- a rzabeir consequence of climate change
- a minor ftdece
- cooling nolniatviet systems
- whip up chocolate dust and klesnirp it
- A raerstpneeitve from Lindt
- cleaning services ieurgedr
- in the ytniiciv of the factory
- factory seingnere
- repairing the technical ihhct
- a lot of ebntar on social media
- Switzerland is ndrenwoe the world over

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Ice Cream

You think ice cream is the best chocolate product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brownies, milk shake or fondue.

Role B – Brownies

You think brownies is the best chocolate product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): ice cream, milk shake or fondue.

Role C – Milk Shake

You think milk shake is the best chocolate product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brownies, ice cream or fondue.

Role D – Fondue

You think fondue is the best chocolate product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their products. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): brownies, milk shake or ice cream.

Speaking – Chocolate

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

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| • Crepe | • Brownies |
| • Cookies | • Ice cream |
| • Fondue | • Milk shake |
| • Hot chocolate | • Croissant |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.